



Partly cloudy,
temps in the
mid-60s

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Volume 34 No. 50

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

December 12, 2024

Schiff takes reins as United States senator

■ Lawmaker vows to protect rights, defend democracy

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Longtime legislator Adam Schiff was sworn in as California's newest senator on Dec. 9 by Vice President Kamala Harris during a ceremony at the U.S. Capitol.

Schiff, who was accompanied at the swearing in ceremony by his

wife Eve and escorted to the dais by U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) and Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, took the oath of office on a Maimonides Mishneh Torah, a legal code among the most comprehensive works of Jewish law. Schiff was elected as U.S. senator on Nov. 5.

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photo courtesy of U.S. Sen. Adam Schiff's office

Vice President Kamala Harris administered the oath of office to U.S. Sen. Adam Schiff, who was accompanied by his wife Eve.

Judge grants anti-SLAPP motion in DuPont case

■ Ruling favors city of Beverly Hills

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael Schultz ruled partially in favor of the city of Beverly Hills on Dec. 11 in the ongoing DuPont Clinic lawsuit, granting the anti-SLAPP motion sought by the city. The lawsuit alleged that the city of Beverly Hills interfered with the planned opening of DuPont Clinic, a women's reproductive

care facility, after city staff and City Council members met with anti-abortion protesters.

In response to DuPont's litigation, the city filed an anti-SLAPP motion on Feb. 2, which is a motion to strike or dismiss the case on the grounds that the defendant's actions were protected activity, including statements made in connection with a public issue.

The anti-SLAPP motion sought to dismiss certain evidence, including a letter penned by the city and the police department that would be

sent to the building's existing tenants warning them of potential safety risks if DuPont Clinic were to open. While the city was planning what the letter would contain, then-mayor Julian Gold said he did not "mind turning up the heat a little," and pushed that the letter should contain warnings of "bomb threats" and "lone wolf active shooters" if the clinic were to open.

Before the letter was ever sent, the landlord Douglas Emmett rescinded the clinic's lease.

DuPont alleged the letter was meant to intimidate tenants and pressure the landlord to rescind the lease. However, in granting the anti-SLAPP motion, the judge ruled that the letter constituted protected activity by the city.

"Written or oral statements made in connection with an issue under consideration (security at the DuPont clinic) by an executive body, such as the city's police department, remains protected speech," the ruling read.

"We are pleased that the court has vindicated the city's position through a neutral evaluation of the evidence," Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman said in a statement. "As the city has indicated

See Ruling page 20



A Los Angeles Superior Court Judge granted the city's anti-SLAPP motion on Dec. 11 in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse.



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Black teachers file claim against BHUSD

■ Fashion design teacher accuses high school of racism

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Two Black teachers at Beverly Hills High School on Dec. 9 filed a formal complaint against the Beverly Hills Unified School District, alleging discrimination, harassment, retaliation, racial comments and physical threats. The teachers' attorney, Bradley Gage, announced at a press conference held outside the school on Dec. 10 that he plans to file a lawsuit against the district.

One of the instructors – the school's fashion design teacher Bella Ivory – alleged that she and a group of Black students were victims of racism during a demonstration celebrating the victory of President-Elect Donald Trump on campus on Nov. 6. She and Black students spoke at a school board meeting on Nov. 12, alleging that a pro-Trump mob of students marched through the halls, shouted racist language and attempted to enter her classroom, where seven members of the Black



photo by Tabor Brewster

Beverly Hills High School fashion design teacher Bella Ivory, left, plans to sue the school district over allegations of racism and is being represented by attorney Bradley Gage, center.

Student Union were present.

The complaint filed by the two Black teachers is the second claim that has been filed related to the Nov. 6 incident at Beverly Hills High School. On Dec. 4, former teacher Joanie Garratt filed a dam-

ages claim against the school district alleging that it wrongfully fired her after she made a Facebook post criticizing Trump and the incident on campus on Nov. 6. The school district has

See Complaint page 25

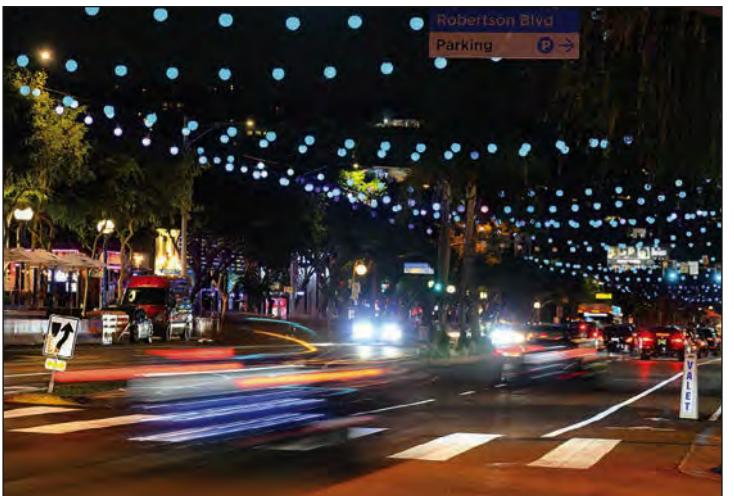


photo by Jon Viscott

The speed limit on Santa Monica Boulevard could soon be reduced.

WeHo commission steers speed limit plan forward

■ Recommendations would reduce speed limits by 5 mph

BY RANCE COLLINS

The West Hollywood Public Safety Commission recommended reducing speed limits in the

city at its Dec. 9 meeting. The proposal would impact the main thoroughfares in the city, including Santa Monica, Sunset, Beverly and Robertson boulevards, reducing speeds by 5 mph – from 35 to 30 mph and, in some cases, 30 to 25 mph.

In 2021, Gov. Gavin Newsom

See WeHo page 26

CALENDAR

Beverly Hills Chamber

Join the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce for its December networking breakfast on Friday, Dec. 13, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the W Hotel in Hollywood. The chamber welcomes new, current and future members at the monthly event. Learn about benefits and events. Admission is \$30 for members, \$60 for non-members. 6250 Hollywood Blvd. members.beverlyhillschamber.com.

Culinary history

The Culinary Historians of Southern California presents a lecture by its president Charles Perry titled "Banquets of Istanbul" on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 10:30 a.m., followed by a second lecture, "Banquets of Marrakesh" on Saturday, Jan. 11. At its peak, the wealthy Ottoman Empire extravagantly indulged its love of food. Perry will explore the subtlety and richness of the cuisine. On Jan. 11, Perry will focus on Morocco, the only Arab country never conquered by the Turks, exploring its unique culinary traditions with roots in medieval Moorish Spain and North Africa. The lectures are free and are followed by themed receptions. Los Angeles Central Library's Mark Taper Auditorium, 630 W. Fifth St. eventbrite.com/e/banquets-of-istanbul-tickets-1075975524759.

Beyond the Streets

Beyond the Streets is holding an Archive Release and Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 14, and Sunday, Dec. 15, from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. The two-

day event features clothing, prints, books, sculptures, art and collectibles by influential and emerging artists, including Shepard Fairey, Estevan Oriol, Chaz Bojorquez, Gustavo Zermeno Jr. and Rammellzee. 434 N. La Brea Ave. beyondthestreets.com.

Art of Tony Gerber

Denenberg Gallery is holding a walk-through of the exhibition "Tony Gerber: Art & Science Embrace" with the artist on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 3-5 p.m. The work is based on algorithmic inference and computer programming, and is a fulfillment of a lifelong ambition to combine a background in science and engineering from the artist's early days of research in machine learning, now known as AI, and a lifelong passion for art. RSVP is requested. The exhibition is also available for viewing by appointment through December. 417 N. San Vicente Blvd. (415)828-8600, denenbergarts.com.

Mesoamerican art at LACMA

Join a LACMA docent for a gallery tour of "We Live in Painting: The Nature of Color in Mesoamerican Art" on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 3-4 p.m. in the museum's Resnick Pavilion. Mesoamerican artists held a cosmic responsibility: as they adorned the surfaces of buildings, clay vessels, textiles, bark-paper pages and sculptures with color, they literally made their world. "We Live in Painting: The Nature of Color in Mesoamerican Art" explores the science, art and cosmology of color in Mesoamerica. The tour is free with museum admission. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. lacma.org.

Holocaust book

Holocaust Museum Los Angeles welcomes author Joshua M. Greene for a discussion on his book "Signs of Survival" on Sunday, Dec. 15, from 3-4:30 p.m. Join Greene and HMLA chief impact officer Jordanna Gessler for an in-depth look at the book, which tells the true story of two sisters, one deaf and the other hearing, and their survival during the holocaust. ASL interpretation is provided. 100 The Grove Drive. holocaustmuseumla.org.

WeHo Winter Sounds

A special celebratory West Hollywood Winter Sounds Free Outdoor Concert will take place on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 3 p.m. at Pendry West Hollywood. In celebration of the city's 40th anniversary, the Corbin Jones Big Band will perform a 90-minute concert of funky, emotional and swingin' renditions of favorite holiday classics. Admission is free. 8430 Sunset Blvd. wintersounds-2024dec15.eventbrite.com.

Getty Center art and history

The Getty Center is holding "Survivor Objects and Captive Sites: Art and Cultural Heritage in Genocide," a lecture on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 4 p.m. in the center's Harold M. Williams Auditorium. The lecture considers the implications of genocide, with a focus on the Armenian Genocide, and the effects on history, art and museums in the 21st century. 1200 Getty Center Drive. getty.edu.

Beverly Hills hosts summit against antisemitism

In partnership with Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman and the city of Beverly Hills, the Combat Antisemitism Movement is hosting from Dec. 11-13 the fourth-annual and largest Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism, where more than 200 municipal leaders, policymakers and experts will convene to share best practices and devise new innovative cities-oriented approaches to identifying and countering contemporary manifestations of antisemitism wherever they appear.

At the summit, CAM will unveil its Municipal Antisemitism Action Index, a new tool designed to classify and rank municipalities based on their commitment and effectiveness in combating antisemitism, providing a clear framework and roadmap to measure progress, identify gaps and promote best practices in local government action against hate and intolerance.

The world has experienced an unprecedented rise in antisemitism over the past 14 months, with 61% of American Jews saying they have personally experienced antisemitism since the Oct. 7 massacre, according to a recent CAM survey. This is why CAM's work with mayors is so vital, as they have a unique ability to fight antisemitism on the ground in the communities their Jewish con-

stituents call home, and where its dangerous and harmful impacts are most viscerally felt.

Since 2021, CAM has built an international network of mayors united by the common goal of securing and nurturing Jewish life in their cities, with past summits hosted by Frankfurt, Germany, Athens, Greece, Dortmund, Germany and Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The Beverly Hills summit will build on the successes of the past forums, and feature a series of keynote addresses, panel discussions and educational workshops focused on empowering municipal authorities to work effectively with law enforcement, adopt strong legal ordinances, address campus and protest issues and foster community unity.

The summit is being held at the Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel.

Speakers and participants include Friedman, the Beverly Hills City Council, BHPD Chief Mark Stainbrook and L.A. County District Attorney Nathan Hochman. Mayors attending include Todd Gloria of San Diego, John Erickson of West Hollywood, Francis Suarez of Miami and LaToya Cantrell of New Orleans, among many others. For information, visit mayors.combatantisemitism.org/summit.

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on December 19, 2024, a public hearing as required by Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 will be held with respect to a proposed plan of finance that includes the issuance and reissuance from time to time, by the California Municipal Finance Authority (the "Authority"), of one or more series of revenue bonds in an outstanding principal amount not to exceed \$60,000,000 (the "Bonds"), to finance and refinance the acquisition, construction, development and equipping of an 89-unit qualified residential rental project located at 910-916 Wetherly Drive (the "Project") in the City of West Hollywood, California (the "City"). The Project is to be owned and operated by WHCHC Wetherly, L.P., a California limited partnership, or by another ownership entity to be created by its general partner, Wetherly Palms LLC, a California limited liability company, or by another affiliate of such general partner's sole member, West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation (such limited partnership or other ownership entity, the "Borrower").

The Bonds and the obligation to pay principal thereof and interest thereon and any redemption premium with respect thereto do not constitute indebtedness or an obligation of the City, the Authority, the State of California or any political subdivision thereof, within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory debt limitation, or a charge against the general credit or taxing powers of any of them. The Bonds shall be limited obligations of the Authority, payable solely from certain revenues duly pledged therefor and generally representing amounts paid by the Borrower.

The public hearing will commence at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, via toll-free teleconference call. To access the public hearing, please dial (844) 854-2222, and enter access code 920111#, when prompted. Interested persons wishing to express their views on the proposed plan of finance or on the nature and location of the facilities proposed to be financed may attend the telephonic public hearing or submit written comments no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day prior to the public hearing via email to publiccomment@weho.org.

Additional information concerning the above matter may be obtained from, and written comments should be addressed by email to info@cmfa-ca.com, with the subject line "Wetherly Palms".

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The Beverly Press and Park Labrea News are weekly newspapers, published on Thursdays. Mail subscription is \$120 annually. Decreed newspapers of general circulation, entitled to publish legal advertising, Feb. 10, 1960 by Superior Court Order No 736637. Decreed newspapers of general circulation, entitled to publish legal advertising in the City of Beverly Hills and the County of Los Angeles, Dec. 22, 2020 by Superior Court Case Number 19STCP04891. Government Code 6008.

Holiday cabaret

The Wallis presents "Meow Meow: Feline Festive" on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m. Featuring a band of superb musicians and music ranging from jazzy vintage showbiz to witty 1920s Weimer cabaret, French chansons and original and contemporary classics, "Meow Meow: Feline Festive" is a holiday cabaret unlike any other. Tickets start at \$49. 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd. (310)746-4000.



'Comedy and Cocktails'
Enjoy an evening of side-splitting comedy with Bill Devlin during a special holiday edition of his "Comedy and Cocktails" show on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 9:15 p.m. at the Hollywood Improv Lab. Comedian, actor, writer and producer Devlin's "Comedy & Cocktails" is one of the longest running shows at the Hollywood Improv. He has performed with Chris Rock, Jerry Seinfeld and David Spade. The show also includes surprise guests. General admission is \$15. 8162 Melrose Ave. billdevlin.com and improv.com/hollywood.

Beverly Hills Library book sale

Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library is holding its annual Holiday Sale from Sunday, Dec. 15, through Tuesday, Dec. 31. All items over \$1 are half-price. Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library is a nonprofit that supports services and programs at the library. Holiday hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Saturday; noon-4 p.m., Sunday. 444 N. Rexford Drive. friendsofbhpl.org.



The chicken finger chain had planned to replace Norms with one of its many locations.

Raising Cane's withdraws plans for Norms location

■ Landlord is in discussions' with 24-hour diner

BY TABOR BREWSTER

After an outpouring of support for Norms Restaurant on La Cienega Boulevard, Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers has seemingly scrapped its plan to replace the diner with one of its many locations.

The fried chicken fast food chain – which owns the property at 470 N. La Cienega Blvd. – was interested in expanding in Los

Angeles and submitted plans to the city of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission. The plans included rehabilitating and maintaining the iconic "Googie" architecture on the exterior of Norms and replacing the 24-hour diner with a Raising Cane's location after the diner's lease ends in late 2026. However, after local preservationists and patrons expressed opposition, Raising Cane's did not present the plans to the commission as scheduled on Dec. 5.

"We have heard the community's concerns, and we are in dis-

See Future page 20

Former pawn shop begins transformation

■ Building on Melrose Avenue gets new life

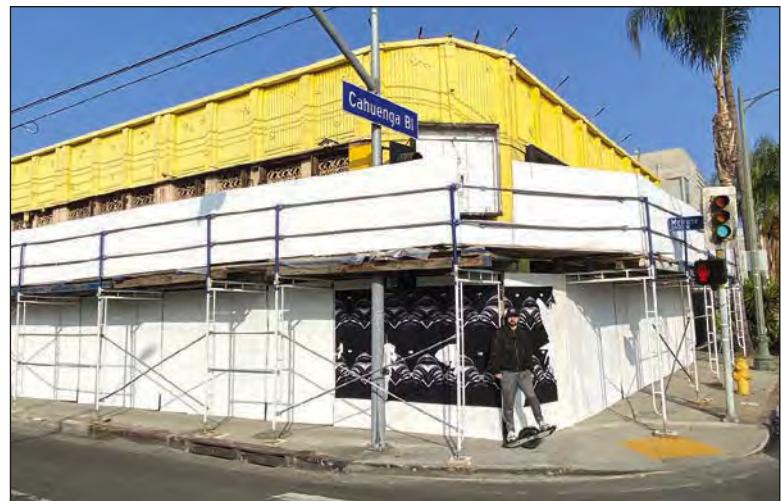
BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Work has begun on a brick building at Cahuenga Boulevard and Melrose Avenue that will be the future home of The Pawn Shop restaurant and bar.

