



It won't be a white Christmas!
Temps in the 60s

BEVERLY PRESS

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Volume 34 No. 51

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

December 19, 2024

BHUSD installs new members

■ Stern, Sabag, Stuart sworn in at ceremony

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Unified School District on Dec. 17 performed its installation ceremony for two new board members and one returning member. The ceremony was held at the newly-repurposed Hawthorne Elementary School, which will now regularly host the board meetings.

The board welcomed recently elected members Russell Stuart – a firearms dealer, security professional and BHUSD parent – and Sigalie Sabag – a construction contractor and BHUSD parent.

Sabag was sworn in by Beverly Hills Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian.

Sabag expressed her commit-

ment to improving academic standing in the school district.

“My unwavering dedication is to elevate BHUSD to its rightful place in education as National Blue Ribbon Schools,” Sabag said. “While there will always be challenges and distractions that arise, I promise to remain focused on academic excellence, because every single one of our students deserves leadership that prioritizes their best interest and their futures.”

Stuart was sworn in by Beverly Hills City Councilman John Mirisch. Mirisch highlighted his own personal connection to the school district, and praised the new school board members. Stuart was recently critically injured when he

See **BHUSD** page 30



photo by Tabor Brewster

The newly-organized BHUSD Board of Education held its first meeting on Dec. 17.

Yaroslavsky names new chief of staff

■ L.A. Councilmember assigned to new committees

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, announced on Dec. 17 that she has appointed Erin Bromaghim to serve as chief of staff, taking the place of Gary Gero, who is retiring early next year.

Yaroslavsky made the announcement on the same day that Los Angeles City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson, 8th District, released new committee assignments for City Council members. Yaroslavsky will serve as chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, vice chair of the Energy and Environment Committee and as a member of the Rules, Elections and



photo courtesy of the 5th District council office
Erin Bromaghim, who served under Mayor Karen Bass, is Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky's new chief of staff.

Intergovernmental Relations Committee. She will also serve on the Board of Referred Powers and the Ad Hoc Committee on the 2028 Olympics and Paralympic Games.

See **Bromaghim** page 31

West Hollywood swears in Hang, Erickson

■ Byers, Heilman elected to mayoral roles

BY RANCE COLLINS

There's a new council in town. On Dec. 16, the West Hollywood City Council sat its five-member governing body for the next two years. Outgoing Councilwoman Sepi Shyne said her last goodbye as she handed the baton to newly-elected Councilman Danny Hang, who was sworn in by former Councilman John D'Amico.

“I am very grateful to the voters for placing their trust in me – I am truly honored to serve on the West Hollywood City Council,” Hang told the Beverly Press.

Hang is the first Asian American to serve on the West Hollywood council. He is also, interestingly, the first male member of the council not named John since Jeff Prang stepped down after being elected Los Angeles County assessor in 2014.

“I am very optimistic and look forward to building lasting coalitions with my colleagues to create policies to help our unhoused neighbors, build more affordable housing, uplift our local businesses and workers, broadly improve the health and public safety of our community, and ensuring that West Hollywood remains a safe space for our LGBTQ+ communi-



photo by Jon Viscott

Councilman Danny Hang and Mayor John Erickson ran as a joint ticket in the November West Hollywood City Council election.

ty and all. 2025 will be a year filled with more positive progress in West Hollywood,” Hang said.

In addition to Hang's welcome, Mayor John Erickson was also sworn in for his second term by his partner, former city Poet Laureate Brian Sonia-Wallace.

“Elections are very difficult,” Erickson said. “As politicians and people who are asking for votes ... all of these things while serving as mayor, working for Planned Parenthood, definitely kept my dance card full. And sadly, it took me away from the person I always wanted to be around the most, and

that was and has always been [Sonia-Wallace]. You were my backbone when I was weak. You were the person to hold me when I was scared. And you were my eyes, quite literally, when I couldn't see. You are the best person and the best part of me, Brian, and there's so much more beauty to come.”

Erickson touched on one of the more contentious issues in the city, the potential redesign of Fountain Avenue, during the meeting.

“We must do all that we can to

See **WeHo** page 30

Beverly Press reporter honored by State Assemblyman Zbur

■ Rance Collins receives award for excellence in journalism

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Beverly Press and Park Labrea News reporter Rance Collins was honored by State Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur on Dec. 15 in an awards ceremony recognizing individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to Assembly District 51 in the past year. The district includes Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, Hollywood, Santa Monica and West L.A. Collins received the Assembly District 51 Excellence in Journalism Award for his reporting on issues facing West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and Los Angeles.

“At this moment in our nation's history, the importance of the news



photo courtesy of the office of Rick Chavez Zbur

Rance Collins, left, was honored with a proclamation by Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur.

media to provide a window for the public into the world of elected officials, businesses, nonprofits and the arts cannot be understat-

ed,” Zbur said. “And with that in mind, it is crucial to recognize a

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CALENDAR

‘Adventures in Caving’

BroadStage and National Geographic present “Adventures in Caving” on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m. Join photographer and National Geographic explorer Robbie Shone and descend 7,000 feet below ground for an exploration of what few people have ever seen. For more than two decades, Shone has traveled to remote regions to illuminate and document the world’s deepest, largest and longest cave systems. Enjoy the ultimate inside look at the mesmerizing beauty in some of Earth’s last true frontiers of exploration. Chicas Tacos will serve dinner on The Plaza starting at 6:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$65. 1310 11th St., Santa Monica. broadstage.org/tickets-shows/calendar/nat-geo-live-adventures-in-caving.

Sandra Bernhard at The Wallis

Ride along with Sandra Bernhard on a tour of her musical influences on Thursday, Dec. 19, and Friday, Dec. 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing arts. From the first time she heard the Supremes to the women of the 1960s and ‘70s who acted as spiritual guides, “Sandra Bernhard: Easy Listening” is a concert by a living legend. Tickets start at \$79. 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills. (310)746-4000, thewallis.org.



‘Both: A Hard Day’s Silent Night’

Celebrate the holidays with “Both: A Hard Day’s Silent Night,” Open Fist Theatre Company’s annual holiday charity concert spectacular from Thursday, Dec. 19, through Sunday, Dec. 22. Enjoy a rockin’ choir and a swinging live band as they spread peace and joy, telling the Christmas story through gospel arrangements of Beatles songs. Proceeds benefit Heart of Los Angeles, an organization giving underserved children a chance to succeed through comprehensive after-school academic, arts, athletics and wellness programs. Tickets are \$30. Atwater Village Theatre, 3269 Casitas Ave. (323)882-6912, openfist.org.



Sunshine Makers Market

Visit the Sunshine Makers Market Pops Up on Saturday, Dec. 21, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Helms Bakery District. Enjoy a festive atmosphere and get last minute gifts during an event celebrating the arts. More than a dozen artisans and small businesses will participate. 3270 Helms Ave. helmsbakerydistrict.com.

LACMA art workshop

Join a pop-up art workshop in the Los Angeles County Museum of Art’s Boone Children’s Gallery on Saturday, Dec. 21, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. The exhibition-based workshop encourages creative inspiration and no prior art-making experience is necessary. The event coincides with the exhibition “Digital Witness: Revolutions in Design, Photography and Film” exploring collage. Admission is free; all ages are welcome. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. lacma.org.