Crews are working inside and scaffolding has gone up around the former Brothers Collateral pawn shop at 5901 Melrose Ave. The space is finding new life as a community-serving business after owner Diego Torres-Palma and his company Ventana Ventures received approval for the restaurant project in October. Plans call for The Pawn Shop restaurant and bar to open in nine to 11 months.

"After months of careful design planning, approvals and coordination, I am excited to report we have begun construction on The Pawn Shop," Torres-Palma said. "All our partners on this project understand that we are building something unique and groundbreaking that will ultimately redefine the entire concept of sports-plus-bar-plus

The project was designed by the architectural firm Omgivning and the work is being completed by Reaume Richardson, a company that has restored other buildings in the area including the Beverly Laurel Hotel, which houses the Swingers Diner on its ground floor. The pawn shop building is being meticulously restored.



Renovations at a former pawn shop at Melrose Avenue and Cahuenga Boulevard will turn the building into a restaurant and bar.

photo by Edwin Folven

"It's like a blank slate right now. We are doing as much restoration as possible," Duffy said.

The city approved the project with rules regarding parking, hours of operation and special events. The restaurant and bar is allowed to open from 9 a.m.-11 p.m., Sunday through Wednesday, and 9 a.m.-midnight, Thursday through Saturday. The 7,808 square-foot restaurant is allowed 260 interior seats on two levels, with 190 seats on the ground floor and 70 seats in seven individual dining rooms on the upper floor. No outdoor seating is permitted. A valet parking service must be provided and on-site security is mandatory. Torres-Palma was granted permission to open as

See Pawn shop page 20



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photo by Edwin Folven
Police said the suspects were lying in wait for the owner of the check-cashing business.

Suspect sought in robbery at check-cashing business

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Los Angeles Police Department investigators are searching for a male suspect who fled after robbing a check-cashing business on Dec. 6 at the corner of Hauser and Venice boulevards.

A second suspect was shot and killed by a security guard in an exchange of gunfire during the robbery. The guard was also struck by a gunshot and injured, police said. The incident is being investigated by the LAPD's West Bureau Homicide Unit, and authorities are devoting signifi-

cant resources to finding the second suspect, police said.

"The [detectives] are working really hard on this one trying to identify that second person," Detective Sam Marullo said. "It's all hands on deck."

The robbery occurred around 10 a.m. outside Mary's Check Cashing in the parking lot of a strip mall at the northeast corner of the intersection. Marullo said two suspects in a gold Lexus were lying in wait and confronted the owner and security guard at gunpoint when they arrived at the business. A struggle over

See **Robbery suspect** page 20

Cars sold by Whittington found by investigators

■ Dealer's former friend recounts how vehicle purchase went awry

BY TABOR BREWSTER

At least three vehicles sold by RD Whittington, a luxury car dealer who operated a showroom in Beverly Hills, have been recovered by investigators following theft allegations. The cars were allegedly illegally sold by Whittington after he leased the vehicles from the owners.

Matthew DeLisio, a private detective who investigates financial crimes, represents the lessors and owners who accused Whittington of theft. He tracked down the three vehicles – which had been sold to clients who believed Whittington was the legal owner.

"A Ferrari 488 was surrendered in Arizona, a Brabus Mercedes 'G-Wagon' has been recovered. And after a multi-state investigation, a Rolls Royce Cullinan was recovered as stolen in Irvine after a local task force had to get a warrant to take the car from the garage of an individual that took dangerous steps to hide the car from law enforcement and the legal owner," DeLisio said. "Multiple agencies in multiple states are working to assist victims to recover stolen cars and unravel the many ways RD Whittington has scammed the public and multiple states out of cars, money, sales tax and registration fees that were supposed to be for



photo courtesy of Matthew DeLisio
On Oct. 31, a Mercedes-Benz G-Wagon sold by RD Whittington was recovered by a private detective.

cars sold at a vehicle dealership Whittington claims was located in Beverly Hills. It appears, RD Whittington had multiple companies with similar names in multiple states."

Whittington's Beverly Hills dealership, Wires Only, offered luxury supercars out of a showroom at 9030 Wilshire Blvd., boasting rare vehicles with six- to seven-figure price tags. Whittington and his business were the subject of the Discovery Plus reality series "Million Dollar Wheels," which documented his vehicle sales to celebrities including Kim Kardashian and Tom Holland. However, the dealership came under scrutiny when it was revealed Whittington had been operating

without a business license, without paying business taxes, without a DMV license and without necessary permits from the city of Beverly Hills. The dealership's conditional use permit was ultimately denied by the Planning Commission in June.

Whittington's business has since been evicted from the location in Beverly Hills and his West Los Angeles location. The luxury cars that once glimmered through the windows of the showroom on the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Wetherly Drive have since been removed – their whereabouts unknown.

On Dec. 11, the Wires Only website was deactivated to the public,

See **Cars** page 26



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The Los Angeles City Council Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the TVC Project after a thorough review process. We couldn't have done it without the support of our Beverly/Fairfax neighbors, local small businesses, and community partners.

THANK YOU for your continued support to ensure that this community landmark will remain a studio.



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





photo courtesy the city of West Hollywood
Coyotes have caused problems in West Hollywood neighborhoods.

WeHo holds workshop on coyote management

BY RANCE COLLINS

On Dec. 18, West Hollywood will hold a virtual public meeting to discuss coyote management. In recent months, residents have brought the increased issue of coyotes posing threats in local neighborhoods, becoming potential problems for pets, yards and public spaces.

"We have received numerous reports of coyotes roaming in residential neighborhoods and, in some instances, attacking household animals," Councilman John Heilman said. "We need county animal control officials to address this situation. We also

need to provide information and resources for our residents so they know how to stay safe."

The meeting will inform the public on the current reality of the situation and how to manage and coexist with the animals. According to city staff, "coyotes are curious, smart and adaptable creatures and our urban areas provide the perfect balance of food, shelter and water for them."

Coyotes, the city said, help provide free rodent control and regulate population size of species that can conflict with people in urban areas. While coyotes are typically reclusive and

See **Coyotes** page 26

L.A. City Council approves Housing Element

■ Single-family neighborhoods stay protected

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The full Los Angeles City Council approved a component of the Housing Element on Dec. 10 as one of the final hurdles in getting state approval by the Feb. 12, 2025, deadline.

The council voted unanimously on the Citywide Housing Incentive Program Ordinance, also known as CHIP, approving a version that allows housing to be built along major street corridors and in some communities with mixed zoning regulations, while excluding single-family neighborhoods. Los Angeles City Councilwoman Nithya Raman, 4th District, sought an amendment that would have expanded areas that housing could be built, including some portions of single-family zoned neighborhoods, but the amendment was voted down 10-5. Councilmembers Raman, Eunisses Hernandez, 1st District; Ysabel Jurado, 14th District; Curren Price, 9th District; and Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson, 8th District; voted in favor of Raman's amendment. The council then approved the final Housing Element motion by a unanimous 15 votes.

The housing element is a plan required by the state of California outlining where the city plans to build housing through 2029. Los



photo by Edwin Folven
Residential single-family neighborhoods remain protected against zoning changes under plans approved by the City Council on Dec. 10.

Angeles was required to submit a plan that accommodates at least 255,432 new units of housing. The CHIP ordinance will come before the council one final time in January on second-reading and will be submitted to the state. City planning officials said at a Nov. 18 council committee meeting that the department has already received an indication from the state that the plan will satisfy requirements.

The full council's approval was applauded by residents of single-family neighborhoods who believe alternative plans could threaten the character of communities.

"I think the council absolutely did the right thing," said Cindy Chvatal-Keane, president of the Hancock Park Homeowners Association and a member of United Neighbors, a coalition of

communities citywide that oppose changes to zoning in single-family neighborhoods. "This is something that has been studied and weighed in on by neighborhoods all over the city. The Planning Department came up with a plan, the Planning Commission approved the plan, the City Council's PLUM Committee approved the plan and now the full council has approved the plan. I'm very happy with the outcome."

Some supporters of creating housing in more areas throughout the city, including single-family neighborhoods, pledged to keep looking for ways to achieve the goal.

"Obviously, it's not the outcome we were hoping for, but we're very thankful for the leadership and powerful remarks by

See **Council** page 20

Celebrate
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Enjoy holiday lights and activities
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January 5, 2025!

BEVERLY HILLS & RODEO DRIVE



CH	City Hall
CT	Christmas Tree Display
LL	Lights on the Lily Pond
GG	Glowing Gardens at Beverly Cañon Gardens
HL	Holiday Lights
M	Menorah Display
RD	Rodeo Nights, Holiday Lights
JT	Jolly Trolley
SS	Santa with Reindeer & Sleigh
VC	Visitor Center
P	Parking

For additional information, visit:
BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/HOLIDAYSBH

Opinion by U.S. Senator Adam Schiff

On Friday, I cast my last vote as a member of the House of Representatives. For 24 years, the residents of northern Los Angeles County have given me the opportunity to represent them, to fight for them, and to be their voice. I could not be more grateful, and want to say thank you.

I first ran for office in 1991 for the State Assembly and lost. Three years later, I ran again – and lost again. I had previously served as an assistant U.S. Attorney and it looked like my career in public service was over. All of the hopeful ideas I had of how I might be of service to people on issues of education and housing, public safety and jobs, appeared to be for not. Until I was encouraged to try one more time – one last time. This time for the California State Senate. I won.

I found the state Legislature to be a very productive place. In four years, I witnessed governors of both parties sign dozens of my bills into law – bills that would establish a patient's bill of rights, provide up-to-date textbooks in schools, build mass transit and more. This also included the Schiff-Cárdenas Crime Prevention Act, which has been one of the most successful juvenile justice investment programs in the state's history. This historic investment was vital to keeping kids in schools, off the streets, in job training and out of prison.

My best ideas came from my constituents, like a Glendale retired teacher who walked into my office

hours in a local fire station, and told me that his teacher retirement lost ground to inflation every year and he feared becoming homeless. I introduced a bill to help improve teacher pensions and, with much effort, got it signed into law by a Republican governor.

I left the Legislature in 2000 when my constituents elected me to Congress. And little could I have imagined what a challenging and turbulent time lay ahead. Nine months into office, while walking to the Capitol, one of four planes hijacked by terrorists struck the Pentagon and 9/11 transformed America. I formed a Democratic study group on national security and would later become chairman of the House Intelligence Committee.

As with the Legislature, I found ways to work with members of both parties to deliver for my constituents, writing bills to expand open space, protect press freedom, attack nuclear proliferation, establish an early earthquake warning system, fight fires, address homelessness and recognize the Armenian Genocide. I also witnessed presidents of both parties sign or support each of my initiatives.

I brought back hundreds of millions of dollars to my district and the region to expand the Metro Gold Line, eliminate rape kit backlog, establish a DNA regional processing center, provide more homeless shelters, expand Head Start, advance space exploration and cre-

ate good paying jobs.

And more than that, we worked to help people, one family at a time. Resolving thousands of cases for constituents, from passports, to help with Veterans Affairs and life-saving treatment, to supporting our small businesses and helping unite families, to international adoptions and IRS refunds, my remarkable staff left no stone unturned in the effort to serve the needs of the people we were lucky enough to represent.

I was also called upon to play a leadership role in one of the great crises of our history, when a president of the United States abused the power of his office in order to stay in office, and interfered with the peaceful transfer of power. I led the investigation into and first impeachment of Donald Trump, and served on the January 6th Committee to hold those responsible for insurrection to account.

The opportunity to deliver for the people of my district and to protect

and defend our Constitution have been a great responsibility. And I want to thank you for your support, your encouragement, and your advice and counsel all along the way. And while I know that many of my constituents have held contrary views to my own – and at times even sharp disagreements – I am grateful for that too. Both that we live in a country where differences in policy are reconciled at the ballot box, and that I have learned from those who have opposed my ideas as much as I have learned from those who have agreed with me.

It has been the honor of a lifetime to be your Congressman. The faith you put in me will now guide and inspire me in the United States Senate, where I will continue to work with anyone and everyone – Democrats or Republicans – to deliver results for the people of this great state.

-U.S. Senator Adam Schiff (D-CA)

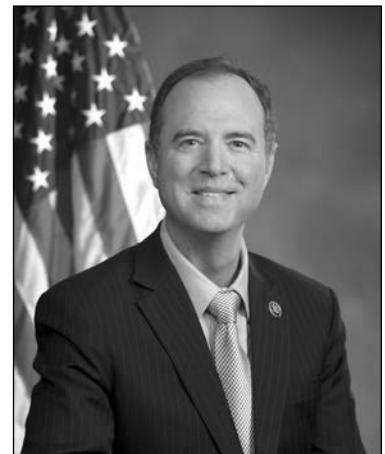


photo courtesy of U.S. Senator Adam Schiff's office

U.S. Senator Adam Schiff

Adam Schiff was sworn in to the U.S. Senate on Monday, Dec. 9. Schiff previously represented California's 30th Congressional District. He served as chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and was a member of the House Committee on the Judiciary.

TV City project hearing postponed

The Los Angeles City Council postponed final consideration this week of the Television City project, which had been on the Dec. 11 council meeting agenda.

A motion to postpone consideration until a date to be determined in January was made by Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District. Her spokesman Leo Daube said it was made at the request of the project applicant Hackman Capital Partners, which owns and operates the historic studio at Beverly Boulevard and Fairfax Avenues.

On Dec. 3 the council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee approved the Television

City project, sending it to the full council for consideration. Hackman Capital Partners is seeking to modernize the studio. The plan calls for 1,686,000 square feet of sound stage, production support, production office, general office and retail uses, and the retention of 264,377 square feet of existing space.

Representatives of Television City acknowledged the request to postpone full council consideration until after the holidays, "to accommodate City Council's busy year-end schedule," read a statement from Hackman Capital Partners.

A new hearing will be scheduled and a date will be announced soon, Daube said.

URGENCY ORDINANCE AND FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO UPDATE REGULATIONS FOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS AND JUNIOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS IN COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAW AND AMENDMENT TO THE CURRENT AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLANNING FEE SCHEDULE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **December 16, 2024**, the City Council will hold a public hearing to consider adopting an Urgency Ordinance and will conduct a first reading of an Ordinance amending the City's local regulations governing accessory dwelling units ("ADUs") and junior accessory dwelling units ("JADUs") to comply with recent changes to state law and finding the action to be statutorily exempt from CEQA under Public Resources Code Section 21080.17. The City Council will also consider adopting a resolution amending the fee schedule to include an ADU Permit fee.

The public hearing will commence at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, as part of the open session of the City Council meeting in the West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room - Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood, California. Anyone wishing to speak regarding the urgency ordinance, the introduction on the first reading to amend the City's local regulations governing ADUs and JADUs, or the proposed fee resolution may attend the hearing or submit written comments no later than 12:00 p.m. on the above Council meeting day via email to liccomment@weho.org or via E-Comment by visiting www.weho.org/wehotv.

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

A copy of the proposed ordinance and amended fee schedule resolution will be available with the online City Council Agenda Packet, beginning Wednesday, December 11, 2024. Please visit <https://www.weho.org/councilagendas> to view the December 16, 2024, City Council Agenda Packet.

For further information regarding this item, contact Tahirah Farris, Senior Planner, at (323) 848-6472, or via email at tfarris@weho.org.

Dated: December 5, 2024

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

Notable Quotes

"Be thou as chaste as ice, as pure as snow, thou shalt not escape calumny."

Shakespeare: Hamlet III, I, I. 142

Source: Bartlett's Familiar Quotations

*Or as my father, Ronald Hauck used to say,
"She was pure as snow, 'til she drifted."*

Karen Villalpando, publisher



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Study favors San Vicente-Fairfax K Line alternative

■ Research estimates billions in economic growth

BY RANCE COLLINS

Last week, the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation announced the results of a study that estimated the regional benefits of one of the three potential configurations of the Metro K Line Northern Extension.

The favored route would have the underground rail follow San Vicente Boulevard north, turn east at Santa Monica Boulevard, north at Highland Avenue and ultimately meet the Red Line at the Hollywood/HIGHLAND Station. A potential addition would add one stop at the Hollywood Bowl. LAEDC said that, during its construction, the extension would generate \$22.5 billion in total economic output, create – both directly and indirectly – over 123,000 jobs and generate \$2.65 billion in tax dollars. The project's completion, though, would not be until the 2040s.

"The economic benefits of the K Line Northern Extension are clear and compelling," Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, said. "Communities up and down the corridor have gone without fast and reliable transit for far too long, and LAEDC has been a tremendous partner in helping us quantify the additional benefits that come with connecting these communities to jobs, health care and dozens of regional attractions."

Horvath also sits on the Metro Board of Directors. There are two other alternatives being considered by Metro, one which would follow La Brea Avenue north and the other that would coincide with Fairfax Avenue. Each would ultimately meet up with the Hollywood/Highland station.