Boleros de Navidad

Celebrate the holiday season with Tres Souls in “Boleros de Navidad-The Los Angeles Farewell Concert” on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m. on BroadStage’s Music Hall + The Plaza. The farewell concert celebrates 12 years of music with a night of bolero classics mixed with Latin American holiday songs to fill the season with romance and celebration. The beloved Los Angeles Trio of Rocio Mendoza, Roberto Carlos and Jesus Martinez have spent the last decade serenading audiences with the vintage sounds and songs of the 1940s-60s, songs from the Golden Era of Mexican Cinema and vibrant interpretations of boleros. The performance takes place in the Music Hall and on The Plaza, an indoor-outdoor venue space. 1310 11th St., Santa Monica. broadstage.org.



Puddles Pity Party

Goldenvoice presents “An Evening with Puddles Pity Party” on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 8 p.m. at the El Rey Theatre. Puddles Pity Party, the 7-foot sad clown whose golden voice is comparable to rock legends like Tom Jones and Freddie Mercury,



has amassed nearly 900,000 YouTube subscribers and performed sold out shows all over the world. Combining melancholy with the absurd, Puddles has received endorsements and accolades from musical comedy legends such as Jack Black, Michael McKean, Weird Al Yankovic and Drew Carey. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$55. 5515 Wilshire Blvd. (323)936-6400, theelrey.com.

Laurel and Hardy

Spend “An Afternoon of Laurel and Hardy” on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 2 p.m. at the Egyptian Theatre. The program includes the L.A. premiere of new restorations and the theatrical premiere of unseen footage of Laurel and Hardy. Stay for a book signing with Danny Bacher, Bernie Hogya and Leonard Maltin of “Collecting Laurel and Hardy” after the screening until 5 p.m. Tickets are \$17. 6712 Hollywood Blvd. egyptiantheatre.com.

Holocaust survivor talk

Holocaust Museum Los Angeles is holding a “Sunday Survivor Talk” with Eva Perlman on Sunday, Dec. 22, from 3-4 p.m. Perlman grew up in Paris. After the Nazis invaded France in 1940, her family went to the French mountain village of Autrans. Survivor talks are supported by Dr. Arnold L. Gilberg and Family. No RSVP is required but space is limited. 100 The Grove Drive. holocaustmuseumla.org.



photo by Edwin Folven

Santa Claus visited the excited students at the Blind Children’s Center on Dec. 12.

Santa Claus comes to town with special escort

■ LAPD spreads cheer at Blind Children’s Center

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Santa Claus visited the Blind Children’s Center on Dec. 12 escorted by a special group of helpers from the Los Angeles Police Department during a long-standing tradition at the school dating back years. With lights and sirens, an

LAPD patrol vehicle escorted Santa’s sleigh onto the school property, where dozens of children, families and Blind Children’s Center staff were waiting. With a robust “Ho, Ho, Ho, Merry Christmas,” Santa greeted the children, who reveled in the opportunity to touch his beard and share their Christmas wishes. Approximately 100 toys donated by officers from the LAPD’s Rampart Division and Records and Identification

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Beverly Hills hosts Summit Against Antisemitism

■ More than 200 leaders from around the country gather to stand up to hate

BY TABOR BREWSTER

In the year since the Oct. 7 attack in Israel and the Israel-Hamas war began, reports of antisemitism have skyrocketed, according to the Anti-Defamation League and other groups that track hate incidents. Over the past year, Jewish students have spoken out about feeling unsafe on college campuses, sometimes being targeted simply for being Jewish. In November, a group of masked men carrying Nazi flags arrived outside a performance of “The Diary of Anne Frank” in Livingston County,

Michigan, reportedly chanting “Heil Hitler.” To counter the troubling rise in hatred toward Jews, the Combat Antisemitism Movement – a global coalition of organizations, leaders and activists – hosted the Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism in Beverly Hills from Dec. 11-13. More than 200 leaders from municipalities in the U.S. and Canada gathered for the three-day event that included workshops, panels and film screenings that educated on recognizing and fighting antisemitism. With the theme, “Directing Change from City Hall,” the summit also honored leaders from around North America who have taken a strong stance against antisemitism. Attendees and speakers included

Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman and the Beverly Hills City Council, leaders from across Los Angeles including Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, and Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman, and mayors from across North America including New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell and Miami Mayor Francis Suarez. “Even Beverly Hills isn’t immune from the evils of antisemitism. Over the last few years, Beverly Hills itself has been the target of antisemitic rhetoric and hate,” Friedman said at the welcome ceremony held at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel. “We’ve seen acts of graffiti at our synagogues, and leaflets left at our front doors blaming Jewish people for the world’s problems. But we have not wavered in our commitment to Israel and the Jewish people.” “As someone who came to our great nation after being exiled due to religious persecution, I deeply understand the impact of hate,” said Beverly Hills Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian, who is the first Iranian American woman to be elected to the City Council. “I came to America seeking freedom – the freedom to live in unity, to build a life without fear and to feel protected. But today, that sense of safety is increasingly uncertain. We all know that the No. 1 job of elected officials is to keep their constituents safe. This is why gatherings like this are essential, and



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman, left, Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian and Councilmembers John Mirisch and Mary Wells gave remarks at the summit focused on combatting antisemitism.



photo by Tabor Brewster

More than 200 leaders from across the U.S. and Canada gathered in Beverly Hills to combat antisemitism.

serve as a call to action for us all – the values of unity, justice and the conviction that hate has no home in any of our cities or any of our communities.” Many local, national and international organizations partnered with the event, including Holocaust Museum Los Angeles, the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles and Stand With Us. “As the daughter of two Holocaust survivors who were among the few Jewish children to live to adulthood, I must say that I am overwhelmed,” Orna Wolens, chair of the board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, said to a room of leaders from

around the country. “My father hid in the forests of Czechoslovakia and my mother was liberated from the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp at the age of 11. In the wake of today’s brazen, fast-paced and far-reaching antisemitism, my 92-year-old mother recalls the apprehension, the sense of foreboding, the doom and the fear that she felt as a little girl. And this breaks my heart. At the same time, I stand before you with a heart full of gratitude. Your unwavering support and engagement in our vital work of combatting antisemitism, your deep concern and your raised voices in defense of our community mean so much.”

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photo by Rance Collins
A group of suspects smashed a front window on March 23, 2022, and stole a large amount of jewelry from the store.

Suspect sentenced for robbery at Beverly Hills jewelry store

■ Smash-and-grab hold-up occurred in 2022 on South Beverly Drive
BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A Long Beach man was sentenced on Dec. 12 to six years and eight months in federal prison for a March 2022 smash-and-grab robbery at a jewelry store on South Beverly Drive.
United States District Judge

George H. Wu sentenced the defendant, Jimmy Lee Vernon III, 33, and ordered Vernon to pay more than \$2.6 million in restitution. Vernon pleaded guilty on Aug. 1 to one count of interference with commerce by robbery. He has been in federal custody since September 2022.
“This defendant took part in a blatant assault on a store operating in daylight hours, believing he could rob and intimidate oth-

See **Suspect** page 9

Jamie Foxx injured at Mr. Chow in Beverly Hills

■ Altercation allegedly involved crew from ‘Jackass’ film franchise
BY TABOR BREWSTER

Actor and comedian Jamie Foxx was reportedly injured in an altercation that occurred on Dec. 13 at Mr. Chow, a Beverly Hills restaurant known for its Beijing cuisine. Details have since emerged alleging that the crew of “Jackass” was involved.
According to TMZ, the upstairs VIP room of the restaurant was rented that night by Dickhouse Productions, the company behind the “Jackass” film and television franchise, for its holiday party. The series is known for its crude slapstick humor, often involving painful stunts and over-the-top pranks. Dickhouse is owned by “Jackass” star and co-creator Johnny Knoxville, in addition to co-creators Jeff Tremaine and Spike Jonze.
TMZ reported that none of the cast were present, but production company personnel allegedly shined a laser pointer onto Foxx’s table, who was celebrating his 57th birthday with his family. In a turn of events true to the “Jackass” brand, the laser allegedly displayed an obscene image of male genitalia, upsetting Foxx.
The Academy Award-winning actor reportedly confronted the Dickhouse crew, and an altercation ensued. A drinking glass was thrown at Foxx, who required



photo by Tabor Brewster
The BHPD was called to Mr. Chow on Dec. 13 upon receiving a report of a possible assault with a deadly weapon.

stitches on his mouth for his injury, according to a spokesperson for the actor.
According to TMZ, Foxx then left the restaurant, but the Dickhouse crew continued to provoke the guests at the actor’s table, at which point the restaurant called the police.
The BHPD confirmed that it was called to Mr. Chow at 10:06 p.m. upon receiving a report of a possible assault with a deadly weapon.
“Upon investigation, officers determined that the reported assault with a deadly weapon was unfounded,” the BHPD wrote in a press release. “Instead, the incident involved a physical altercation

between parties. The BHPD conducted a preliminary investigation and completed a report documenting the battery. No arrests were made.”
The BHPD did not name Foxx, Dickhouse Productions or any individuals in the release.
“The Beverly Hills Police Department remains committed to ensuring the safety of our community and will continue to investigate this matter,” the press release read.
Foxx took to Instagram on Dec. 14 to thank those supporting him, only vaguely referencing the incident.
“The devil is busy ... But I’m too blessed to be stressed,” Foxx wrote.



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Churches cast ‘light of hope’ for Christmas services

BY RANCE COLLINS

Los Angeles area congregations will host a variety of religious services over the Christmas holidays, offering residents an opportunity to connect with spiritual communities.

“These services are about more than tradition,” Rev. Canon Andrea McMillin of All Saints’ Beverly Hills Episcopal Church said. “They’re about community, connection and celebrating the hope and love that Christmas brings.”

All Saints’ Church, located at 504 N. Camden Drive, will offer a lessons and carols service on Dec.

22 at 5 p.m., which is a service “rooted in Anglican tradition for over a century [that] combines scripture readings, timeless carols and breathtaking performances to tell the nativity story.” It will also present a Christmas Eve eucharist at 8 and 10 p.m., as well as an additional service at 10 a.m. on Christmas Day.

Hollywood United Methodist Church, located at 6817 Franklin Ave., will also offer its annual Christmas Eve services at 5 and 10:30 p.m. Rev. Hannah Adair Bonner will lead her first holiday at the church since taking over as senior pastor.

“On Christmas Eve, we will celebrate the night that the God of peace encountered our humanity and entered into a hurting world to bring a message of justice and peace,” Bonner said. “At our candlelight services, our beautiful sanctuary will be filled with the light of hope that we need so desperately in our world today. Beneath our beacon of hope, our tower at the corner of Franklin and Highland, we welcome and celebrate people of all races, ethnicities, genders and sexualities to come and be reminded how deeply and unconditionally they are loved by God.”

The Church of the Good Shepherd, located at 504 N. Roxbury Drive, is an iconic landmark in Beverly Hills. Just last year, the church celebrated its centennial, and its mission-style sanctuary will turn 100 in February. President John F. Kennedy, the first Catholic president, is among those who have worshipped within its walls.

It will host Christmas mass at 5, 7 and 9:30 p.m. on Dec. 24, and the morning “Nativity of the Lord a Holy Day of Obligation” at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon.

Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church will have a music Sunday on Dec. 22, with contemporary tunes at 9:30 a.m. and classic songs at 11:15 a.m. Its Christmas Eve services will be held at 5 and 10 p.m., while its Christmas Day service will be at 11 a.m.

The Cathedral Chapel of St. Vibiana, which has served the Los



photo by Rance Collins

Hollywood United Methodist Church offers candlelight services on Christmas Eve.



photo courtesy of All Saints’ Beverly Hills Episcopal Church

All Saints’ Beverly Hills will open its doors for congregants on Christmas Eve and Day.

Angeles community since 1927, will have mass at 9 a.m. on Dec. 24, with a children’s vigil at 5 p.m. and a vigil mass at 10 a.m. For the “Nativity Day of the Lord,” mass will be held at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon. Cathedral Chapel of St.

Vibiana is located at 923 S. La Brea Ave.

Next week, the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News will feature a roundup of services and events for Hanukkah, which begins on the night of Dec. 25.



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photo by Tabor Brewster

Project plans call for the demolition of an existing three-story residential building at 412 N. Oakhurst Drive.

Oakhurst Drive project gets green light in Beverly Hills

■ Planning Commission approves building on city’s border with L.A.

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Planning Commission on Dec. 12 approved plans for an eight-story residential building at 412 N. Oakhurst Drive that sits directly on the border between Beverly Hills and Los Angeles, and requires approval from both jurisdictions. The plans have also been approved by the city of Los Angeles.

“412 N. Oakhurst is my home. Strong ties have been forged with this community and neighborhood. Lifelong friendships, health care resources, religious ties, patrons of local markets and shops – all critical and essential elements of our lives, more so as seniors.”

-Beverly Hills resident Etsu Garfias, 86

The building will contain 52 units, 12 of which will be located within the city of Beverly Hills. Ten of the units in the building will be reserved for affordable housing, with three in Beverly Hills. The affordable housing units allow the project to exceed usual density under the density bonus law. Two levels of subterranean parking and one surface-level structure will provide 75 parking spots, 18 of which will be in Beverly Hills. The building also includes a gym, rec room, storage space and a second-floor courtyard. The project was designed with a modern, angular style by Los Angeles architect Zoltan Pali, who is known for designing the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. “Given that it’s crucial for Beverly Hills to demonstrate to Sacramento its commitment to addressing the housing crisis, the approval of this development would be a significant step for-

ward,” the project’s representative Avi Stieglitz said. The project involves the demolition of an existing residential building at the address. Many residents spoke out against the project’s approval at the Planning Commission hearing. Several senior residents of the current building at 412 N. Oakhurst Drive expressed concern over their looming displacement. “Even if help is offered to find new affordable housing, our building community would be lost,” 78-year-old resident Jenny Ford said. “Since the day the project sign appeared in front of our building in 2022, mental stress has added to our daily lives.” “412 N. Oakhurst is my home,” 86-year-old resident Etsu Garfias said. “Strong ties have been forged with this community and neighborhood. Lifelong friendships, health care resources, religious ties, patrons of local markets and shops – all critical and essential elements of our lives, more so as seniors ... Do not make us victims of a multimillion dollar demolition project that throws us out of our home without a care for the human cost of displacement.” State law requires that displaced tenants will have a right of first refusal on the newly constructed units, among other relocation assistance benefits. Assistant city attorney Dave Snow said that the city of Beverly Hills has no legal authority to impose any additional rules on benefits for displaced residents. After a lengthy hearing, the building was unanimously but reluctantly approved in a 4-0 vote. Commissioner Lou Milkowski recused himself from the hearing, as he resides within 500 feet of the property. “I was very deeply moved on a personal level by the input from current tenants,” Commission Chair Terri Kaplan said. “It’s very unfortunate in our society that in solving a problem that’s being experienced by one group of people, we end up inflicting deep pain on another group. And I hate feeling like I am the instrument of delivery for something like that. But, the state of California has enacted laws that give us and every other city in the state little to really no discretion in situations like this and projects that are proposed under the state housing law.”