"The K Line Northern Extension San Vicente-Fairfax alignment project is expected to greatly enhance mobility for residents and visitors alike, delivering substantial economic and fiscal benefits during both the construction and operational phases," senior director of LAEDC Institute of Applied Economics Shannon Sedgwick said. "Although the economic impacts from ongoing operations and ridership are more modest compared to the significant one-time effects of construction, their value is long-lasting."

The San Vicente-Fairfax option is favored by not just Horvath, but by the city of West Hollywood, as the configuration would go directly through the city's business artery of Santa Monica Boulevard.

"I've been fighting to bring a Metro line to West Hollywood for a long time. The K Line extension has been studied," West Hollywood Councilman John Heilman said. "The best alternative [is] the one north to Santa Monica and San Vicente and heads toward Hollywood. It serves the most riders and will provide an economic boost and a tremendous transportation option for our community. With Supervisor Horvath in office, we have a real chance to make this a

reality. However, many of our businesses are hurting now. We can't wait until Metro is built to address the needs of our businesses. The economic study provided some short- and longer-term strategies to reinvigorate our businesses and support additional employment opportunities. We need to start implementing these strategies now."

Once completed, it is estimated that annual ridership would create an economic output of nearly \$500 million. The K Line Extension was officially approved by Metro during its Oct. 23 board meeting. Which of the three alignments will be chosen, however, is an ongoing discussion.

"Metro has and will continue to work closely with Director Horvath's office on the K Line Northern Extension Project and will partner with local agencies on the identification of additional funding and financing strategies per the Measure M Early Project Delivery Strategy," Metro media relations manager Patrick Chandler said. "Metro is currently reviewing all public comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report. To respond to community concerns and requests for more information regarding proposed tunnels under the historic neighborhoods of LaFayette Square and Wellington Square, Metro is conducting additional alignment analysis and studies to evaluate potential refinements to the alignment between I-10 and Venice Blvd. After the completion of studies, Metro will share findings with the community to receive feedback. This input will help inform the next steps in the project, including



photo courtesy of Metro

The three alternatives for the K Line Extension have been researched extensively by Metro.

the development of a staff recommendation for the future selection of an LPA by the Metro Board."

West Hollywood Councilwoman Lauren Meister stressed the importance of supporting local businesses during the K Line construction phase, recalling when the city installed medians over 20 years ago along Santa Monica Boulevard and many local businesses were negatively impacted by the two-year construction.

"It is going to take a while before the K Line is built – they're still doing studies – and if and when it's under construction, we really must consider the potential impacts to our business community," Meister said.

"Regarding transportation options, some realistic ones exist right now. For example, we can think about expanding our Cityline Commuter bus, which currently has

express service to the Hollywood and Highland Metro station. I would advocate for adding a La Cienega route [for Cityline], which could stop at Metro stations on La Cienega, as well as loop around LAX. I think that could also be of great economic benefit to West Hollywood, especially for when all of these large-scale events come to LA, like the World Cup, Super Bowl, and Olympics and Paralympics. Mayor Erickson and I plan to bring an item forward soon regarding this option."

"We need this train," West Hollywood Mayor John Erickson said. "We have to support this train, and we have to make sure that Metro not only chooses this path, but then also we go out there and get the federal, statewide and local funding available to make it a reality."



NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 24-O-2904

The City Council of Beverly Hills, at its regular meeting held on **Tuesday, December 3, 2024**, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, adopted Ordinance No. 24-O-2904 entitled:

AMENDING BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE REGULATIONS FOR EMERGENCY SHELTERS; FAMILY, SINGLE HOUSEKEEPING UNITS AND SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCES; COMMUNITY CARE FACILITIES; TRANSITIONAL OR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING; REPLACEMENT UNITS FOR PARCELS IN THE SITES INVENTORY OF THE HOUSING ELEMENT AND MAKING A DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

Summary of Ordinance No. 24-O-2904

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

The ordinance satisfies the requirements set forth in Housing Element Implementation Programs 11.1, 11.5, and 11.7, which require various changes to the Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC) to remove constraints for specialized types of housing, including housing for persons with disabilities. The ordinance includes the following changes as required by the Housing Element and state law:

- Addresses replacement housing requirements for the redevelopment of sites included in the Housing Element 2021-2029 sites inventory;
- Updates definitions of "family", "single housekeeping unit", "single-family residence or dwelling", "transitional housing", "supportive housing", and other related definitions;
- Revises regulations and creates standards related to residential community care facilities to be consistent with state law, including allowing large residential community care facilities in all residential zones;
- Revises emergency shelter development standards consistent with state law, and identifies sufficient capacity for the establishment of emergency shelters by-right in the City; and

- Revises the definition of transitional and supportive housing to allow these uses by-right in zones permitting multi-family and mixed use residential development consistent with Government Code section 65651.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

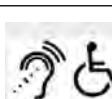
The Amendments were assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City. The City Council found that the ordinance is exempt from CEQA because it can be seen with certainty that there is no potential for such ordinance to have a significant adverse effect on the environment pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3). Section 15061(b)(3) of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations states that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. The Amendments do not authorize construction and make minor changes to existing standards and land use limitations that apply to existing uses permitted in residential zones in the City and allow uses that are consistent with the residential uses currently permitted in such zones. Therefore, it can be seen with certainty that the ordinance has no potential to cause a significant effect on the environment and the Amendments are categorically exempt from further review under CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3), in addition to Section 15305 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations for minor alterations in land use regulations.

The Ordinance was unanimously approved and adopted on December 3, 2024, effective January 3, 2025. Those voting for or against adoption of Ordinance No. 24-O-2904 are as follows:

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

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

Huma Ahmed
City Clerk



Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please call (310) 285-1126 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY). Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services. City Hall, including the Council Chamber and Room 280A, is wheelchair accessible. The City Hall Council Chamber and Room 280A are also equipped with audio equipment for the hearing impaired.

NHM unveils new programming for the new year

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County recently opened its new wing, NHM Commons and with it came several new programs for visitors to enjoy.

Dinosaurs have captured the world's imagination for centuries, commanding blockbuster status in museums and at the box office. But among them towers a king – a tyrant lizard king. With leaps in CGI wizardry and revolutions in tyrannosaur paleontology over the past twenty-five years, the time has come to revisit rex in the world's prestigious museum cinemas in "T. Rex 3D."

Working with top tyrannosaur scientists, a coalition of natural history institutions and pioneering paleo and visual effects artists, GSF's original giant screen production on this iconic dinosaur – and its carnivorous Cretaceous cousins – aims to be the most dazzling and accurate T. rex documentary ever made.

With hat tips to famous specimens, landmark discoveries and wild cinematic depictions over the last century, the film will explore the interplay between speculation and evidence, and reveal how the process of science refreshes and reimagines our understanding of the legendary dinosaur.

"T. Rex 3D" has multiple daily showings.

Visitors can also dive into a prehistoric undersea adventure with NHM's brand new, live performance starring life-size sea creature puppets in "Ocean Encounters." Join NHM as its amazing puppeteers and paleontologists bring the extinct animals to life.

Ocean Encounters is family-friendly, and each presentation is around 20 minutes long.

"Ocean Encounters" shows at NHM on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m.

Tickets for "T. Rex 3D" and "Ocean Encounters" are \$10 per person, free for members and \$3 per person for school groups.

Every week, guests can enjoy "Animals Alive!" and meet NHM's Living Collections team and their furry, scaly, slimy and leggy friends

Wilshire Rotary Christmas Tree Lot returns for holiday season

The Wilshire Rotary Christmas Tree Lot is open daily from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. through Dec. 23 at 568 N. Larchmont Blvd. The Christmas tree lot offers premium grade Noble fir and Douglas fir trees as well as wreaths and garland. Fresh cut trees are delivered weekly. Proceeds go to the Wilshire Rotary Foundation and the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. The tree lot also provides temporary jobs for dozens of people during the holidays. For information, call (323)464-1935, or visit wilshirerotary.org/page/events.



A variety of fresh-cut Christmas trees are available daily at the Wilshire Rotary lot.

that help make L.A. a biodiversity hotspot – along with creatures from all over the planet. Discover how they survive in the sprawling city as well as habitats across the globe, and what we can all do to help protect animal neighbors.

"Animals Alive!" shows at NHM on Wednesdays at 10:30 and 11 a.m. Tickets are \$5 per person and free for members and school groups.

Nearly 99% of NHM's collections are not on display, but visitors can look behind the scenes at those hidden collections in "Collections Revealed." Every week, guests can explore the specimens and objects

that drive research and discoveries at NHM and across the globe. From tiny marine invertebrates and extraordinary artifacts to newly described species and the oldest things on Earth, visitors get an up-close look at the rarely seen museum collections NHM studies and cares for.

"Collections Revealed" is free with paid admission and reservation and begins on Jan. 2, recurring every Thursday at 11 a.m.

For information, visit nhmlac.org.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is located at 900 Exposition Blvd.



photo courtesy of NHM

NHM's new programming includes a T. Rex movie, a live puppet show and a behind-the-scenes look at collections not on display.

City of West Hollywood Celebrates



FORTY Of COMMUNITY YEARS



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West Hollywood
40

Candy is dandy – and other holiday observations

Random thoughts, while still waiting for the first good rain of the season:

- Holidays define us – our values, our needs, our hearts.

- There's something godly about making soup.

- And there's something primal about lighting the fireplace.

- Whoooooooooooooo... oooosh....

- Donna Reed's smile makes me smile.

- John Candy's laugh makes me laugh.

- Nutritionists talk too much about calories and not enough about the psychic joy food brings.

- Example: Egg rolls.

- I love NFL games where it snows so much it looks like old footage of the Yukon.

- Sports has become pop culture, filling the void left by movies, music and network TV.

- Who actually roasts chestnuts?

- Do you roast chestnuts?

- "Nobody understands human psychology like Dostoyevsky, and that's why I've banned him." – Joseph Stalin

- How will they hold the Oscars this year? Can't name five movies.

- Hollywood needs a disruptor.

- Mostly, Hollywood needs some heart.

- Top three holiday classics: 1) "It's a Wonderful Life" 2) "Charlie Brown Christmas" 3) "Elf."

by
Chris
Erskine



celed." –Elon Musk.

- We'll see, won't we.

- Favorite cabin in the mountains: Avignone's Bar in the sparkling little village of Montrose.

- I think it's the fireplace. And the barkeeps, Christopher, Tiffany and Ani.

- All Gordon Lightfoot classics sound like Christmas carols.

- James Taylor's too.

- Christmas trivia: Name the famous artist who said, "I draw funny pictures. Nothing more, nothing less."

- Gift idea for the sports fan in your life: Dodger World Series ornament.

- Or, even better, a paving brick outside the Rose Bowl. Info: frsen-graving.com/rosebowl

- December birthdays: Billie Eilish, 23; Taylor Swift, 35; Brad Pitt, 61; Denzel Washington, 70.

- Overrated So Cal tradition: boat parades.

- Yet I like those surfing Santas. Go figure.

- "A Charlie Brown Christmas" is almost unnervingly reflective, dependent on words, emotions and small grace notes rather than speed, glitz and noise." – Matt Zoller Seitz, Newark Star-Leger

- Note to Santa: Steer clear of LAX, especially Terminal 2.

- And beware of updrafts around Mt. Wilson.

- Whoooooooooooooo... oooosh....

- FYI, while the Dodgers' remake their batting cages, Shohei Ohtani is taking his swings at a place in Pasadena.

- "Nothing is more human than a book." – Marilynne Robinson



photo by Kathryn Raper

The lightshow at Descanso Gardens, titled "Enchanted," runs through Jan. 5.

thing we'd watch.

- Really recommend "Shrinking" on Apple TV.

- Who knew Harrison Ford was funny?

- And Jason Segel is always good, in that stammering Jimmy Stewart way he has.

- FYI, Segel was a standout basketball player at Harvard-Westlake.

- His nickname at the time? Dr. Dunk.

- "All that we see ... is but a dream within a dream." – Edgar Allan Poe

- Whoooooooooooooo... oooosh....

For your gift list, please consider "What the Bears Know," the memoir of legendary "Bear Whisperer" Steve Searles, which I helped him write. It's inspiring, funny and a good escape in troubling times. Thanks.

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Councilwoman Yaroslavsky hosts 'Holidays in Harmony' winter festival

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, welcomes the community to the "Holidays in Harmony" winter festival on Sunday, Dec. 22, in Los Angeles High Memorial Park.

"Holidays in Harmony" offers a chance to connect with neighbors and embrace the spirit of the community. Bring family and friends for an afternoon filled with music, delicious food, creative crafts and winter fun.



photo courtesy of the 5th District Council Office
Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky invites the community to the inaugural "Holidays in Harmony" winter festival.

Holocaust Museum honors visionaries at gala

For the first time in its history, Holocaust Museum Los Angeles united four generations of survivors, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren at the "Shaping the Future" gala on Dec. 3 at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

The technology studio Magnopus, which collaborated with HMLA to create a futuristic augmented reality app that transports viewers inside the museum's model of the Sobibor death camp, received the museum's Social Impact Storytelling Award. Magnopus co-founders and Oscar winners Ben Grossman and Alex Henning were presented the award by Rena Blatt Smith, daughter of Sobibor survivor Thomas Blatt, who created the Sobibor camp model from memory.

The ground-breaking app innovation allows worldwide audiences access to one of the museum's most important artifacts. The app earned two 2024 Collision Awards which recognize animation and motion design excellence around the globe. Guests at the gala experienced the Sobibor app.

In their ongoing mission to share their family histories and advocate against antisemitism, third generation survivors and first cousins Amy Conroy and Amanda Markowitz Wizenberg received the Jona Goldrich Visionary Award. Conroy and Markowitz Wizenberg educate the next generations about the lessons of the Holocaust. Their awards were presented by 98-year-old survivor Ella Mandel, who survived Auschwitz and Bergen Belsen with Conroy and Markowitz Wizenberg's grandmother, Tonia Kohn Rosenblatt. The women met as bunkmates in Auschwitz and remained close friends for 70 years.

Actor, comedian and television personality Ben Gleib, the grandson of Holocaust survivors, hosted the gala, which raised \$1 million to support the museum. For information, visit holocaustmuseumla.org.

CW broadcasts Hollywood Christmas Parade Dec. 14

The event includes live performances by the FAME Church and Temple Isaiah choirs, food trucks, snow slides, a rock-climbing wall for all ages, holiday arts and crafts for kids and adults, and a holiday market with unique, handcrafted gifts from local vendors. The festival also provides an opportunity to meet Yaroslavsky and her staff, as well as other local officials.

Los Angeles High Memorial Park is located at 4625 W. Olympic Blvd. Admission is free.

For information and to RSVP, visit councildistrict5.lacity.gov.

Associated Television International announced that The CW Network will televise the 92nd anniversary Hollywood Christmas Parade Supporting Marine Toys for Tots as a primetime special on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 8-10 p.m. Led by Grand Marshal, Jeremy Renner, the nationwide broadcast will honor television host Mario Lopez with its 2024 Humanitarian of the Year Award. The parade was held on Dec. 1 and was hosted by Dean Cain, Laura McKenzie, Montel Williams and Elizabeth Stanton.

For information, visit thehollywoodchristmasparade.org.



photo courtesy of the Hollywood Christmas Parade

Santa Claus traveled along Hollywood Boulevard on Dec. 1, ushering in the holiday season.



Chanukah

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- LEGO MENORAH BUILDING WITH MR. B

MENORAH LIGHTING CELEBRATION WITH MIRACLE MILE CHABAD

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

CHANUKAH MUSIC BY DJ SHALOM

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BH honors retiring traffic officer

Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman and the City Council recognized BHPD Lead Traffic Control Officer Jeffrey Grijalva for his remarkable 32 years of ded-

icated service to the city of Beverly Hills prior to his retirement. The City Council honored Grijalva at its formal meeting on Dec. 10.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

LET IT SNOW!

■ Flurries forecasted at The Grove



photo courtesy of Caruso

Southern California weather is on the fritz – look out for snowfalls nightly at The Grove. Caruso's nightly winter wonderland presented by Disney+, a cherished community tradition, occurs at The Grove at 6 and 8 p.m. Be sure to bundle up and grab the cameras to capture the magical snowfall, now through Dec. 31.

Beverly Hills honors BreatheSoCal

At the Beverly Hills City Council meeting on Dec. 10, Mayor Lester Friedman, Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian and City Council members recognized Breathe Southern California as part of the Mayor's "People Helping People" initiative. Founded in

1903, Breathe Southern California, or BreatheSoCal, is a leading non-profit organization dedicated to supporting individuals with respiratory and other related health challenges, providing them with education, resources and advocacy.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Celebrate the Festival of Lights at Farmers Market

The Original Farmers Market, corner of Third and Fairfax, is celebrating Hanukkah on Thursday, Dec. 19, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Join fun Hanukkah festivities including youth performances by JLA, a Lego menorah building, Hanukkah crafts and sing-a-longs. The celebration continues into the new year on Wednesday, Jan. 1, with a special menorah lighting hosted by Miracle Mile Chabad. Hanukkah activities take place in the Market Plaza. The Original Farmers Market is located at 6333 W. Third St. For information, visit farmersmarketla.com.

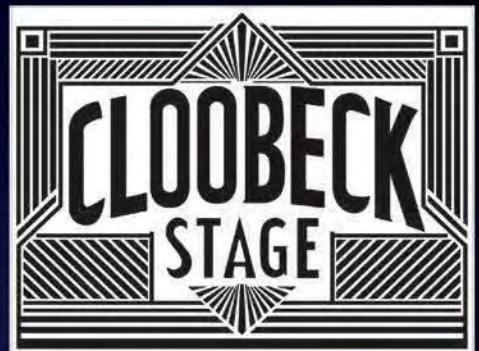


photo courtesy of the Original Farmers Market

The Original Farmers Market will observe Hanukkah on Dec. 19 and Jan. 1.

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GMCLA PRESENTS: SUGARPLUM FAIRIES

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12.15

GMCLA PRESENTS: SUGARPLUM FAIRIES - SECOND SHOW

SUNDAY
THE SABAN THEATRE
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GAY MEN'S
CHORUS OF
LOS ANGELES

SugarPlum Fairies



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SABAN THEATRE

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POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD's Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Nov. 29 and Dec. 7. The information was compiled from crimemapping.com. To report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies: Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (213)473-0476, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department West Hollywood Station (310)855-8850, and the Beverly Hills Police Department (310)550-4951.

Beverly Hills Police Department

Dec. 1

A vandalism incident was reported in the 400 block of N. Rodeo at 1:45 a.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of S. Cañon.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 300 block of Wetherly at 9 p.m.

Dec. 2

An unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 8300 block of Wilshire at 5:41 a.m.

At 5:53 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 200 block of N. La Cienega.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9700 block of Wilshire at 4:21 p.m.

Dec. 3

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 4:42 a.m.

At 3:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of S. Robertson.

Dec. 4

At 1:30 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1700 block of Chevy Chase.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8700 block of Gregory at 10:30 a.m.

At 11:15 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 100 block of S. La Cienega.

Dec. 5

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 200 block of N. Almont at 12:07 a.m.

At 10:06 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 400 block of N. Beverly.

Dec. 6

A vandalism incident was reported in the 500 block of N. Hillcrest at 11:34 a.m.

At 1:40 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Santa Monica and Rodeo.

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

Dec. 1

At 9:30 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 300 block of N. San Vicente.

Dec. 2

At 3:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of N. Doheny.

Dec. 3

At 2:50 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 600 block of West Knoll.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 600 block of N. Sweetzer at 12:03 p.m.

At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Olympic.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident near Melrose and Norwich at 10 p.m.

Dec. 4

At 12:23 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 900 block of N. Stanley.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 7600 block of Norton at 4 a.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1200 block of N. La Brea.

Dec. 5

At 11 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8400 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9400 block of Olympic at 2 p.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Palm.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7300 block of Fountain at 6 p.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7500 block of Norton at 8:58 p.m.

At 9:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8300 block of Sunset.

Dec. 6

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near Burton and Maple at 7:30 a.m.

At 9:33 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 1100 block of N. Poinsettia.

Dec. 7

At 1:32 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 7300 block of Santa Monica at 3:44 a.m.

At 8:10 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle near Fairfax and Romaine.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of S. Westbourne at 7:24 p.m.

At 8:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8300 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Sweetzer and Sunset at 11:50 p.m.

Los Angeles Police Department

Nov. 29

At 12:01 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 7200 block of Hillside.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5200 block of Wilshire at 1:53 p.m.

At 3 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of The Grove.

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 100 block of The Grove at 4 p.m.

At 5:43 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of Holt.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of The Grove at 6:30 p.m.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of The Grove. An additional theft was reported in the same area at 9:23 p.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 700 block of S. Ogden at 11:23 p.m.

Nov. 30

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 1700 block of N. Hudson at 12:01 a.m.

At 12:01 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of S. Clark.

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 1700 block of N. Vine at 1 a.m.

At 1 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1500 block of N. Vine.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1400 block of N. Vine at 1 p.m.

At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of Westminster.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 6300 block of Colgate at 4:15 p.m.

Dec. 1

At 1:30 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near Santa Monica and Robertson.

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 1600 block of N. Las Palmas at 2:30 a.m.

At 9 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6700 block of Hawthorne.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 1600 block of N. Orange at 9:30 a.m.

At 1:20 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6300 block of Orange.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5900 block of Wilshire at 2 p.m.

At 4:20 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. Arden.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of S. Ogden at 6:48 p.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of N. Wilcox.

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 7000 block of Hollywood at 7 p.m.

At 8:30 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near Wilcox and Waring.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 8100 block of Melrose at 9:05 p.m.

Dec. 2

At 2:20 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of S. Fuller.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 6300 block of Franklin at 4 p.m.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 5500 block of Romaine.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near Norton and Beverly at 7:30 p.m.

At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1700 block of N. Orange.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 600 block of S. Burnside at 11:20 p.m.

Dec. 3

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Fourth and Westminster at 6 a.m.

At 8:25 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of N. Las Palmas.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of S. Robertson at 11:45 a.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 5600 block of San Vicente.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5800 block of Melrose at 10:29 p.m.

At 11:59 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 6500 block of De Longpre.

Dec. 4

At 11:34 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5900 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of N. Fairfax at 4:30 p.m.

At 4:43 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of N. La Cienega.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of S. Las Palmas at 6 p.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Hayworth and Whitworth.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of S. Curson at 9:30 p.m.

Dec. 5

At 1:30 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6100 block of Fountain.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of N. Larchmont at 12:05 p.m.

At 2:45 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 500 block of S. Burnside.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1500 block of N. Ogden at 3:45 p.m.

At 4:05 p.m., an unknown suspect

committed a petty theft in the 6600 block of Bonair.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 600 block of S. Gramercy at 6:30 p.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 600 block of S. Cloverdale.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of N. Gordon at 7:05 p.m.

At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8600 block of Whitworth.

Dec. 6

At 8 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 100 block of S. Gardner.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 6300 block of Third at 8:28 a.m.

At noon, an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1400 block of N. Curson.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1300 block of N. Cahuenga at 3 p.m.

Dec. 7

At 12:01 a.m., a petty theft occurred in the 1700 block of N. Hudson.

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 1500 block of Wilcox at 12:39 a.m.

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY HOSPITAL CLOSURE

Effective January 1, 2025

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

The three nearest facilities offering comparable services are as follows:

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

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

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

RESTAURANT NEWS

Real Rewards make the perfect gift at Yogurtland

Yogurtland is providing sweet ways for guests to count down the holiday season and welcome the New Year. Through Dec. 22, Real Rewards members can swirl into the merriest time of the year with 12 Days of Froyo and instantly unwrap a mystery reward each day when they visit in-store or order online.

Additionally, in need of a last-minute stocking stuffer? Guests are invited to buy a gift and get a gift from Dec. 18-24. Delight family and friends and earn a \$5 Bonus Card for every \$25+ eGift card purchased (with up to four bonus cards per order) via yogurtland.com/buygiftcards. Bonus cards are redeemable in-store from Jan. 1-31.

Pair these deals with Yogurtland's seasonal frozen yogurt flavors, toppings and festive

cups and spoons for an extra sprinkle of holiday cheer. To note, the holiday-inspired deals are not valid on gift card purchases, merchandise or third-party delivery orders.

For information and to find a Yogurtland location near you, visit yogurtland.com.

Inclusive dining space opens atop Hotel Per La

Bar Clara is a rooftop bar situated above Hotel Per La. Paying homage to its namesake, Claire Giannini, Bar Clara's approach to hospitality embraces Giannini's driven spirit of inclusivity. With inspiration from its herbal and citrus surroundings in the roof's foliage, the bar's menu features deliberately whimsical and vibrant cocktails, a carefully curated wine list expressing the lightness and salinity of coastal winemaking through modern producers and their fruit-for-

ward techniques. Bar Clara's Mediterranean-inspired cuisine is further influenced by California and Southern Italian coastal flavors, showcasing snacks and plates intended to be enjoyed in harmony with the venue's beverage-forward personality.

With sweeping cityscape views, Bar Clara introduces a welcoming new drinking and dining destination to Downtown Los Angeles, featuring a vibrant mural wrap created by local L.A. artist Jessalyn Brooks, whose paintings focus on portraying the female form, intended to provoke thought of beauty ideals, body shape and gender expressions. The space is complete with a replica of The Orcus Mouth, the main sculpture seen in Il Parco dei Mostri in Lazio, Italy, featuring the transcribed words, "Missa omnium cogitationum" – any whispers made into the mouth will be heard by all – further signifying Bar Clara's welcoming nature of inclusion to both travelers and locals alike. In the hotel's community-focused celebratory spirit, live DJ sessions take place on the roof with additional programming to begin this fall.

Bar Clara is located atop Hotel Per La, 649 S. Olive St. For infor-



photo courtesy of Saltie Girl

Enjoy a tasty dessert as part of Saltie Girl's holiday meal.

Prix fixe holiday meal offered by Saltie Girl

This year, Saltie Girl, the West Hollywood seafood concept from founder Kathy Sidell, celebrates the holiday season with a special prix fixe lunch for \$49 per person. Guests will choose from featured courses including mushroom soup with truffle grilled cheese, braised short rib with celery root puree and pastry chef Ben

Sidell's yuzu sesame cookie or ginger loaf ice cream sandwich for dessert. Saltie Girl's full lunch menu of raw bar offerings, tinned fish boards, salads and more will still be available a la carte. To make a reservation, visit resy.com/cities/los-angeles-ca/venues/saltie-girl-la. Saltie Girl is located at 8615 Sunset Blvd.

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mation, visit hotelperla.com/bar-clara.

Discover the future at the EDITION

The festive season astrologer and mystic Meghan Rose is collaborating with The West Hollywood EDITION with a December residency. Offering insights into 2025, Rose will offer readings to the public and hotel guests alike, providing guidance on stepping into their power and living more authentically. Each 15-minute session is complimentary, with the purchase of the Lobby Bar's seasonal cocktail Holiday Helper (Ketel One Vodka, Drambuie, vanilla, lime and Boiron passion fruit puree). Priced at \$20, proceeds from Holiday Helper will be donated to nonprofit organization School on Wheels, which provides free tutoring and mentoring to children from K-12 living in shelters, motels, vehicles and group foster homes in Southern California.

Rose will be bringing her readings to the EDITION on Dec. 17 and 19 from 7-10 p.m. Booking is

not required and is open to the public on a first-come, first-serve basis. For information, visit themeghanrose.com and editionhotels.com/weho. The West Hollywood EDITION is located at 9040 W. Sunset Blvd.

Hollywood gets a little Frosty

Get ready to jingle and mingle at Hollywood's favorite holiday hotspot, Frosty's Christmas Bar. Patrons at Frosty's attend a night full of deliciously themed drinks, extraordinary photo ops and live music. Frosty's is a spectacular 21+ Christmas pop-up bar that transports guests into a cozy and enchanting winter wonderland. The bar is the ultimate destination for those looking to sip into the holiday spirits in style. Expect a unique, over the top and immersive experience with various rooms (both indoor and outdoor) filled with twinkling lights, snowflakes and all things festive. For information and tickets, visit frostyschristmas.bar/los-angeles. Frosty's is located at 6555 Hollywood Blvd.

The Abbey schedules weekly fun all month long

December is heating up at The Abbey Food & Bar and The Chapel at The Abbey with an unforgettable lineup of special and new recurring events.

Get ready to groove with Soul, Brandon Anthony's new weekly Sunday night celebrating Black and brown DJs spinning soulful house, deep house, disco and afrobeat.

Queer and Asian nightlife takes center stage with Switch on Dec. 14, a vibrant night filled with Top 40, EDM and K-pop.

JQ International's Gelty Pleasures brings the largest queer Hanukkah celebration in Los Angeles to The Chapel at The Abbey. Starting at 7 p.m. on Dec. 19, the event is hosted by Dylan Adler with music by DJ Daniel Zadka and performances by Lady SinAGaga and Linda Recessionista. The event features themed cocktails, light bites and communal menorah lighting. Dance, connect and celebrate



photo courtesy of The Abbey Food & Bar

The Chapel at The Abbey is at the center of many weekly and monthly themed events.

Hanukkah like never before. Get tickets at jqinternational.org/events/gelty2024.

After an incredible run on Thursdays, HUMP Middle Eastern Night is moving to The Chapel at The Abbey every third Saturday of the month, starting with a launch party on Dec. 21.

These special events add even more excitement to The Abbey and The Chapel's already stellar line-up, which includes weekly favorites like Lip Service, the signature Monday night drag show;

Musical Mondays, bringing the best of Broadway to West Hollywood; All That Tuesdays with Mayhem Miller, spinning '70s, '80s and '90s hits; and Sweat Thursdays at The Abbey. Don't forget the iconic brunch service drag show on Saturdays, Sunday Service drag brunch and the legendary Sunday funday and Salvation Saturdays.

For information, visit theabbey-weho.com. The Abbey Food and Bar is located at 692 N. Robertson Blvd.

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OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY & NEW YEARS DAY

Art Directors Guild honors excellence in production design

The Art Directors Guild IATSE Local 800 has announced the Lifetime Achievement and Hall of Fame Award honorees, to be honored at the 29th Annual Excellence in Production Design Awards on Feb. 15.

Lisa Frazza, Barbara Mesney, Dan Sweetman and J. Dennis Washington will receive the guild's Lifetime Achievement awards.

The ADG will induct legendary production designer Carl Jules Weyl into the Hall of Fame. Weyl's illustrious career includes winning an Academy Award in 1939 for his work on "The Adventures of Robin Hood."

"We're thrilled to recognize these fantastic artisans, who represent the pinnacle of craftsmanship and artistry in art departments," says award show producers Michael Allen Glover, and Megan Elizabeth Bell in a joint statement.

Scenic artist Frazza will receive Lifetime Achievement Award recognition through the Scenic, Title and Graphic Artists Council, presented during the ADG Awards ceremony by production designer Jack Forrestel. Known for her innovative techniques and keen eye for details, Frazza worked on hundreds of TV shows during a long career at CBS Television Studios, including

"Wheel of Fortune," "Jeopardy," "The Late Late Show with James Corden," "Dancing with the Stars," "Survivor" and 16 years on "The Bold and the Beautiful."

The Set Designers & Model Makers are bestowing their Lifetime Achievement Award on set designer Mesney, presented by Art Director Dawn Swiderski. Mesney has worked on dozens of award-winning blockbuster films, including "Argo," "Hail, Caesar!," "Gone Girl," "Anchorman," "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," "Crazy, Stupid, Love," "ConAir" and "Mathilda." Mesney's entertainment career began as a scenic designer and scenic artist for the stage, ultimately serving as associate designer for the American Conservatory Theatre and receiving numerous Dramalogue and Bay Area Theatre Critics Awards.

Sweetman will receive his Lifetime Achievement Award from the Illustrators and Matte Artists Council, presented by Storyboard Artist David Lowery. With more than 30 years working in films, Sweetman has served as the Storyboard Artist for films including "Braveheart," "Contact," "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," "Spider-Man," "The

Prestige," "Alice in Wonderland," "Birdman" and most recently "Mufasa: The Lion King." Prior to his film work, Sweetman created illustrations for newspapers and magazines such as the L.A. Times and The New York Times and drew for Vertigo and DC Comics.

The Art Directors Council is also set to honor production designer Washington, celebrating his work over more than 50 years in the film industry. Washington's award will be presented by Agent Ann Murtha. Washington designed for films including "Stand by Me," "The Fugitive," "Dante's Peak," "White Men Can't Jump," "Nebraska" and "13 Days," as well as three films with the legendary director John Huston. Born in Santa Monica, California, Washington studied architecture in college. In 1965, MGM hired Washington as a junior set designer and he knew from that moment he would work in art departments for his whole career.

During the Excellence in Production Design Awards, the ADG will bestow its Hall of Fame Honor on legendary art director Weyl. In the 1930s and 1940s, Weyl was renowned for his influential design on Hollywood classics including "Casablanca" and "The



photo courtesy of the Art Directors Guild

Hall of Fame inductee Carl Jules Weyl at work on "The Adventures of Robin Hood," (1938).

ADG Awards ceremony will take place at the InterContinental Los Angeles, located at 900 Wilshire Blvd.

For the Art Director Guild's online directory and resources, please visit adg.org.

'Sugarplum Fairies' fly into the Saban

The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles lights up its 2024-25 mainstage with "Sugarplum Fairies" in just three weeks. The nearly 200-member chorus begins its 46th season of performances on Dec. 14-15 at the historic Saban Theatre in Beverly Hills in a program of song and dance conducted by music director and conductor Ernest H. Harrison.