Beverly Hills commission OKs auto showroom

■ TBTFW scrutinized for connection to RD Whittington

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Planning Commission on Dec. 12 approved a conditional use permit for a luxury car showroom at 9737 Wilshire Blvd.

The permit will allow the sale of vehicles on the ground floor of the existing eight-story building at the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and North Linden Drive. The 5,496-square-foot showroom will house 16 cars to be loaded in and out via Wilshire Boulevard. The business, known as TBTFW, will be open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday by appointment only, with no test drives permitted. Additionally, no vehicle service will occur at the business.

Although the commission unanimously approved the conditional use permit, members scrutinized the project for the business owner’s former connection to RD Whittington – an embattled Beverly Hills car salesman who has been accused of auto theft and was sued at least a dozen times. Whittington’s former dealership business, Wires Only, was the subject of recurring Planning Commission meetings earlier this year. In the meetings, it was revealed that Whittington had been operating for years at 9030 Wilshire Blvd. without a business license, without paying business taxes, without a DMV license and without a conditional use permit. According to the Beverly Hills Police Department, Whittington is currently under investigation by the DMV. The space at 9030 Wilshire Blvd. that was once his showroom is now for lease.

In one of the meetings where Whittington sought a conditional use permit – which was ultimately denied – the Planning Commission questioned why a DMV license under the business title “Spur Ridge Holdings” was listed for the 9030 Wilshire Blvd. address. Whittington claimed he had “no idea” who operated Spur Ridge. A Beverly Press investigation



photo by Tabor Brewster

A car dealership at 9737 Wilshire Blvd. specializes in luxury automobiles.

revealed that Spur Ridge was the LLC behind the TBTFW showroom at 9737 Wilshire Blvd. It was later disclosed that the two businesses once shared a rental space at 9030 Wilshire Blvd. – the former Wires Only location.

The newly-approved dealership was presented by Beverly Hills attorney Murray D. Fischer and TBTFW owner Zach Ersoff at the Planning Commission meeting on Dec. 12.

Fischer began the presentation by distancing Ersoff from Whittington.

“Spur Ridge had no association, other than a sublessee, as to Mr. RD Whittington,” Fischer said. “Zach obtained a DMV license to sell automobiles. Zach was looking for a location here in Beverly Hills and to display and sell the cars he had control of. He was introduced to Mr. Whittington for purposes of subleasing space that Mr. Whittington had under his control at 9030 Wilshire Blvd. Zach had no knowledge at the time he agreed to sublease the space on Wilshire from Mr. Whittington, that Mr. Whittington had any financial troubles or had significant legal issues. After putting Zach’s cars at that location, he became aware of the improprieties that Mr. Whittington was doing and he did not want to be a part of those issues. Zach moved out of the space and intended to move to another location in Beverly Hills.”

TBTFW then proceeded to oper-

ate the site at 9737 Wilshire Blvd. as a vehicle showroom before receiving its conditional use permit – an essential legal step in operating a business within the city. Ersoff stated that he was under the impression a CUP was not needed, as there was already a separate vehicle showroom, Galpin Lotus, within the same building. A code enforcement case was opened in February 2024 for unpermitted tenant improvements and use of the project site as a vehicle showroom.

To resolve the case, TBTFW submitted its conditional use permit to the city in May 2024.

Fischer maintained that Ersoff was “never partners” with Whittington. However, Whittington, Ersoff and Spur Ridge Holdings are named as co-defendants in a lawsuit filed by former L.A. Lakers point guard Spencer Dinwiddie, in which he alleged that he purchased a car from Whittington and wired the funds to Ersoff’s business, Spur Ridge. The lawsuit also names current TBTFW general manager Chadwick Hopkins as then-general manager of Whittington’s dealership, Wires Only.

Jeff Skobin, vice president of business operations at Galpin – the other car dealership located within the same building – strongly opposed the project in a public comment.

“Granting a CUP to a company See Dealership page 9



10 Reasons Why I Don’t Want An Estate Plan

1. I want large sums of my hard-earned money to go to a law firm.
2. I want the government to decide who gets my life savings.
3. What for? My house is only worth a half-million dollars.
4. I really don’t care who raises our children.
5. I want a total stranger to go through all of my personal papers and financial affairs.
6. I like family fights – especially unnecessary ones.
7. I don’t care who inherits my hard earned money.
8. I’ve been messy in life; I’ll be messy in death.
9. They say you can’t take it with you, but what if you can?
10. Probate. Must be fun.

If you don’t do it for yourself, please do it for those you care about.

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Letters to the Editor

There is no such thing as a tax assessor

Whenever I have the opportunity to speak to members of the community, I always begin, importantly, by telling the audience what I do not do. I do this because the one thing I don't do as assessor is the one thing almost everybody thinks I do. I do not collect taxes. The person responsible for collecting taxes has a very intuitive title, she is called the tax collector.

Candidly, the property tax administrative system is very confusing. There are multiple departments that each have a different piece of the system. The assessor is the only one of those departments headed by an elected official, which may be why people gravitate toward my office with questions that actually belong to another department.

One reason for the confusion is the inexplicable yet universal use of the term "tax assessor." I have been the assessor for 10 years, and to the best of my knowledge, the office of "tax assessor" does not, and has never really existed in the United States, except in a few very limited jurisdictions far from California. I find it fascinating that the term is so commonly used even though there is no history in this country of such a position.

Here's where the misuse of the term tax assessor becomes problematic. The term tax assessor is actually a conflation of two separate offices, that of the assessor and that of the treasurer and tax collector. In the assessor's office, more than 50% of all calls we receive from the public are actually regarding tax collector issues. This can be very frustrating for a member of the public who calls with an issue and then feels that they are getting the runaround as they are routed to a different department.

In my experience, property owners who call for the tax assessor are almost always routed to my office. However, nine out of 10 of those calls are actually for the Tax collector. This means that when we receive those calls we regrettably have to inform the property owner that they reached the wrong department. If the questions are regarding basic information that we have knowledge of, we do try to answer them ourselves. We also can provide tax bills to those who request them as a way of supporting our colleagues at the TTC. But oftentimes, taxpayers end up getting transferred to the TTC.

Here is a very short primer on how the system works. When a property is sold, a deed is recorded with the County Registrar Recorder. Or, when there is new construction, a permit is issued by the local city. Those deeds and



photo courtesy of the L.A. County Assessor
Los Angeles County Assessor
Jeff Prang

permits are then transmitted to my office, the assessor, at which time we conduct an appraisal of value. That value data is then sent to the auditor-controller, a department most are not familiar with. The auditor-controller is actually the department that tells you what you owe – they add the tax rates, direct assessments, etc. the auditor-controller then transfers the data to the treasurer and tax collector, who issues the bills and collects payments and which handles issues such as late penalties, lost bills and payment plans.