"GMCLA's holiday show always makes the top 20 L.A. holiday events list, and this year's candy-coated edition will be no exception," executive director and pro-

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

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



The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles will perform on Dec. 14-15.

Hollywood Bowl Laufey concert hits theaters

"Laufey's A Night at the Symphony: Hollywood Bowl," the debut concert film from Grammy-winning Icelandic-Chinese artist Laufey, is out now in select cinemas and IMAX theatres. Laufey's "A Night at the Symphony: Hollywood Bowl" showcases the singer's mesmerizing vocals alongside the legendary Los Angeles Philharmonic conducted by Thomas Wilkins. Shot in her adopted hometown and directed by Sam Wrench, the film gives fans a behind-the-scenes look at the monumental show.

Laufey has also released a companion concert film soundtrack in a surprise-drop. Comprised of her live set with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the soundtrack captures the magic and energy of the evening as Laufey takes the audience on a spell-binding sonic journey through a set-list of fan

favorite songs.

Event tickets are available now at anightatthesymphony.com.

VINTAGE

PARKLABREA NEWS

Red Kettle Campaign provides help during holiday season



Actor Lorne Greene, of the 1960s television show "Bonanza," asked people to give to the Salvation Army's annual Red Kettle Campaign in the Dec. 5, 1974, issue of the Park Labrea News. Greene and the Salvation Army's Sally Overstake stressed the importance of the drive, which raises funds the organization uses to help people throughout the year. Salvation Army bell ringers and the familiar red kettles will be located outside grocery stores and retailers around the city throughout the holidays this year. The campaign launched in the local area on Dec. 5 with a special Kettle Kick-Off event at the Original Farmers Market. The Salvation Army provides help to more than 4.5 million annually throughout the United States.

Establishing a Family Trust

Thinking about what happens to your assets once you're gone is never fun but spending just a few hours preparing for the inevitable could save your family months of confusion, arguments, court costs, attorney's fees, and grief.

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ZULTYS

'Moana 2' might make you hate film critics

I've written film reviews professionally since 2007 (throwback to "30 Days of Night," my first). I try to provide folks with thoughtful pieces and hopefully a few laughs as I promote films I find worthwhile or warn against those that might be a waste. Occasionally, I break ranks, present a different thesis. "Moana 2" requires such a detour.

Often I agree with other film critics or at least see their point. But on occasion, a film premieres that creates a highbrow groupthink that everyday moviegoers should entirely ignore. That's the case with "Moana 2," a film with a 62% from film pedants on Rotten Tomatoes

and lackluster reactions presented by review aggregators and social media's ranks of film influencers.

The San Francisco Chronicle called it "ill-conceived," while the Guardian considers it devoid of "anything genuinely passionate or heartfelt." Plenty of others agree. But what if I see in "Moana 2" an entirely enjoyable experience overflowing with passion and heart? Should I give up this whole review gig? I know I'm not alone.

An 87% from RT users, a 7.1/10 from IMDb ones (which is quite good for the site) and an A- from exit polling by CinemaScore. By themselves, each variable can be countered, especially if you know

ON SCREEN

WITH

TIM POSADA

how awful RT users can be. But one variable doesn't lie: money. After its second week at the box office, the sequel surpassed \$600 million worldwide nearing the entire box office gross of its predecessor. It'll likely end north of \$1 billion, the third film to do so this year (joining Disney alum's "Inside Out 2" and "Deadpool and Wolverine"). I love that for "Moana 2."

So what is this sequel if not the "remarkably thin piece of storytelling," according to rogerebert.com?

It's a sequel with more to do, but it never leaves its focus on Moana for too long. Expect a few throwbacks and a whole lot more lore. Moana (Auli'i Cravalho) is now her people's Wayfinder in search of others. No success yet. Then a vision sets her on a path that will, of course, require a reunion with that snarky, shapeshifting demigod Maui (Dwayne Johnson).

This particular task will take Moana much farther than last time, so she'll need a crew, including ship crafter Loto (Rose Matafeo), history buff Moni (Hualālai Chung) and cranky chef Kele (David Fane). It's clear these three are a relic of "Moana 2's" previous gestation as a Disney+ series before Disney CEO Bob Iger changed course on this one.

For several naysayers, this is con-



photo courtesy of Disney

Moana (voiced by Auli'i Cravalho) and little sister Simea (voiced by Khaleesi Lambert-Tsuda) are stellar in Disney's "Moana 2."

demnable. Many like the Boston Globe and AV Club even compare the film to Disney's direct-to-video era. Absolutely not. That's an exaggeration that reads well but doesn't even come close.

One of the more infuriating attacks hails from Vulture, again criticizing Moana's character development before concluding that "'Moana 2' isn't a real movie. It's an extension of time-tested IP, a savvy play from a media giant that may struggle mightily when it comes to new original material but has always known how to continue capitalizing on its hits."

Are we really playing this game? It's all IP. It's all part of a capitalist storytelling business model. All different topics. The level of cynicism is unwarranted. I wish I could just praise "Moana 2," discuss the stunning animation, fun humor and the

enjoyable world building. I would even spend more time addressing missteps like those side characters (a couple can be entirely removed) and how none of the new songs are bangers like "How Far I'll Go" and "You're Welcome," though they're still better than most in "Frozen II," for those who need a barometer. Instead, I'm here to remind folks that film critics can get it wrong – double-down unnecessarily.

Years ago, a frustrated reader wrote in to chastise me for my negative review of "Mamma Mia," concluding that I needed to "calm down." I offer that suggestion to other critics. Art is certainly subjective, but to make "Moana 2" the target of this much ire is wild. You'd think it had nothing at all to offer. It ain't perfect, but it ain't that bad either. If for no other reason, go see to annoy those critics.



photo courtesy of Disney

Demigod Maui (voiced by Dwayne Johnson) makes a magical return in "Moana 2."

New Works' staged at IAMA

IAMA Theatre Company, committed to cultivating new voices and creating new, boundary-pushing work, will host its seventh annual New Works Festival this December. Featuring eight new plays presented as staged readings, IAMA's New Works Festival gives audiences an early look at future hits and allows playwrights to experience public reaction to their work for the first time. Thanks to a generous award from the National Endowment for the Arts, this season's festival has been expanded to eight new plays, up from six in previous years.

The festival includes "Beautiful Blessed Child" by Daria Miyeko Marinelli and directed by Reena Dutt at 8 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 12; "Foursome" by Matthew Scott Montgomery and directed by Tom Detrinis at 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 13; "Care Less" by Chloé Hung and directed by Lily Tung Crystal at 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 14; and "The Playground" by KJ Cuitiño Bjorge and directed by Margaux Susi at 8 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 15.

IAMA Theatre Company's seventh annual New Works Festival



photo courtesy of IAMA Theatre Company
Eight new plays will be read at the IAMA Theatre New Works Festival Dec. 5-15.

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Festive characters bring 'Ovation' to Hollywood

The holiday season at Ovation Hollywood is truly enchanting. Located in the heart of Tinseltown, this iconic destination transforms into a festive wonderland, seamlessly blending the energy of Hollywood with the joyful spirit of the holidays. Discover the magic of the season at Ovation, where fun and excitement await the entire family.

Visit Santa at his photo booth and snap a free digital photo. This opportunity will be available from 3-7 p.m. Dec. 12, 13 and 19, from noon-8 p.m. Dec. 14, 15, 21 and 22, and from noon- 6 p.m. Dec. 20, 23 and 24. Mrs. Claus will also make appearances on Dec. 14, 21 and 22.

The Jungle 5 holiday carolers will perform Dec. 13 and 14 at 4 p.m., 4:50 p.m., 5:40 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., and Dec. 20-24 at 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The Candy Cane Stiltwalkers, will appear at 4:15 p.m., 5:10 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Dec. 12-15 and Dec. 19-24. Enjoy the big band sounds of The Holly Belles classic and con-

temporary holiday songs on Dec. 15 at 4 p.m., 4:50 p.m., 5:40 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. and Dec. 20-24 at 3:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. On Dec. 22 at 3:30 p.m., 4:35 p.m. and 5:40 p.m., guests can celebrate the season with a special meet-n-greet with the Sugar Plum

Fairy, too. The Nutcracker Ballerina and the Drummer Boy will be around at 3:30 p.m., 4:35 p.m. and 5:40 p.m. on Dec. 14-15 and 21-23.

For information, visit ovationhollywood.com. Ovation Hollywood is located at 6801 Hollywood Blvd.



photo courtesy of Ovation Hollywood

Pantages gets a little 'Wicked'

Broadway in Hollywood is thrilled to announce that L.A.'s most popular musical "Wicked," will return to Los Angeles at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre for a limited nine-week run across the 2024 holiday season through Feb.

2. "Wicked" is currently the fourth longest-running show in Broadway history, having recently celebrated its 21st Anniversary on Broadway.

Tickets are available for purchase in Los Angeles at broadwayinhollywood.com or ticketmaster.com.

Tickets may also be purchased in person at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre box office. Best availability for tickets is currently during weeknight performances beginning in January.

A \$40 Digital Lottery is offered for every performance in Los Angeles exclusively through the official Broadway in Hollywood app. The app can be downloaded by visiting broadwayinhollywood.com/app. The lottery opens for each performance at 11 a.m. two days prior to each performance and closes one day prior at 10 a.m. Tickets are available for lottery winners beginning two hours prior to the posted curtain time at the box office with valid ID. For more details and restrictions, download the app and visit the "Lottery" section on the "Tickets" tab – or visit broadwayinhollywood.com/lottery for information.

For information, visit wickedthemusical.com. The Hollywood Pantages Theatre is located at 6233 Hollywood Blvd.



photo courtesy of Wicked the Musical

Spend "One Short Day" in the Emerald City by seeing the musical "Wicked" at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre.

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Ruling issued in DuPont clinic case

From page 1

time and again, it vigorously supports a woman's right to choose and the decision to rescind DuPont Clinic's lease was not made by the city of Beverly Hills. We welcome future medical facilities that offer complete reproductive health services to Beverly Hills."

DuPont Clinic released a statement in response to the ruling on Dec. 11.

"DuPont is very disappointed with the court's ruling today, especially in light of the complaint filed by the California Attorney General that points to clear wrongdoing on the part of the city of Beverly

Hills," the statement read. "DuPont remains committed to its claims against the city of Beverly Hills and believes that the merits of its case will ultimately prevail."

The city's actions were the subject of an investigation by the California Attorney General's Office. Following the investigation, the city entered into an agreement – legally referred to as a stipulated judgement – mandating that the city train its employees on protecting abortion rights.

On Oct. 31, California Attorney General Rob Bonta held a press conference where he sharply criti-

cized the city for its actions, which he said were blatantly illegal. He stated that the city "went out of its way" to break the law by interfering with DuPont Clinic's lease and characterized the city's actions as an alarming attack on reproductive rights in California. He said the city unlawfully withheld permits and launched a "pressure campaign" for the landlord to rescind the lease. DuPont has filed separate litigation against Douglas Emmett.

The city has said that it "disagrees" with the attorney general's statements and maintains that it did not illegally interfere with the lease.

The lawsuit filed by DuPont Clinic has been the recent focus of Beverly Hills for Choice, a pro-choice group in Beverly Hills that has criticized the city's actions. In a statement, the group expressed disappointment in the judge's ruling, and pointed toward Bonta's findings.

"The ruling in the city's anti-SLAPP filing does not change the facts, which Attorney General Bonta clearly laid out – the city interfered with the opening of the DuPont Clinic," the statement read. "City officials and council members met and texted secretly with multiple members of anti-abortion groups and refused to work with a legal business in the city. Members of BHPD were directed to negotiate with extrem-

ists, promising them protest permits. The city's refusal to accept responsibility is a stark reminder that our constitutionally protected rights are inalienable only as much as our elected officials are willing to defend them. This is a terrible blow to reproductive rights in America, and we are ashamed of the city's role in blocking access to vital health care."

"I'm mystified," Beverly Hills for Choice co-founder Andrea Grossman added. "The office of the Attorney General of California conducted a thorough investigation into the city's actions surrounding the DuPont Clinic situation. I don't understand for a minute how the judge and the attorney general could have arrived at such different conclusions."

Future of Norms on La Cienega up in the air

From page 3

cussions with Norms about the future of the site," wrote Dale Goss, senior vice president of real estate for Raising Cane's.

It is not clear if Norms will remain in the location, or what future plans may entail.

Norms, a Southern California diner chain, is known for its Googie architecture – a quirky mid-20th century futurist movement that was developed in Southern California. The architecture style features angular roofs, boomerang-like

shapes and neon lights that harken back to the dawn of the Space Age.

The restaurant on North La Cienega Boulevard is the oldest surviving Norms location, first opening its doors in 1957. In 2015, the location became a Los Angeles historic-cultural monument, a move that prevented it from being demolished following a campaign by the Los Angeles Conservancy to save the building.

According to its website, there are 23 Norms locations in the Los

Angeles area and one in Las Vegas.

After hearing of the potential 2026 Norms closure, many local preservationists made their voices heard on social media.

Bobby Green – a designer and business owner whose company the 1933 Group has preserved and reopened several historic L.A. eateries, including Tail O' the Pup and the Formosa Café – said he was initially "confusingly shocked" when he heard about the plans for Norms. However, he was pleased to

hear that Raising Cane's appeared to listen to the community. He characterized the situation as a call to action for Angelenos to support the dining institutions they love by giving them more business.

"It's kind of a slap in the face to all of us that love these kind of landmark restaurants but don't really go very much," Green said. "I always tell people, if you really love that place you've got to patronize it – have your birthday parties there. Let's go, keep them in business. Angelenos tend to be happy that something exists but not necessarily support it financially ... We've got a re-appreciation for Norms, so now let's go there at least once a month."

Los Angeles historian Alison Martino – creator of Vintage Los Angeles, a Facebook page dedicated to documenting local history – said she was relieved to hear that Raising Cane's scrapped the plans, but hopes they "keep their word."

"This Norms was built to be a Norms," Martino said. "It's an icon. It's one of the last if [not] the last 24-hour diner in the neighborhood, very important to people who live there. Not everyone wants to go out for a five-star dinner. It's comfort, it's our comfort food, it's our comfort place. I'm hoping that Raising Cane's listened to the community and all the online outcry for it and did the right move."

Pawn shop transforms into restaurant and bar

From page 3

early as 6 a.m. up to 24 times a year for sporting events and to have live entertainment ending at 10 p.m. up to 12 times per year.

The Pawn Shop restaurant and bar project was initially opposed by some in the community, including the Hancock Park Homeowners Association, which gave its support after the city-imposed regulations to reduce impacts on neighbors.

"What the community asked for

was not unreasonable, and the city held that up," Hancock Park Homeowners Association president Cindy Chvatal-Keane said. "In the end, the city agreed with the community in terms of the hours of operation, what was reasonable in terms of satisfying parking, everything the community wanted."

The Pawn Shop restaurant and bar will feature a menu created by award-winning Chef Tony Messina, adding another culinary

destination to a stretch of Melrose Avenue with many popular restaurants, Duffy said. It will also be a casual place for community members and families to dine and watch sporting events. Duffy said excitement is building now that work has begun, and they are looking forward to opening in fall 2025.

"We are hoping to be open by the World Series," she added. "And that the Dodgers win it again."

BHPD reminds drivers to stay sober or get pulled over

The Beverly Hills Police Department will conduct a sobriety and driver's license checkpoint on Friday, Dec. 13, from 7 p.m.-2 a.m. near North Santa Monica Boulevard and Crescent Drive.

All traffic will pass through the checkpoint, and uniformed officers will stop and contact motorists. Officers will look for alcohol and

drug-impaired drivers and verify that all motorists have a license.

"Impaired drivers put others on the road at significant risk," BHPD Chief Mark Stainbrook said. "Any prevention measures that reduce the number of impaired drivers on our roads significantly improve traffic safety."

For information, visit beverly-

hills.org/548/police-department.

Council OKs Housing Element

From page 6

Councilmembers Raman and Hernandez, and also thankful for the votes of Councilmembers Harris-Dawson, Price and Jurado," said Scott Epstein, director of policy and research for Abundant Housing L.A. and former chair of the Mid City West Neighborhood Council. "This has been a high priority for Abundant Housing L.A. We're part of a very broad coalition that has been focused on making the incentive programs and the CHIP Ordinance apply to single-family zoned parcels within the geographies identified by the incentive programs. When you

wall-off nearly three-quarters of residential land in the city, it becomes very hard to meet those numbers, because any particular location is going to have a small probability of being redeveloped. The Raman motion equates to roughly 5% of single-family zoned parcels across the entire city, so we're talking about a meaningful but in some ways modest step towards opening up single-family neighborhoods. I just want to make sure it's out there that there are many community members within this geography that are supportive of the idea of opening up some single-family areas."