As an elected administrator of a little known and understood public office, one of the biggest challenges I face is getting vital information about our services and how to access those services to the public. My office dedicates a great deal of effort to helping the public navigate the complexity of the property tax administrative system, but in a county with over 10 million residents and covering more than 4,700 square miles, this is a big task and requires an ongoing effort, which I am committed to providing.

While this missive may not solve the confusion over offices responsibilities, you now know that there is no tax assessor, but rather, there is an assessor and a treasurer and tax collector, and which one does what.

-Los Angeles County Assessor
Jeff Prang

The annual Secured Property Tax Bills are prepared and mailed by the treasurer and tax collector in October each year. The first installment of the tax bill is due on Nov. 1 and becomes delinquent by the close of business on Dec. 10. In light of the deadline, Assessor Jeff Prang wanted to expose the term "tax assessor" as a non-entity and illustrate that when used, it can become problematic.

Grateful Schiff now represents all Californians

Re "Schiff takes reins as United States senator," Dec. 12 issue

Adam Schiff was our (my family's and my) Congressman when we lived in the city of Glendale, which is a part of the congressional district Sen. Schiff represented as a congressman for 24 years with great dedication and character. Adam Schiff was the best congressional representative we ever had. He still remains the best.

My family and I moved from that area in Los Angeles County to the desert area of Riverside County 11 years ago, so of course, Schiff could no longer be our congressional rep. We are thrilled that Sen. Schiff will represent us, all Californians, and our family especially again in the U.S. Senate. We love Adam Schiff. We know he will serve in the Senate with the same dedication and honor as he did for 24 years while representing our former L.A. County congressional district.

Here is to your success, Sen. Adam Schiff.

Bob Strain
Sky Valley, California

Thank you for looking at ways Norms can stay on La Cienega

Re "Raising Cane's withdraws plans for Norms location," Dec. 12 issue

Around 10 years ago, as 5th District L.A. City Councilmember, I helped lead the effort to halt the demolition of Norms La Cienega, a cultural and architectural icon. I involved the L.A. Conservancy, community members and celebrity customers.

Eventually, the owners agreed to allow Norms to remain. It was such a close call that the famous Norms sign was being lowered by crane when they agreed to halt their demolition plans. As noted in your article, it was made a historic-cultural monument in 2015. That preserves the property, but not the business. I have long been an advocate for historic preservation, but Norms La Cienega has a special place in my heart, having first eaten there as a toddler in the 1950s.

Fast forward to 2024, and the chicken fingers restaurant chain Raising Cane's had purchased the property and intended not to renew Norms' lease, replacing Norms with another Raising Cane's. In a pleasant turn of events, they canceled the hearing at the Cultural Heritage Commission and announced discussions with Norms on how they might stay.

I commend them for listening to the concerns of the community and not ruining a cultural icon. That is an unusual display of consideration for the community by a

major restaurant chain which didn't have to pay attention to all of us, but thankfully, they did.

Paul Koretz
Beverly Grove
former L.A. City Councilman
5th District

Coyote issues in West Hollywood need more attention

Re "WeHo holds workshop on coyote management," Dec. 12 issue

Thanks, Mayor Erickson, for your outstanding support for the coyote problems in West Hollywood. My cat was killed on Nov. 2 in my yard on Huntley Drive and my neighbors have texted me about 83 [sightings] of coyotes in their neighborhoods, so everyone please stay safe.

Andy Harland
West Hollywood

Council's TV City rescheduling gives mixed signals

Re "TV City project hearing postponed," Dec. 12 issue

As you reported last week, the L.A. City Council postponed final consideration of the Television City project, which had been on the Dec. 11 council meeting agenda. Your online coverage cited a statement from Hackman Capital Partners that "acknowledged the request to postpone until after the holidays 'to accommodate City Council's busy year-end schedule.'" For the record, here is our play-by-play:

On Sunday, Dec. 8, an email blast from Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky reported that the full City Council would hear the TVC matter in January. But the next day, the council's agenda showed it would be heard on Wednesday, Dec. 11. On Tuesday, Dec. 10, our group sent an alert to concerned community members, and several of them sent their objections to the council office.

On Wednesday morning, Dec. 11, a representative of Councilmember Yaroslavsky contacted me to say that the agenda's inclusion of TVC was a clerical error, and TVC would be heard on Jan. 7. Soon after, Councilmember Yaroslavsky's planning deputy contacted me to say that TVC would be heard on Jan. 8. At that point, TVC was still listed on the online agenda for that day's council meeting.

Later that morning, the continuance to January was announced at the council meeting. The developer says the item was postponed until January to accommodate the City Council. Councilmember Yaroslavsky's office insists the item was never really on the agenda for December in the first place. So, which is it?

Lack of candor and clarity are

hallmarks of TVC, both project and process. A condition first unveiled to the public at the last hearing allows the developer to earn Councilmember Yaroslavsky's support with as little as 150,000 square feet of soundstage, production support and production office combined – a studio reduction of 74% from the nearly 600,000 square feet of production space currently on the lot.

We have said from the outset that TVC is not about expanding the studio, it's about expanding development rights and market value. It's a blank check.

Is it any wonder we are keeping our eyes and ears open?

Danielle Peters
and Shelley Wagers
co-chairs
Neighbors for Responsible TVC Development

Metro should consider above ground options for future rail lines

Re "Study favors San Vicente-Fairfax K Line alternative" and "Metro subway project plows ahead during the holidays," Dec. 12 issue

Thanks for two articles about train lines on the Westside. We would do well to learn from the past and think outside the box regarding the future of mass transit. We read the very long-standing weekly update on the D line, but no information on completion dates. Those of us who live or work along Wilshire Blvd would like to know when we can expect the end to street closures and construction noise and inconvenience.

Regarding the K-line extension to the Westside, inside the box thinking says we need to be limited to one route and estimate completion in the 2040s. Learning from how long it has taken the D Line, an underground line, perhaps we should think alternatively and consider above ground lines. We could have a line up both San Vicente AND La Brea and completion in less time and at the same cost for two above-ground lines compared to one underground line.

As we lose more streets to bicycle lanes, it is imperative to speed up mass transit options. Otherwise life for Angelenos, regardless of transportation method, will be unbearable.

Harlan Levinson
West Hollywood

Editor's note: Metro has not provided the specific dates for completion of D Line construction. However, the subway line is expected to open in three segments from 2025-27. As reported in the article, 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 the Century City/Constellation station in 2026 and Section Three to the Westwood/VA Hospital station in 2027.



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Authorities warn about DULs during the holidays

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is reminding motorists to drive sober during the holiday season, which can be a dangerous time on the roads. In December 2022, the last year for which statistics are available, 1,062 people were killed in the U.S. in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department encourages people to designate a driver and never get behind the wheel after drinking or using marijuana.

Through New Year's Day, the sheriff's department will deploy additional officers on patrol looking for drivers under the influence of alcohol and drugs. The high-visibility enforcement effort is part of a national campaign, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, with the goal of stopping suspected impaired drivers. The West Hollywood Sheriff's Station is participating in the campaign, along with the Beverly Hills Police Department and Los Angeles Police Department

"During the holiday season, we see families and loved ones com-

ing together to celebrate, and our goal is to make sure everyone gets home safely," Sgt. Michael Lennig said. "Impaired driving isn't just dangerous, it's illegal. Let's make this a joyful and safe holiday season for everyone on the road. We urge people to act responsibly and plan a sober ride home."