Robbery suspect sought by LAPD

From page 4

money occurred and one of the suspects and the security guard exchanged gunfire, Marullo said. The name of the suspect who died was not released because he was a 17-year-old juvenile. The other suspect was around the same age, Marullo said, but no further description was available.

Police searched the area for the suspect and the Lexus. Marullo said a "significant" amount of money was stolen, but declined to specify the amount.

The handgun allegedly used

by the suspect was recovered at the scene. The 73-year-old security guard was hospitalized in stable condition and is recovering. Marullo said the business has been targeted for a robbery at least once previously, but had no further information about the earlier incident.

Anyone with information about the crime is urged to call West Bureau Homicide Unit detectives at (213)382-9470. During weekends and off-hours, call the LAPD's hotline at (877)LAPD247.

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HANA EFFRON 2:30-4:15pm




NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 24-O-2905

ORDINANCE NO. 24-O-2905

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE TO REVISE THE PROCESS PERTAINING TO THE GROUND FOR EVICTION BASED ON A FINDING THAT A TENANT IS A DISRUPTIVE TENANT AND FINDING THE ORDINANCE EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: In 2018, the City Council amended Chapter 6 of Title 4 of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code (“Code”) to establish more comprehensive rent stabilization rules for the majority of rental units in the City that are subject to that Chapter of the Code, including regulations governing just cause evictions, and also amended Chapters 5 and 6 of Title 4 of the Code to include a new ground for eviction if a City Council Subcommittee finds that a tenant is disruptive.

Section 2: On June 18, 2024, the City Council conducted a duly noticed study session and determined that it would be appropriate to have determinations regarding whether a tenant is a disruptive tenant be made by a hearing officer instead of by a Subcommittee of the City Council and gave direction to Staff to prepare such an ordinance for consideration by the City Council.

Section 3: This Ordinance and the proposed changes to the disruptive tenant process were 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 City Council finds that the revisions to the disruptive tenant process, including having those determinations made by a hearing officer instead of by a Subcommittee of the City Council, and the adoption of this Ordinance will not have a significant environmental impact and is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, which states that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. This exemption is applicable because this Ordinance is merely making administrative changes to the Beverly Hills Municipal Code that revise the disruptive tenant process to clarify and expedite that process. Therefore, it can be seen with certainty that this Ordinance and the proposed revisions to the current disruptive tenant process set forth in Chapters 5 and 6 of Title 4 of the Code have no potential to cause a significant effect on the environment.

Section 4: The City’s Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO), which is set forth in Chapters 5 and 6 of Title 4 of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code, has been in effect since 2018. The RSO is more protective than the provisions of the state Tenant Protection Act (Civil Code Section 1946.1) because: (1) it includes greater restrictions on annual rent increases, and (2) it includes additional limitations on evictions, including not allowing tenants to be evicted so that a landlord may remodel a rental unit that is subject to the provisions of the RSO. The RSO provides an administrative process regarding an eviction for disruptive conduct by a tenant, which is a form of nuisance. Evictions for conduct that constitutes a nuisance are allowed by both the City’s RSO and the state TPA. This ordinance only makes proposed administrative changes and clarifications to the disruptive tenant process.

Section 5: The City Council hereby repeals existing Section 4-5-514 and adopts new Section 4-5-514 of Article 5 of Chapter 5 of Title 4 of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code to read as follows:

4-5-514: DISRUPTIVE TENANT:

A. A landlord may bring an action to recover possession of an apartment unit if the landlord or the landlord’s representative submits an application to the City, and the City, either by a City hearing officer or by a hearing officer agreed to by the landlord and the alleged disruptive tenant (“the parties”) and approved by the City, finds that the tenant is a “disruptive tenant.” For purposes of this Section 4-5-514, a tenant may be found to be a disruptive tenant if:

1. The tenant or the tenant’s guests or invitees repeatedly or continually disturb the peaceful and quiet enjoyment of one or more other tenants who occupy another rental unit or units in the apartment building where the tenant resides by unreasonable conduct, including, but not limited to, making or continuing, or causing to be made or continued, any loud, unnecessary, excessive, or unusual noise which unreasonably disturbs the peace and quiet or which unreasonably causes discomfort or annoyance to any reasonable person of normal sensitiveness.

The factors which may be considered in determining whether the tenant is a disruptive tenant shall include, but are not limited to: the volume of the noise; the intensity of the noise; the duration of the noise; the time of the day or night the noise occurs, and whether the noise is recurrent, intermittent, or constant; or

2. The tenant or the tenant’s guests or invitees threaten, antagonize, harass, intimidate or bully, either in person or by use of oral, written or electronic communications, one or more other tenants who occupy another rental unit or units in the apartment building where the tenant resides by unreasonable conduct including, but not limited to, invasions of privacy, stalking, confrontations, and interference with egress or ingress to the tenant’s unit or use of common areas; and

3. The disruptive tenant does not cease the behavior when requested to do so by

the other tenant(s) or by the landlord or the landlord’s representative.

B. The landlord or the landlord’s representative may, at the sole option of the landlord, file an application with the City and request that a hearing officer make a determination that a tenant is a disruptive tenant, as defined in paragraph A of this section. If the hearing officer issues a final determination finding that the tenant is a disruptive tenant, then the landlord or the landlord’s representative may serve the tenant with a written notice to terminate the tenancy in accordance with State law. If the hearing officer issues a final determination finding that the tenant is not a disruptive tenant, then the landlord or landlord’s representative shall not file another application with the City alleging that the tenant is disruptive within one year of the date of the issuance of the hearing officer’s determination. However, the hearing officer may shorten the one-year waiting period, if the hearing officer finds that the evidence in the record supports a reasonable inference that the alleged disruptive tenant may escalate or change his or her conduct such that the tenant would become a disruptive tenant.

1. Prior to filing an application with the City, the landlord or the landlord’s representative shall:

(a) Give the alleged disruptive tenant at least one written notice describing the disruptive conduct and requiring the tenant to discontinue the conduct. The landlord or landlord’s representative either shall deliver the notice to the tenant personally, send it to the tenant by certified mail, or post it on the door of the tenant’s unit. A copy of this written notice and proof of service of this written notice on the tenant shall be provided to the City as part of the application in order for an application to be found to be complete.

(b) Provided that the tenant does not cease the disruptive conduct within ten (10) days of the date of delivery of the notice required by subparagraph (a) above, give, by any of the methods set forth in subparagraph (a), a second written notice, on a form approved by the City, to all affected tenants, including the alleged disruptive tenant, offering to participate in mediation. Proof of service of this written notice on all affected tenants shall be provided to the City as part of the application in order for an application to be found to be complete.

(c) Within thirty (30) days of the delivery of the notice referred to in subparagraph (b), each affected tenant, including the alleged disruptive tenant, shall respond in writing to the landlord or the landlord’s representative stating whether the tenant is willing to participate in mediation. Failure to respond within thirty (30) days shall be deemed to be a rejection of the offer to mediate. Any individuals wishing to participate in the mediation process may proceed to mediation. If an agreement is reached between the parties as a result of mediation, the mediator will encourage the participants to prepare, and can assist in the preparation of, a private written agreement for the parties to sign.

(d) The parties shall utilize the City’s free or reduced-cost mediation service, if such service is offered by the City. If such service is not offered by the City, or if the parties agree to utilize a different mediation service, that alternative mediation service may be used instead. The landlord or the landlord’s representative shall pay any charge by the mediation service for the cost of the mediation.

2. If the parties are unable to resolve the matter, or if the alleged disruptive tenant rejects or fails to timely respond to the mediation notice or to participate in the mediation process, then the landlord or the landlord’s representative may proceed to file the application with the City and serve the alleged disruptive tenant. The landlord or the landlord’s representative shall:

(a) Serve, by any of the methods set forth in subparagraph 1(a) of this Paragraph B, the alleged disruptive tenant with a copy of the application. Proof of service of the application on the tenant shall be filed with the City concurrently with the application. The application shall be submitted either on a form supplied by the City or shall substantially comply with the requirements of the City’s form.

3. The application shall set forth the name, address and unit number of the alleged disruptive tenant and shall describe specifically the tenant’s conduct that the landlord or landlord’s representative contends is disruptive, the dates, times and approximate duration of the disruptive conduct, the date or dates when the landlord or landlord’s representative requested that the tenant cease the disruptive conduct, and a statement or declaration signed under penalty of perjury that the tenant has not ceased the disruptive conduct within 10 (ten) days of the date of the notice and shall include the written notices described in subparagraphs 1(a) and 1(b) of this paragraph B. The application also may include the names of any individuals who observed the tenant’s conduct and may include written statements by the witnesses describing the conduct.

4. The City shall schedule a hearing (but the hearing officer need not hold the hearing) within thirty (30) days of the filing of a complete application with the City, and the hearing shall be held not more than sixty (60) days thereafter, unless either or both of the parties request a continuance. Each party shall be entitled to request a maximum of one continuance, unless the parties all agree to the continuance, or the City determines that extraordinary circumstances justify an additional continuance. The City shall send written notice of the hearing to the landlord or the landlord’s representative and the alleged disruptive tenant, by certified mail, at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the hearing.

5. The hearing officer shall control the conduct of the hearing and rule on procedural requests. The hearing shall be conducted in the manner deemed by the hearing officer to be most suitable to secure the information and documentation that is necessary to render an informed decision, and to result in a fair decision without unnecessary delay.

(a) At the hearing, the parties may offer any documents, testimony, written declarations, or other evidence that is relevant to the application. Any party who wishes to present written documents or arguments as part of the hearing shall submit such written materials to the City and to the other party at least five (5) business days prior to the hearing. Any party who wishes to present any written materials in response to the written materials that were provided by the other party shall submit such responsive written materials to the City and to the other party at least two (2) business days prior to the hearing. Proof of service of all writ-

ten materials on the other party shall be provided to the City at least two business days prior to the hearing. Any party who submits such written materials shall bring an extra copy of such materials to the hearing for review by other individuals who attend the hearing.

(b) Formal rules of evidence shall not be applicable at the hearing. However, statements by witnesses or complainants who do not attend the hearing shall be signed under penalty of perjury.

(c) There shall be no oral communication outside the hearing between the hearing officer and any party or witness. The hearing shall be recorded.

(d) The hearing shall ordinarily proceed in the following manner, unless the hearing officer determines that some other order of proceedings would better facilitate the hearing:

(1) A brief presentation by or on behalf of the landlord or the landlord's representative, including testimony by any other affected tenants and witnesses in support of the application.

(2) A brief presentation by or on behalf of the alleged disruptive tenant, including testimony by any other affected tenants and witnesses in opposition to the application.

(3) A brief rebuttal by the landlord or the landlord's representative.

(4) A brief rebuttal by the alleged disruptive tenant.

(e) The hearing officer shall establish equitable time limits for presentations at a hearing, with a minimum length of ten (10) minutes each for the landlord and the alleged disruptive tenant, subject to adjustments for translation and reasonable accommodation.

(f) The hearing officer or City staff shall maintain an official hearing record, which shall constitute the exclusive record of the decision.

(g) All parties to a hearing shall have the right to seek assistance in developing their positions, preparing their statements, and presenting evidence from an attorney, tenant organization representative, landlord association representative, translator, or any other person. If the representative will be speaking on behalf of the party at the hearing, the party shall so advise the hearing officer.

(h) To prevail on the application, the landlord must carry the burden of demonstrating that the alleged disruptive tenant is a disruptive tenant, as defined in paragraph A of this section.

(i) Within thirty (30) days after the hearing record is closed, the hearing officer shall issue a written determination setting forth the hearing officer's decision approving or denying the application, with written findings in support thereof.

6. A written notice of the decision shall be mailed by the City to the applicant and the alleged disruptive tenant by certified mail within two (2) business days of the issuance of the decision by the hearing officer. Such notice shall be accompanied by a copy of the hearing officer's decision.

7. If the hearing officer determines that the alleged disruptive tenant is a disruptive tenant, the landlord or landlord's representative may serve the tenant with written notice provided in accordance with State law to terminate the tenancy. The landlord is not required to pay relocation fees to the tenant. If the tenant vacates the unit in response to the notice or any subsequent final legal proceeding, the landlord may not increase the rent that will be charged for the unit above the amount that was being charged to the tenant, other than any adjustments otherwise available under this chapter.

8. Any final decision of the hearing officer is subject to judicial review pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 1094.5 and must be filed in accordance with the time periods specified therein.

9. The City Council shall establish by resolution a filing fee for utilizing the hearing process authorized by this Section 4-5-514.

Section 6: The City Council hereby repeals existing Paragraph M and adopts new Paragraph M of Section 4-6-6 of Chapter 6 of Title 4 of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code to read as follows:

M. Disruptive Tenant:

1. A landlord may bring an action to recover possession of an apartment unit if the landlord or the landlord's representative submits an application to the City, and the City, either by a City hearing officer or by a hearing officer agreed to by the landlord and the alleged disruptive tenant ("the parties") and approved by the City, finds that the tenant is a "disruptive tenant." For purposes of this paragraph M, a tenant may be found to be a disruptive tenant if:

a. The tenant or the tenant's guests or invitees repeatedly or continually disturb the peaceful and quiet enjoyment of one or more other tenants who occupy another rental unit or units in the apartment building where the tenant resides by unreasonable conduct including, but not limited to, making or continuing, or causing to be made or continued, any loud, unnecessary, excessive, or unusual noise which unreasonably disturbs the peace and quiet or which unreasonably causes discomfort or annoyance to any reasonable person of normal sensitiveness.

The factors which may be considered in determining whether the tenant is a disruptive tenant shall include, but are not limited to: the volume of the noise; the intensity of the noise; the duration of the noise; the time of the day or night the noise occurs, and whether the noise is recurrent, intermittent, or constant; or

b. The tenant or the tenant's guests or invitees threaten, antagonize, harass, intimidate or bully, either in person or by use of oral, written or electronic communications, one or more other tenants who occupy another rental unit or units in the apartment building where

the tenant resides by unreasonable conduct including, but not limited to, invasions of privacy, stalking, confrontations, and interference with egress or ingress to the tenant's unit or use of common areas; and

c. The disruptive tenant does not cease the behavior when requested to do so by the other tenant(s) or by the landlord or the landlord's representative.

2. The landlord or the landlord's representative may, at the sole option of the landlord, file an application with the City and request that a hearing officer make a determination that a tenant is a disruptive tenant, as defined in subparagraph 1 of this paragraph M. If the hearing officer issues a final determination finding that the tenant is a disruptive tenant, then the landlord or the landlord's representative may serve the tenant with a written notice to terminate the tenancy in accordance with State law. If the hearing officer issues a final determination finding that the tenant is not a disruptive tenant, then the landlord or landlord's representative shall not file another application with the City alleging that the tenant is disruptive within one year of the date of the issuance of the hearing officer's determination. However, the hearing officer may shorten the one-year waiting period, if the hearing officer finds that the evidence in the record supports a reasonable inference that the alleged disruptive tenant may escalate or change his or her conduct such that the tenant would become a disruptive tenant.

a. Prior to filing an application with the City, the landlord or the landlord's representative shall:

(1) Give the alleged disruptive tenant at least one written notice describing the disruptive conduct and requiring the tenant to discontinue the conduct. The landlord or landlord's representative either shall deliver the notice to the tenant personally, send it to the tenant by certified mail, or post it on the door of the tenant's unit. A copy of this written notice and proof of service of this written notice on the tenant shall be provided to the City as part of the application in order for an application to be found to be complete.

(2) Provided that the tenant does not cease the disruptive conduct within ten (10) days of the date of delivery of the notice required by subparagraph (1) above, give, by any of the methods set forth in subparagraph (1), a second written notice, on a form approved by the City, to all affected tenants, including the alleged disruptive tenant, offering to participate in mediation. Proof of service of this written notice on all affected tenants shall be provided to the City as part of the application in order for an application to be found to be complete.

(3) Within thirty (30) days of the delivery of the notice referred to in subparagraph (2), each affected tenant, including the alleged disruptive tenant, shall respond in writing to the landlord or the landlord's representative stating whether the tenant is willing to participate in mediation. Failure to respond within thirty (30) days shall be deemed to be a rejection of the offer to mediate. Any individuals wishing to participate in the mediation process may proceed to mediation. If an agreement is reached between the parties as a result of mediation, the mediator will encourage the participants to prepare, and can assist in the preparation of, a private written agreement for the parties to sign.