Impaired driving is not just caused by alcohol. Prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications and illicit drugs also cause impairment. Anyone who sees someone who appears to be driving while impaired is encouraged to call 911.



photo by Edwin Folven

Sheriff's department authorities are on the lookout for impaired drivers in West Hollywood during the holiday season.

Santa pays a visit to Blind Children's Center

From page 2

Division were distributed to the families.

Blind Children's Center CEO Sarah E. Orth said the visit from Santa and the Toy Give-Away are traditions going back more than 50 years. The event returned after a hiatus last year due to renovations at the center, much to the delight of the children. Founded in 1938 and located at 4120 Marathon St. in East Hollywood, the nonprofit Blind Children's Center provides free early childhood education programs for children ages 18 months to 5 years old, as well as Early Head Start services for infants and toddlers from birth through 36 months. The center has specific expertise in supporting very young children who are blind and visually impaired, and those with multiple disabilities.

"This is just a great way for the LAPD to give back to our community, and it's always a special reminder for families that the community is here to support them and support the children," Orth said. "It's a nice celebration for all the families to have with their kids. We have a student, Oliver, who was jumping up and down saying to his teacher, 'Could you please call Santa and make sure he's going to be on time?' and 'Do you know when Santa is going to get here?' It was very cute, and it definitely, definitely means a lot to them."

LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell joined the celebration, meeting with families and wishing them well during the holidays. He said the event provides a special connection between the department and the community, and the Blind Children's Center is an extraordinary organization deserving of support and holiday cheer.

"This truly is a very special place in



photo by Edwin Folven

LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell met with families at the center during the annual holiday event

Los Angeles. The Blind Children's Center has been serving very young kids in our community for many, many years. Many of the kids here have multiple disabilities, and the staff works with them so that they can try and mainstream them by the time they get to first grade to be able to go to school and be able to function like other students," McDonnell said. "Truly miracle work that they're doing here and a place that I would encourage everybody to take a look at. If you can find a way to support them, they're doing tremendous work under very difficult circumstances."

Sgt. Marc Rojas, of the Rampart Division, helped organize the event and added that it started in 1971 when an officer at the Rampart Division whose niece was a student at the center brought presents to the children, and his partner dressed as Santa Claus. It has been a tradition ever since, and the officers eagerly donate and look forward to visiting with the

children. Rojas has been involved with the center for years and is a member of the Blind Children's Center's Board of Directors.

"The center provides officers a list of toys and then we supply that list and deliver them," Rojas said. "There is a sense of fulfillment being here for the kids. We're quite involved, not just doing this, but throughout the year. We've always had a close connection with the center and it's great to see."

Rosa Hernandez, whose son Ashton, 4, has been a student at the center for two years, said the visit with Santa and the support from the LAPD is a highlight of the holiday season.

"This means a lot to me because the community is giving back to our school and the kids get to enjoy this," Hernandez said. "My son really enjoyed it. At the end of the day, the children get to go home with a gift, and it is really nice."

Suspect sentenced for robbery at Beverly Hills jewelry store

From page 4

ers with impunity," United States Attorney Martin Estrada said. "Now, he will serve a lengthy sentence in federal prison. Our office and our law enforcement partners will not tolerate these sorts of brazen attacks on our community."

Vernon was among a group that robbed Luxury Jewels of Beverly Hills at 203 S. Beverly Drive on March 22, 2022. Vernon used tools to smash the store's display case while employees were present, causing fear and injuring people inside the store, authorities said. Vernon removed jewelry and other items valued at \$2,674,600 from store display cases. The merchandise consisted of approximately 19 bracelets, seven pairs of earrings, four necklaces, a pair of obelisks, eight rings and 20 watches, authorities said.

After the robbery, Vernon and his accomplices ran out of the store and left behind their vehicle – a Kia that had been reported

stolen out of Long Beach four days before the robbery. During the crime, Vernon's cellphone fell out of a pocket in his sweatpants as he smashed the jewelry store's window. The cell phone was recovered by law enforcement officials.

Two days after the robbery, one of Vernon's accomplices posted numerous photographs on his Instagram account that included large stacks of money and a message praising his "robbery gang," according to court documents. Also charged for the crime were Deshon Bell, 22, of Long Beach, who pleaded guilty in December 2023 to one count of robbery and is serving a federal prison sentence of one year and one day. Ladell Tharpe, 39, of Long Beach, pleaded guilty on Sept. 30 to one count of robbery is scheduled to be sentenced on Jan. 6.

The FBI and the Beverly Hills Police Department investigated the robbery.

Dealership granted permission to operate on Wilshire Boulevard

From page 7

who has seemingly broken most if not every rule the city has as it pertains to being a dealership in the city of Beverly Hills and the renovation of space in the city sets a dangerous precedent for this city," Skobin said. "This company set up shop seemingly overnight and began its operations. It's interesting to me that their attorney talks about selling cars in the showroom in future tense when they've been there selling cars from Day One as this is documented on their website. They've done it without the proper building and safety permits, or the zoning needed to do so."

Skobin also claimed that Ersoff's business was seen parking their vehicles in handicap parking spaces before taking them for test drives, although the CUP application states that the business would not do test drives.

"Approving this CUP tells businesses that the real way to do things in the city of Beverly Hills is to just do them and deal with it later, which to me is wrong and creates a dangerous precedent and is hurtful for those businesses that do it the right way," Skobin said. "Giving

them a CUP will only validate the acronym on their license plate inserts. TBTFW – too big to 'F' with. I'll let you figure out what the 'F' means."

Commissioner Gary Ross questioned what the acronym TBTFW stood for.

"Tailored Bespoke Tuning, um, Worldwide," Ersoff said.

"That would be TBTWW," Ross responded.

"Tailored Bespoke Tuning Finest Worldwide," Ersoff corrected.

While the commissioners were wary of the project, they ultimately approved the permit, with the added condition that the business must return to the Planning Commission for a one-year review, to ensure the dealership is operating as permitted.

"You've probably detected that we're pretty wary because of past experience, but I've been very impressed with what I've heard today. One of the significantly correct decisions you've made, Mr. Ersoff, was hiring Murray. Under his tutelage, it seems like things are getting on the right track," Planning Commission Chair Terri Kaplan said.

Leads sought in fatal hit-and-run collision

Detectives from the Los Angeles Police Department's West Traffic Division are seeking the public's help to identify a driver responsible for a fatal hit-and-run collision on Nov. 27 around 6 a.m. on Western Avenue at Seventh Street.

A male pedestrian was crossing westbound across Western Avenue in a marked crosswalk when he was struck by a light gray or blue 2004-06 Acura MDX traveling north on Western Avenue. The driver of the Acura failed to stop, identify themselves or render aid, as required by law. The vehicle was last seen traveling northbound on Western Avenue near 4th Street, police said

The Acura is believed to have



photo courtesy of the LAPD

The vehicle involved in the collision is believed to have damage on the front right passenger side.

sustained damage on the front right passenger side. The victim, who was pronounced dead, was not identified.

Motorists are reminded that if they are involved in a collision, they must pull over, notify emergency services and remain at the

scene to identify themselves. A reward of up to \$50,000 is available for information leading to the driver's identification, apprehension and conviction. Anyone with information is urged to call the LAPD's West Traffic Division at (213)473-0238.

Hollywood forecasts a ‘White Christmas’

■ Holiday favorites help viewers recapture dreams

BY RANCE COLLINS

Christmas, I would argue, is about dreams, and there is no town better suited to filling out that prescription than Hollywood. We are, after all, the place that took Dorothy over the rainbow, made the world believe a man could fly and unearthed the Ark of the Covenant. There is no dream too big for our imaginations.

Perhaps this holiday season, as 2024 closes with unprecedented division and uncertainty, the collective needs another dream – or rather, to relive a few of our greatest.

Right now, the long-range forecast shows a drizzly Christmas Eve for Angelenos. I always look forward to when it rains in L.A. It seems to bring us together – the precipitation rare enough that discussions of traffic jams and umbrellas spark a novel bond. The chill of the wind and the opportunity for pea coats and sweaters are an added bonus. On a day that, traditionally speaking, is meant to be spent warming our toes by the fire, it feels like a dream all on its own.

Of course, we don’t get to see the other type of precipitation often here – although the record books inform me that two whole inches of snow accumulated in January 1932. Thankfully, in our city of make-believe, a simple trip to The Grove – at 7 and 8 p.m. nightly – can conjure up a “White Christmas.”

It’s just a touch of the century of

magic for which Hollywood has been responsible. Truly, L.A. – with all its sunshine and palm trees – is as responsible for our holiday mood board as Charles Dickens. And respectfully, Hollywood has had a lot to do with crafting the public perception of Mr. Dickens, too.

I would safely bet that somewhere at some time in any given moment on Dec. 24 and 25, an American will be hitting “play” on “It’s a Wonderful Life,” “Elf,” “The Grinch,” “Miracle on 34th Street” or one of several versions of “A Christmas Carol” (clearly, the Muppets is the way to go). When they do, they’ll be taking in a world of fantasy that feels strangely familiar and wholeheartedly genuine. The spirit of the holiday season, after all, is a wistful dream that connects us all.

Perhaps it was never better personified than in the confection that is “White Christmas,” the 1954 Technicolor classic that took a Crosby hit and made it a legendary seasonal underscore. Crosby had first recorded the movie’s title song in 1942 for a different film, “Holiday Inn,” which is – likewise – a Christmas favorite.

In “White Christmas,” the song is used as a bookend to a story that is deceptively simple. Without getting into too many details, Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye play army buddies who become a duo act. They meet sisters – and never were there such devoted sisters – Rosemary Clooney (yes, that Clooney family) and Vera-Ellen, and the whole crew ends up at an inn in Vermont which happens to be owned by Crosby and Kaye’s former general. There’s no snow this particular holiday sea-

son, and the group bans together to help save the inn for the general – because they love him.

I say it is deceptively simple because, throughout two hours and 17 musical numbers, the movie is dealing with real issues. The general, played by Dean Jagger, finds himself lost without the army and a war to wage. Though nearly a decade has passed since the World War II, he is still reconciling with civilian life.

While sisters and daughters are present in “White Christmas,” the movie does not emphasize family as strongly as other holiday favorites. Instead, it assembles something of a chosen, blended family. The characters aren’t “home,” but they are working hard to convert the venue in which they landed into a kind of home. By the end, with the reward – spoiler – of snow finally gracing the inn, the family has conjured up a renewed sense of sentimentality.

Television also plays a large role in the movie’s plot, helping to resolve Jagger’s, Crosby’s and the inn’s problems. Just a few years into TV taking over popular culture, the medium’s role in the story is a rare acknowledgement by 1950s cinema that entertainment is changing.

The tube had gutted box office sales, and the studios were desperately looking for ways to get audiences back into theaters (sound familiar?). “White Christmas” was filmed in VistaVision, the first movie to use the unique, high-resolution widescreen process. It was thought that the enhanced screen might get people off the couch and back in front of the silver screen.



photo courtesy of Paramount Pictures

Bing Crosby, Rosemary Clooney, Danny Kaye and Vera-Ellen lead a dazzling cast in “White Christmas.”

In the case of “White Christmas,” it worked. The movie was the highest grossing of the year, and it has been in circulation ever since. Viewers return to the rag-tag group of Crosby, Kaye, Clooney and Vera-Ellen, with their crooning voices and sensational dance steps, year after year. It is available for rent on all the usual streaming platforms, and with subscriptions to Sling TV, AMC+ and Roku. It is also airing several times on the Sundance cable channel on Christmas Day – check your local listings.

“White Christmas” is but one example of the magic Hollywood has dreamed up to bring its own brand of warmth to the holiday season. The opening credits alone bring comfort, with the title card assuring us all that – for the next

couple hours at least – there will be peace on Earth and good will toward men.

Other L.A.-filmed classics conjure up similar emotions – be it a more obscure favorite of mine “Christmas in Connecticut” or the hilariously accurate “Christmas Vacation.”

At the end of the day – or perhaps the end of the eve, we return to these movies to recapture our spirit, to cut through a harsh wind and rediscover family, community and hope. And while we may not get actual precipitation often, isn’t it nice to know that our facsimile of it has lent so much joy to the world?

Holiday movies are Hollywood at its best – providing a sleigh ride to dreams when we need them most.

Merry Christmas, one and all.

Young Cedars-Sinai cancer patients celebrate the holidays



photo courtesy of Cedars-Sinai

Young patients and their families had an opportunity to meet Santa Claus at the holiday party on Dec. 11.

More than 50 young cancer patients and their families celebrated the season with their physicians, nurses and other health care professionals at the Cedars-Sinai Guerin Children’s oncology/hematology holiday party on Dec. 11.

The party featured a dancing gingerbread couple, Santa Claus and Los Angeles Rams cheerleaders who got the crowd dancing. Children and their siblings had their faces painted and went home with kits to make gingerbread houses. But the best part was meeting other families, said Benjamin Castillo,

whose 5-year-old daughter, Camilla, is undergoing cancer treatments.

“It’s nice to see other people going through the same thing we are going through,” Benjamin Castillo said. “We are meeting people in the same situation and it’s good to see our daughter playing with other kids.”

The community came together to support the annual party. The party venue was sponsored by the Beverly Hills Police Department – officers visit patients at Guerin Children’s every month and sponsored the venue at Roxbury Park Community center. Sodexo and

Love Catering donated the food. As they have done for 20 years, students at El Segundo High School donated bags of new toys.

The party was an especially happy occasion for members of the Guerin Children’s health care team, who usually see the children in the hospital.

“It brings out the inner child in me,” said Dr. Leo Mascarenhas, Cedars-Sinai Guerin Children’s pediatric oncologist. “When I see all these kids having so much fun, it’s one of the reasons why I do what I do so that kids can live their lives as children.”

For information, visit cedars-sinai.org.



photo courtesy of Danny Liao

Santa rappelled down the LuskinoIC Medical Pavilion wall to greet a crowd of children and their families on Dec. 11.

LuskinoIC brings holiday cheer to children and families

For 35 years, the LuskinoIC Orthopaedic Institute for Children in the West Adams district has transformed the holiday season for thousands of children and their families through its cherished Toys and Joy Holiday Party. This annual celebration highlights LuskinoIC’s mission to uplift patients and families through community support and collective kindness which LuskinoIC believes is integral for a patient’s care and healing.