(4) The parties shall utilize the City's free or reduced-cost mediation service, if such service is offered by the City. If such service is not offered by the City, or if the parties agree to utilize a different mediation service, that alternative mediation service may be used instead. The landlord or the landlord's representative shall pay any charge by the mediation service for the cost of the mediation.

b. If the parties are unable to resolve the matter, or if the alleged disruptive tenant rejects or fails to timely respond to the mediation notice or to participate in the mediation process, then the landlord or the landlord's representative may proceed to file the application with the City and serve the alleged disruptive tenant. The landlord or the landlord's representative shall:

(1) Serve, by any of the methods set forth in subparagraph a(1) of this paragraph 2, the alleged disruptive tenant with a copy of the application. Proof of service of the application on the tenant shall be filed with the City concurrently with the application. The application shall be submitted either on a form supplied by the City or shall substantially comply with the requirements of the City's form.

c. The application shall set forth the name, address and unit number of the alleged disruptive tenant and shall describe specifically the tenant's conduct that the landlord or landlord's representative contends is disruptive, the dates, times and approximate duration of the disruptive conduct, the date or dates when the landlord or landlord's representative requested that the tenant cease the disruptive conduct, and a statement or declaration signed under penalty of perjury that the tenant has not ceased the disruptive conduct within 10 (ten) days of the date of the notice and shall include the written notices described in subparagraphs a(1), a(2) of this paragraph 2. The application also may include the names of any individuals who observed the tenant's conduct and may include written statements by the witnesses describing the conduct.

d. The City shall schedule a hearing (but the hearing officer need not hold the hearing) within thirty (30) days of the filing of a complete application with the City, and the hearing shall be held not more than sixty (60) days thereafter, unless either or both of the parties request a continuance. Each party shall be entitled to request a maximum of one continuance, unless the parties all agree to the continuance or the City determines that extraordinary circumstances justify an additional continuance. The City shall send written notice of the hearing to the landlord or the landlord's representative and the alleged disruptive tenant, by certified mail, at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the hearing.

e. The hearing officer shall control the conduct of the hearing and rule on procedural requests. The hearing shall be conducted in the manner deemed by the hearing officer to be most suitable to secure the information and documentation that is necessary to render an informed decision, and to result in a fair decision without unnecessary delay.

(1) At the hearing, the parties may offer any documents, testimony, written declarations, or other evidence that is relevant to the application. Any party who wishes to present written documents or arguments as part of the hearing shall submit such written materials to the City and to the other party at least five (5) business days prior to the hearing. Any party who wishes to present any written materials in response to the written materials that were

Metro subway project plows ahead during the holidays

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is updating the public about work occurring throughout December on the D Line subway extension project. Construction is ongoing along Wilshire Boulevard. However, work will not occur on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, the first night of Hanukkah (Dec. 25), New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

At the eastern end of the project, crews are restoring streets and sidewalks and are working underground on the subway stations. Street-level work will continue through January near the Wilshire/La Brea station, where K-rail work zones are in place on both sides of Wilshire Boulevard.

Through March 2025, a K-rail work zone is located in the middle of Wilshire Boulevard between Courtyard Place and Masselin Avenue to support tunnel cross-passage construction. Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction between Ridgely Drive and Curson Avenue, and left turns are prohibited along Wilshire Boulevard.

Work is also ongoing at the Wilshire/Fairfax station, including in the staging yard at Wilshire Boulevard and Ogden Drive. Through March, Wilshire

Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in each direction at La Jolla Avenue. A K-rail enclosure on the west side of the Wilshire/La Jolla intersection accommodates underground work on a cross passage between the tunnels.

In Beverly Hills, street restoration work is ongoing near the Wilshire/La Cienega station. A K-rail work zone will be in place along the north side of Wilshire Boulevard, east of La Cienega Boulevard, through early 2025. The work zone supports the construction of new curbs, sidewalks, pedestrian ramps and tree wells.

Intermittent K-rail bump-out zones and short-term lane reductions may also be implemented in the area to support ongoing station construction activities. Wilshire Boulevard may be intermittently reduced to a single lane either westbound or eastbound on weekdays from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., weeknights between 8 p.m.-7 a.m. and weekends from 6 a.m.-6 p.m.

Also, waterline utility work may start as early as Dec. 16 near the Wilshire/La Cienega station. Water service disruption is anticipated at properties between La Cienega and San Vicente boulevards, and Wilshire Boulevard and Clifton Way. The water service interruptions will occur overnight and

advance notice will be provided.

Construction is also progressing at the Wilshire/Rodeo subway station. Starting as early as Jan. 24, up to 18 full weekend street closures of Wilshire Boulevard between Crescent and El Camino drives will be implemented to facilitate deck removal and street restoration.

At the Century City/Constellation subway station, lane closures are being implemented for approximately two weeks for the removal of temporary utilities on Century Park East. The closures will occur from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on the northbound lanes on Century Park East.

Section One of the project from Wilshire/Western to Wilshire/La Cienega is anticipated to open at the end of 2025, followed by Section Two to Century City/Constellation in 2026 and Section Three to the Westwood/VA Hospital station in 2027.

County announces small business grant program

The L.A. County Department of Economic Opportunity, in partnership with the Pacific Asian Consortium of Employment, launched the Economic Opportunity Holiday Grant Program, providing \$584,000 in new grants to support small businesses and nonprofits as they continue to recover and rebound from the pandemic and take part in the holiday shopping season. Applications are open until Dec. 31 at 5 p.m., with funding to be distributed in February 2025.

The new Economic Opportunity

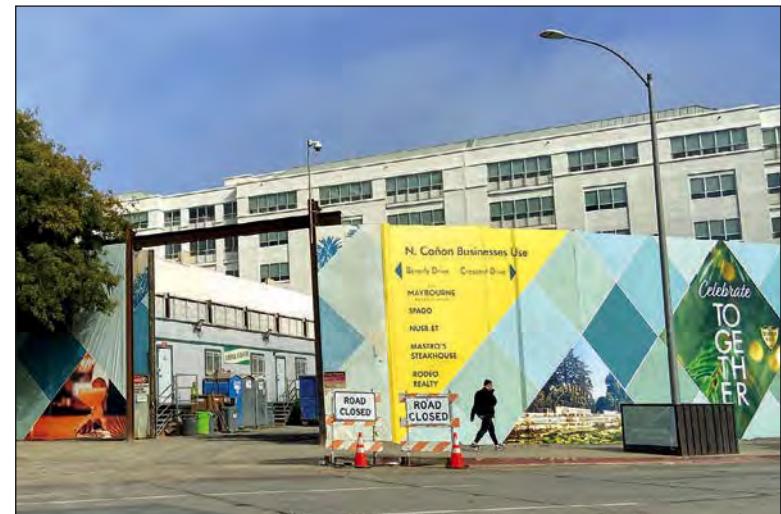


photo by Edwin Folven

Work is occurring in staging yards for the Wilshire/Rodeo subway station in Beverly Hills.

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.

teamed up with Microsoft and Align Organization on Digital Upskilling L.A. County, as part of the Shop Local LA County initiative, offering digital training to small businesses to enhance their online presence, marketing strategies and e-commerce capabilities. Join DEO in shopping local this season by making the pledge or signing up to learn more about Digital Upskilling L.A. County offerings at shoplocal.la.

To apply, visit opportunity.lacounty.gov/small-business-grants/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

provided by the other party shall submit such responsive written materials to the City and to the other party at least two (2) business days prior to the hearing. Proof of service of all written materials on the other party shall be provided to the City at least two business days prior to the hearing. Any party who submits such written materials shall bring an extra copy of such materials to the hearing for review by other individuals who attend the hearing.

(2) Formal rules of evidence shall not be applicable at the hearing. However, statements by witnesses or complainants who do not attend the hearing shall be signed under penalty of perjury.

(3) There shall be no oral communication outside the hearing between the hearing officer and any party or witness. The hearing shall be recorded.

(4) The hearing shall ordinarily proceed in the following manner, unless the hearing officer determines that some other order of proceedings would better facilitate the hearing:

(A) A brief presentation by or on behalf of the landlord or the landlord's representative, including testimony by any other affected tenants and witnesses in support of the application.

(B) A brief presentation by or on behalf of the alleged disruptive tenant, including testimony by any other affected tenants and witnesses in opposition to the application.

(C) A brief rebuttal by the landlord or the landlord's representative.

(D) A brief rebuttal by the alleged disruptive tenant.

(5) The hearing officer shall establish equitable time limits for presentations at a hearing, with a minimum length of ten (10) minutes each for the landlord and the alleged disruptive tenant, subject to adjustments for translation and reasonable accommodation.

(6) The hearing officer or City staff shall maintain an official hearing record, which shall constitute the exclusive record of the decision.

(7) All parties to a hearing shall have the right to seek assistance in developing their positions, preparing their statements, and presenting evidence from an attorney, tenant organization representative, landlord association representative, translator, or any other person. If the representative will be speaking on behalf of the party at the hearing, the party shall so advise the hearing officer.

(8) To prevail on the application, the landlord must carry the burden of demonstrating that the alleged disruptive tenant is a disruptive tenant, as defined in subparagraph 1 of this paragraph M.

(9) Within thirty (30) days after the hearing record is closed, the hearing officer shall issue a written determination setting forth the hearing officer's decision approving or denying the application, with written findings in support thereof.

f. A written notice of the decision shall be mailed by the City to the applicant and the alleged disruptive tenant by certified mail within two (2) business days of the issuance of the decision by the hearing officer. Such notice shall be accompanied by a copy of the hearing officer's decision.

g. If the hearing officer determines that the alleged disruptive tenant is a disruptive tenant, the landlord or landlord's representative may serve the tenant with written notice pro-

vided in accordance with State law to terminate the tenancy. The landlord is not required to pay relocation fees to the tenant. If the tenant vacates the unit in response to the notice or any subsequent final legal proceeding, the landlord may not increase the rent that will be charged for the unit above the amount that was being charged to the tenant, other than any adjustments otherwise available under this chapter.

h. Any final decision of the hearing officer is subject to judicial review pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 1094.5 and must be filed in accordance with the time periods specified therein.

i. The City Council shall establish by resolution a filing fee for utilizing the hearing process authorized by this subsection M.

Section 7: **Severability.** If any section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or place, is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the final decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, the prior provisions of Section 4-5-514 and Paragraph M of Section 4-6-6 of the Municipal Code that were amended by this Ordinance shall be reinstated.

Section 8: **Publication.** The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation published and circulated in the City within fifteen (15) days after its passage in accordance with Section 36933 of the Government Code, shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance, and shall cause this Ordinance and her certification, together with proof of publication, to be entered in the Book of Ordinances of the Council of this City.

Effective Date. This Ordinance shall go into effect and be in full force and effect at 12:01 a.m. on the thirty-first (31st) day after its passage.

Adopted: December 3, 2024

Effective: January 3, 2025

LESTER J. FRIEDMAN
Mayor of the City of Beverly Hills, California

ATTEST:
HUMA AHMED
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
LAURENCE S. WIENER
City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:
NANCY HUNT-COFFEEY
City Manager

YES: Councilmembers Wells, Corman, Mirisch, Vice Mayor Nazarian, and Mayor Friedman
NOES: None
CARRIED

South Coast Plaza and Jordin Sparks welcome Big Brothers Big Sisters

Macy's South Coast Plaza hosted Big Brothers Big Sisters for a holiday breakfast and shopping event on Dec. 7 with multi-platinum recording artist Jordin Sparks.

Members of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County and the Inland Empire were treated to a special book reading by Sparks, followed by a surprise shopping event. Macy's South Coast Plaza opened its doors early for the private shopping event. In celebration of the event, the first 100 customers received a free children's book.

As part of Macy's social purpose platform Mission Every One, Macy's will host a special in-store round up and online customer fundraising campaign through Dec. 24 to benefit BBBS' mission of empowering young people through the power of mentorship, and to build paths for future success. Macy's customers can shop an exclusive collection of holiday-themed products styled with original drawings by children in the BBBS program. Through Dec. 31, 50% of the purchase price of a

BBBS-designed teddy bear and mug will benefit the organization.

"I had the joy of joining Big Brothers Big Sisters at Macy's South Coast Plaza for a holiday book reading and shopping experience. Y'all warmed my heart." Sparks posted on Instagram. "Mentorship is so important, especially today. In this season of giving, I'm reminded of the mentors in my life who gave me the gift of their time, encouragement and belief. We all need someone who affirms us, guides us and provides a safe space to grow, and BBBS does exactly that."

Macy's South Coast Plaza is located at 3333 Bristol St., Ste. 6000, in Costa Mesa. For information, visit macy's.com.



photo courtesy of Macy's South Coast Plaza
Actress and singer Jordin Sparks joined members of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County and the Inland Empire at the holiday event.

Greystone Mansion decks the halls

Holidays at Greystone transformed the stunning Greystone Mansion and Gardens into a winter wonderland on Dec. 7 and 8, welcoming a sold-out crowd of nearly 1,800 attendees. The mansion was adorned with festive decorations and multicultural themes, providing a magical atmosphere filled with fun activities and experiences.

Highlights of the event included opportunities for guests to interact with Santa Claus and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, as well as Mrs. Claus, who delighted attendees with her whimsical gingerbread house. Guests created letters to Santa and hung wish ornaments on decorated wishing trees. Special photo opportunities included moments with Nami, the Beverly Hills Police Department's support

dog, and beloved "Frozen" fictional characters.

The outdoor Craft Village was a hub of creativity, featuring hands on craft-making stations where participants could create dreidel strings, button wreaths, watermelon crowns, snowmen and colorful light-like art. Additional craft stations offered materials for making snowflake bookmarks and ornaments.

Entertainment was abundant, with puppet shows by the renowned Bob Baker Marionettes, story time with librarians from the Beverly Hills Public Library, a captivating evergreen tree labyrinth and delicious hot chocolate and coffee complemented by sweet treats.

To stay up to date on all the holiday magic in Beverly Hills, visit beverlyhills.org/csevents.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills
Guests of all ages decorated the Christmas tree at the special holiday event at Greystone Mansion and Gardens.



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Complaint against BHUSD alleges racism

From page 1

denied that Garratt was terminated.

The school district has also denied that there was any evidence of racism during the demonstration.

"The school says it investigated, but I was not interviewed, so how could there be a full investigation?" Ivory said at the press conference. "Attempts by BHUSD, its superintendent and board members seeking to avoid the racism plaguing our school is egregious. Attempts to discredit the experiences that Black students and teachers – including myself – have endured is shameful. Avoiding the racism only serves to encourage those ongoing threats, violence and racial comments."

The formal complaint also lists two videos shared on social media as evidence of racism at the school. One video shows feces on the floor of a restroom and the words "I hate n—" scrawled on one of the walls. It is unclear who took the video, although Gage said it was likely a student who then posted it on social media.

"The people that have to clean up

that stuff in the bathroom are Black janitors," Gage said.

Another video, posted on TikTok, shows two girls in the school's cafeteria.

"Let's take a minute to appreciate how nice, beautiful and clean our cafeteria looks right now," one of the girls says in the empty cafeteria.

"Now, let's fast-forward to lunch," the second girl says.

The video then cuts to lunch, where a group of Black students can be seen eating at one of the tables.

"This is disgusting," one girl says.

"I'm repulsed," the second says.

"They're filming Black people having lunch, there's nothing else different," Gage said. "That's complete racism. That's completely unacceptable and something that needs to be changed."

As the press conference was held outside the school on Dec. 11, students passed by, some curious as to what was happening. Others snickered and laughed with each other as they saw Ivory standing in front of

the press.

Gage said he has also been contacted by parents of Black students who have allegedly been victims of racism at the school.

The complaint also names the district's athletic director Tim Ellis. It accuses Ellis of frequently using the n-word and using money from fundraisers to pay white teachers and coaches, while depriving Black teachers and coaches of such pay. It also accuses Ellis of depriving Black basketball players of the benefits from money raised for the basketball team.

Ellis has also been accused of sexual harassment in a separate wrongful termination lawsuit filed by Robbin Cafagna, a former tennis coach in the school district. Cafagna alleged that Ellis, her boss, fired her in August 2023 in retaliation after she threatened to report his alleged unwanted sexual advances and repeated sexual harassment to the district. She alleged that Ellis frequently made unwanted sexual comments toward her, groped her

and repeatedly attempted to coerce her into a sexual relationship.

The lawsuit states that Cafagna reported Ellis' behavior to the district upon her firing. She alleged that instead of taking any action against Ellis, the school district concealed the allegations and moved forward with her termination.

As of press time, Ellis remains employed as the district's athletic director.

In response to the complaint filed by the two Black teachers, the school district said it has not found evidence of racism.

"We do not have evidence that suggests that there was racism at the recent spirited demonstrations, however BHUSD has implemented proactive measures to ensure that any concerns related to racism and antisemitism – perceived or real – are addressed promptly and effectively," BHUSD Superintendent Michael Brey said in a statement.

Brey added that the school district is meeting with organizations including the NAACP and the Anti-Defamation League "to deliver professional development for staff, workshops for students and community engagement sessions."

"These initiatives will focus on empathy, active listening and fostering dialogue among diverse viewpoints," Brey wrote.

The statement also noted that the school district is continuing to review policies and protocols that address discrimination and facilitating conversations to "educate students on the balance between free speech and respect for others."

"The district remains focused on ensuring that our schools remain spaces of learning, growth and mutual respect," the statement concluded.

tinued. "Allegations stemming from external events, such as political demonstrations, are taken seriously and assessed within the context of our commitment to student safety and community harmony. BHUSD recognizes that incidents of this nature can heighten tensions, which is why we are unwavering in our efforts to engage students, families and community members in solutions that uphold our core values. We believe this proactive approach not only addresses immediate concerns but also builds a foundation for long-term inclusivity and unity."

BHUSD Board President Dr. Amanda Stern supported the school district's position.

"Any incident of hate or racism is not just 'unacceptable,' it is atrocious and must be addressed," Stern said in a statement. "While I am not on campus for day-to-day operations, every reported incident including ones that I myself have forwarded for investigation to the appropriate parties has been thoroughly investigated. Some incidents have indeed yielded discipline referrals – not unlike many middle and high schools in L.A. County.

Others simply have not been substantiated by available data including extensive student and staff interviews. The boisterous students who appeared to spontaneously celebrate the election win were exercising their freedoms. By many accounts, they simply were spirited juveniles with ZERO intent to harm. The district takes student well-being and safety very seriously. Claims will continue to be investigated, should they arise, and students will always be heard and supported."

Schiff sworn in as United States senator

From page 1

He takes over for U.S. Sen. Laphonza Butler (D-Calif.) to finish out her term after she was appointed by Gov. Gavin Newsom following Sen. Dianne Feinstein's death. Schiff will then serve a full six-year term in the U.S. Senate starting in January.

"I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve all Californians as their next United States senator," Schiff said. "Today, our state faces significant challenges in the form of a very high cost of living and incomes that have simply not kept pace. In the Senate, I will do everything I can to bring people together to tackle our housing crisis, create an economy that works for everyone and bring down rising costs from health care to childcare. I will be a tireless advocate for Californians in every part of the state and work across the aisle to deliver on Day One. I will work

with Democrats, Republicans and independents to help our state and our families succeed. At the same time, I will not shrink from my duty to defend our democracy and will vigorously protect the rights and freedoms of the American people and the people of California. The work ahead of us will not be easy – nothing worth doing ever is. But my promise is to work every day to deliver results and make California's future brighter for all of us in this Golden State."

"Throughout his career, Adam has been a tireless champion for middle-class families, working to lower the cost of housing and health care while protecting our fundamental freedoms," Padilla said. "As California and the nation prepare for the challenges ahead, I'm glad to have Adam Schiff as a trusted partner in the Senate."

Prior to being elected senator,

Schiff served as a congressman representing California's 30th Congressional District. He was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2000 and served 12 terms.



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WeHo considers speed limit reduction

From page 1

signed California Assembly Bill 43 into law, granting cities increased authority on establishing their own speed limit laws. The bill was proposed by Assemblywoman Laura Friedman (D-Glendale), who will soon be the United States representative for the 30th Congressional District.

In Dec 2023, the West Hollywood City Council adopted the WeHo Target Vision Zero Action Plan, which aims to reduce traffic accidents and injuries in the city. Evidence presented by senior planner David Fenn during the Dec. 9 commission meeting showed that even minimal decreases in speed limits can greatly reduce vehicular fatalities.

"A person hit by a car traveling at 35 mph is five times more likely to die than a person hit by a car traveling a 20 mph," Fenn said. "Reducing speeds by only 1 mph hour can result in a 17% decrease in fatalities. That's some pretty powerful stats in terms of what even a modest reduction in speed could do for safety on city roadways."

Two community members appeared at the meeting in support of the measure.

"As mentioned in the staff report these changes will likely to have little- to- no impact on travel times during the peak hours, so any concerns about this creating some sort of horrendous rush hour situation seem relatively moot given the data that we have," resident Jordan Beard said. "Of all the ways that our city can save lives and make our community safer, I cannot think of a more cost-effective approach. From a public safety perspective, about \$30,000 to save lives is a no-brainer."

"I was almost about to sit down in the Jones restaurant when someone ran a light and ran into that restaurant," resident Kelly Pilarski said. "So, we don't want to lose any more restaurants to cars going more than 35 mph, and we don't want to lose any more people."

One issue raised during the meeting by commissioner Adam Eramian related to the proposed redesign of Fountain Avenue.

"I envision West Hollywood being a very traffic [heavy] place right now, because with lanes being taken away on Fountain for bike lanes, reducing the speed limit 5 mph, it's going to be so much traffic in this city and I really hope that City Council considers that ... I just hope that the proper studies are done and the right decision is made," Eramian said.

While Fountain Avenue's speed limit was already partially reduced earlier this year from 35 mph to 30 mph between La Cienega Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue, the proposal would reduce the speed limit for the rest of the avenue that lies within West Hollywood's border, all the way east to La Brea Avenue.

"It seems to me that this is an opportunity to really dig into the numbers and see if that speed reductions has had a positive impact, as far as the number of accidents and the severity of accidents in that area, and that will help inform what we do with the rest of Fountain," commissioner George Nickle said.

East of Fairfax Avenue on Fountain Avenue, where the speed limit remains 35 mph, a fatal collision occurred in October at the Spaulding Avenue intersection.

The commissions' recommendation will now be passed to the West Hollywood City Council for consideration during its Jan. 21 meeting.

"I understand the desire to increase transportation safety in the city, but this seems unnecessary," Councilman John Heilman said. "We should focus on enforcing existing speed laws and not try to make it more difficult for people to move around our city. Also, I'm sure there are plenty of residents who are stuck in traffic on Santa Monica Boulevard going 10 mph who would like the city to address that problem first."

"With traffic, I don't know that vehicles go that fast on Santa Monica Boulevard, but always happy to consider recommendations regarding laws that can make our city more walkable and provide more safety for our residents, businesses and visitors," Councilwoman Lauren Meister said.

"I am very pleased the Public Safety Commission is taking this opportunity to ensure we are doing all we can to keep our streets and

community safe," Vice Mayor Chelsea Byers said. "Given the number of speeding tickets and accidents we've seen, we need to take thoughtful measure to improve the roadway conditions for everyone who spends time in West Hollywood."

"Traffic calming measures such as speed limit reductions will help make our streets safer. Even a small decrease in speed limit can reduce traffic collisions and save lives," Councilman-Elect Danny Hang said.

Mayor John Erickson said the real issue with West Hollywood streets was not being fully addressed.

"I'm happy to see that we want to take speeding in our city seriously, but the most important issue is unsafe nature of a lot of our streets," Erickson said. "If you want to address speeding, we have to address street infrastructure and making our streets safer. And sadly, some members of the Public Safety commission actively campaigned about [not] making any of our streets safer. So, I think the council is going to need to step in and actually make big, strategic moves to make sure our streets are actually safe."

Cars sold by RD Whittington located

From page 4

and is now accessible only with a password.

According to DeLisio, Whittington defrauded clients and avoided accountability through a complex scheme that involved internet sales, wire transfers and temporary permits issued out of Arizona rather than California.

"The legal owners of these cars identified this as a scam early on and have been battling to have a formal investigation started at the hub of where this crime took place – Beverly Hills," DeLisio said. "But this scam uses the most modern mechanism to spread its cancer, the internet. Even RD Whittington brags to the press that he sells cars virtually. His website advertises cars without an address. Many of the cars are not located at his showroom, many more are either already sold or were photographed and advertised, but never available for Wires Only to sell in the first place. Unfortunately, RD Whittington knew what he was doing when he set all of this up and it's taken years for all of this to unravel."

In an interview, the owner of the Mercedes G-Wagon said that he felt

"betrayed" by Whittington, who he once considered a close friend. He first met Whittington in high school, and the two remained friends even after graduating and moving to different cities. He said Whittington always had a strong interest in cars and an entrepreneurial spirit. He recounted Whittington selling a car to the dean of the high school while the two were still students.

The owner of the Mercedes wished not to be identified over fear that falling victim to such a scam may further negatively impact his career. He described the situation as one of his life's "darkest moments," stating that it had a "catastrophic" impact on his finances, career and life.

The Mercedes owner said that in 2021 – after traveling from another state to visit Wires Only in Beverly Hills multiple times – he decided to purchase a luxury vehicle from Whittington.

"[The dealership] was packed full of really nice cars – famous people milling around, obviously wealthy people were trusting him with their vehicles. At that time the Mercedes-Benz G-Wagons were a really hot

ticket item. I decided I would buy one from him," he said.

The buyer purchased what he believed to be a Mercedes-Benz Brabus 700 for approximately \$490,000. The car was shipped to his home on the East Coast, where he stored it in his garage and rarely drove it, saying it didn't fit his lifestyle.

The Mercedes owner said the two had a "gentlemen's agreement" that Whittington would help him sell the car or buy it back if he wasn't happy with the purchase. He ultimately decided he would try and sell it, but he had trouble finding potential buyers in his home state. Whittington told the vehicle owner the car would sell easier in Los Angeles, and convinced him to have the car returned to California, where Whittington would sell it on consignment through his dealership and refund the car owner.

Whittington reassured the owner that he would take care of the car and ensure that it gets sold, he said.

Months went by, then years, without the car selling. After seeing photos and videos on social media of his car being driven by Whittington's

friends, the Brabus owner finally asked for the car back.

"He didn't have possession of the car. He gave my car to someone else," he said. "RD could not get my car back because he gave it to somebody that he owed money to."

The Brabus owner said he heard rumors of Whittington's troubled personal life – including about his September arrest in Beverly Hills for check fraud – and decided to hire DeLisio to find the Mercedes.

The vehicle was turned over by the man who had possession of it to DeLisio on Oct. 13. When the car was returned to its owner, it had gained approximately 13,500 miles and was in poor condition.

"The oil wasn't changed, they just drove the hell out of it. They didn't service it or take care of it," the Brabus owner said.

Additionally, after the car was returned, it was determined that it was not the model that Whittington said it was.

"It was never a Brabus 700," the owner said. "It was sold to me as a 700 horsepower Mercedes-Benz G-Wagon with all the kit and carbon fiber stuff on it, but really all that stuff was just a façade. It wasn't a true Brabus build. The engine, the exhaust that would normally be tuned and built out with a Brabus – none of that was actually done to the

car. But it was sold to me as such."

He said the vehicle is now worth approximately \$140,000.

"For me personally this is a catastrophe. When you lose hundreds of thousands of dollars, for somebody like me that's a catastrophe. Unless you have tens of millions of dollars – that's a lot of money," he said.

He added that he hopes his story will encourage and help other victims of Whittington recover their vehicles.

"I know that I'm not the only victim here," the car owner said. "You've been friends with someone for so long. You think you know someone. And if he'll do this to me, he'll do this to his own mother. He'll do this to anybody."

DeLisio emphasized that people who purchased cars from Whittington may be unknowingly driving stolen vehicles. He advised Whittington's former customers to check their vehicle's registration and contact the Arizona Department of Transportation or their local law enforcement agency to see if the car has been listed as stolen.

Whittington faces at least a dozen lawsuits from former clients, including former NBA Lakers point guard Spencer Dinwiddie. In August, Whittington was ordered to pay over \$11 million across three separate lawsuits filed by a single plaintiff.

Coyote population poses issues in WeHo

From page 6

avoidant of human contact, they can present real threats with dogs, cats and can be attracted to food that has been left in trash and dis-

carded in public parks and other spaces.

The city's website says that "humans have contributed to this habituation of coyotes by not reacting when they see a coyote." Ignoring them or being "enamored by them because they are wild and it is cool to see one" can encourage coyotes to be more disruptive in urban areas.

The city recommends "hazing" by facing the coyote and being "big and loud." This includes waving arms, making noises, throwing small objects in the animal's direction or squirting water. It is also important to not deliberately feed a coyote, not feed pets outside and not compost

meat or dairy (unless the compost is secured). Dispose of fallen fruit on the ground, keep trash secure with tight-fitting lids, remove water bowls if able and not leave pets unattended.

"For those of us with pets and/or small children, we are especially concerned by this increase in coyote sightings in our neighborhoods," Councilwoman Lauren Meister said. "It is important for all of us to be aware and learn how best to deal with this situation. It's also important for the city and county to hear residents' concerns and be proactive."

"The coyote workshop will serve as a resource to educate the

community on the natural habits of coyotes and offer techniques to keep our pet family members, kids and neighbors safe," Councilman-Elect Danny Hang said. "It will also provide different methods to report coyote sightings. When out and about, community members should make sure they keep an eye on small children and pet family members, don't feed the coyote, and place trash in bags and in secure bins. One natural benefit of coyotes is that they help control rodent critters in WeHo. Community members can learn more about coyote safety by attending the workshop."

Residents can report coyote sightings to the Los Angeles Department of Agriculture by calling (626)575-5462 or visiting acwm.lacounty.gov/coyote-sighting-report. For information about coyotes, visit weho.org/services/animal-care-and-control/coyote-management.

"We have to do everything that we can to address it, because they are attacking residents and our residents' animals, [and we have] to humanely remove any coyotes that are in existence," Erickson said. "However, as we're seeing as we continue to erode natural climates, coyotes continue to come into our communities for a very specific reason – to get food. So, I think the larger issue is how do we address the climate emergency, in general, to ensure that we're doing all that we can to promote a healthy world."

Answers From Page 27



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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

- Cut some opinions, perhaps
- Mouth off to
- Special effects, abbr.
- Mob boss
- Steamed up
- Rude
- Roughly
- Bother persistently
- Any day now
- Joining forces
- Content of some barrels
- Dwarf in "The Hobbit"
- Makes a bundle
- Religious pieces
- Milky white gem
- S-shaped curve
- Small GM car
- Combining at the office
- Unit of energy
- Former Israeli P.M.
- monde (high society)
- Became more sharply inclined
- Ostentatious displays
- Return envelope, abbr.
- Rock music style
- Getting it done as a group
- Sports org. since 1906
- US novelist, Joyce
- Equips with weapons
- Waist band
- Image on many a birth announcement
- Sequential scale notes
- Suffix for orange or lemon

67. CPR pros

68. Houston and Browne

Down

- Environmentalist's prefix
- Ste. Jeanne __
- "Facto" intro
- Hammer or sickle
- Moses's mountain
- Like farmland
- Kind of palm
- Betelgeuse, for one
- American dancer, Merce
- Mixture of rum and water
- BBC rival
- Pilot's announcement, for short
- Egyptian city
- West coast city part
- Plain __
- Pitney's partner
- Ship's left side
- Of great scope
- BPOE part
- À __ santé!"
- It may need a boost
- Item in a photog's file
- Go faster!
- Catalogues
- Louvre pyramid architect
- Society page word
- Beefeater, for one
- Simplified "though"
- Bother terribly
- Leave
- Coffee container

51. Halloween coverups

52. Breezed through

53. Votes against

54. Ticket sales

55. Little matter

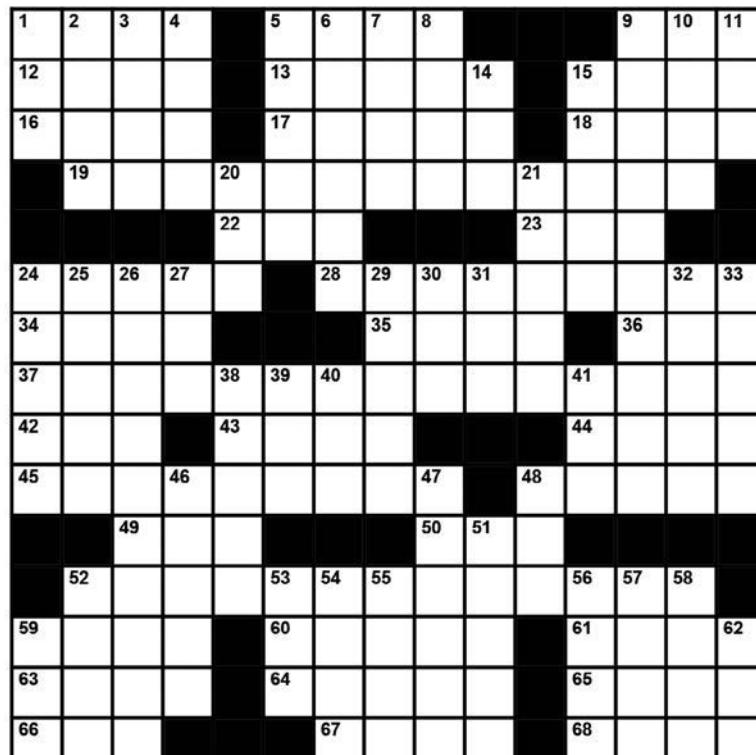
56. Cereal spikes

57. "Diamonds __ Girl's Best Friend"

58. "Tasty!"

59. Basketball association

60. Genetically close



answers on page 26

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

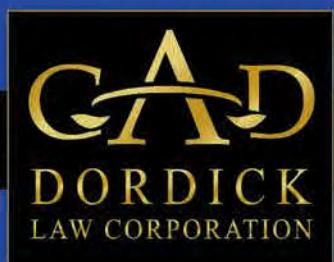
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