On Wednesday, Dec. 11, Santa arrived in unforgettable style, flying over the snowy downtown Los Angeles sky in his “chopper sleigh” courtesy of 30-year partner, the LAPD SWAT team, before rappelling down the LuskinoIC Medical Pavilion wall to greet the ecstatic crowd. More than 1,000 pediatric patients, their families and children in the community gathered at LuskinoIC’s historic 114-year-

old campus, which was transformed into a Winter Wonderland to experience a festive day of gifts, joy and holiday cheer.

“LuskinoIC treasures ending the year by bringing joy to our patients.”

LuskinoIC President and CEO Dr. Anthony A. Scaduto

At the heart of this magical day is LuskinoIC’s unwavering mission to advance health equity for every child in Los Angeles and beyond. More than 85% of LuskinoIC’s patients are underinsured – the non-profit relies on the enduring support of donors and dedicated sponsors to help provide specialty care for chil-

dren with musculoskeletal injuries and disorders and advances patient-centered care worldwide. The Institute also actively promotes medical education and groundbreaking scientific research in orthopedics. In alliance with UCLA Health, LuskinoIC stands as the largest provider of pediatric orthopedic care in California, receives 60,000 patient visits annually, and offers pro-bono treatment to patients in Calexico and Mexicali, among other cities worldwide through its International Children’s Program.

“LuskinoIC treasures ending the year by bringing joy to our patients, their families and the community whose trust we endeavor to earn every day,” LuskinoIC President and CEO Dr. Anthony A. Scaduto said.

For information, visit luskinoic.org.



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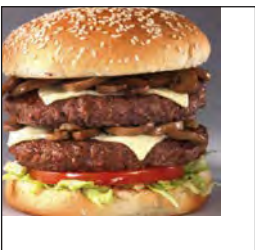
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Am I delusional? Well obviously...

Christmas is coming. Can you hear the sirens, the screams?
I hear Christmas the way that Rilke heard angels.

As you may know, Rainer Maria Rilke was a writer known for his lusty love life (couldn't keep his knickers up). Yet he also found beauty in the most ordinary things.

Thanks to him, I see beauty in a beer can. I see beauty in a pile of See's Candy wrappers ...t he browns, the golds, the traces of chocolate.

Obviously, booming frontier towns such as Los Angeles are good places to celebrate the holidays, to see the beauty in simple things. I mean, that's all we've got out here, really.

Just the other day, I spotted gardeners blowing the leaves off an autumn tree, blasting the jewels off the branches so they could rake the leaves up now instead of next week.

I thought to myself: "Bravo, men! That's the kind of visionary thinking



I see beauty everywhere, even in a homemade TP snowman.



by
Chris
Erskine

that sets Los Angeles apart.”
Like many guys, sometimes I'm consistent and sometimes I'm not.

But I have a consistent crush on Christmas – the magical realism, all its gooey habits and traditions.

– Chestnuts roasting on an open fire...

– Yuletide carols being sung by a choir...

– Why is this carpet all wet, Todd?

I like the beauty in the smallest things ... a kind gesture, a courtesy, a nod.

I like the shiny holiday vibe, the old movies, jostling at the bar and bumping shoulders with total idiots.

“Sorry, bud. Here, this one's on me.”

I like the way the holidays build. As with a great opera, there is a sense of anticipation, then total mayhem, then almost certain death.

In the end, everybody sings. Go figure.

When you feel bummed by the holidays – and that can easily happen – simply watch the young kids a while. Watch them take everything in, drive their parents crazy, fly around restaurants like monkeys on mopeds.

Their joy is simply too much to contain. Really, many of them

should probably be incarcerated.
Yet, the way Rilke heard the angels, I hear the joyous screams of children.

One of them in particular, my granddaughter. I see sonnets in her eyes, limericks on her nose and lips.

At 3, she believes in all this holiday's Norse myths, its crazy fables, its giant unattainable promises.

She believes fat men squeeze down sealed-off apartment chimneys ... that reindeer can dunk a basketball.

She believes in justice: If you are good, you are rewarded. If you're bad, you get coal.

Well, we know that life isn't quite so just as that. Sometimes, the good get punished. Sometimes, the bad flourish in spectacular and unforeseeable ways.

But for a moment, put yourself in this toddler's Velcro shoes. Suspend belief. Embrace the impossible.

For a moment, think that little red dot screaming across the night sky might be a sleigh.

As the eggheads say, the absence of proof is not proof of absence.

Imagine, for instance, that Santa slips through drapes of Einstein's space-time continuum, fusing the three dimensions of space and the fourth dimension of time, thereby allowing the old coot to visit a billion homes in a single night.

You don't know.

And think that — for all its bloat, for all its bluster — an American Christmas still mostly delivers.

Not luxury sedans necessarily – never saw anybody actually receive a Mercedes for Christmas. To this day, I think those crass commercials are just Germany's way of turning wives against husbands, of punishing the United States for being the superior nation.



Children take in everything. It is a joy to watch.
photos by Chris Erskine

I mean, what a ridiculous campaign: A \$100,000 car for Christmas, the so-called “December to Remember.”

Well, I got your December to Remember right here, pal.

I've got a new book so good I want to marry it.

I've got a single-barrel bourbon that will clear all your clots.

I've got a playlist so perfect it'll make you believe in God and Kelly Clarkson.

I've got a noisy family of cooks, cranks and wise guys racing out at the last minute for vanilla extract to make the cookies, or fresh sage to sprinkle on the roast beast.

Am I rich? So rich. Am I delusional? Well, obviously.

As Dickens and Seuss reminded us: Christmas is friends and family and all the right stuff.

Christmas is the kids down in Whoville joining hands in a circle even though the Grinch rolled through overnight and swiped all their strumpets and Xboxes.

And everybody sings.
Can you hear it?

Chris Erskine was an editor and writer for the Los Angeles Times for 30 years. His columns now run weekly here. He also posts on Wednesdays: ChrisErskineLA.com.

All Saints' Beverly Hills invites you to join us for

A Christmas Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 22 • 5 pm

ADMISSION IS FREE

All are welcome at this seasonal favorite featuring beloved carols and scripture readings that illuminate the Christmas story!

Join us for a reception immediately following the service.

Christmas Eve Services

Tuesday, December 24

4 pm

Children's Pageant and Festival Eucharist with Carols

The Christmas Pageant has long been a treasured tradition at All Saints', bringing together generations to celebrate the story of Christ's birth.

8 & 10 pm

Festival Choral Eucharist

Immerse yourself in this sacred and uplifting worship experience as we welcome the birth of Christ, featuring the glorious music of the All Saints' Choir.

Christmas Day Service

Wednesday, December 25 at 10 am

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Happy Chanukah!

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‘Mattress’ gives L.A. the exhale it needs

BY RANCE COLLINS

We have to talk about “Once Upon a Mattress.”

Sometimes a play, television series or movie just hits at exactly the right time. Let’s face it, the residents of Los Angeles County have been through the ringer these last few months. The constant social upheaval, devastating wildfires and political landscape have left the collective drained. We all desperately need a laugh.

Well, straight from Broadway, the production now gracing the Ahmanson has heeded the call. “Once Upon a Mattress” is somehow more than a hilarious evening at the theater. It’s a necessary exhale. I never say this lightly, but it’s perfection.

The show is not new, though there is a fresh adaptation courtesy of Amy Sherman-Palladino (“Gilmore Girls,” “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel”). The musical first landed on Broadway way back in 1959, where it famously launched Carol Burnett’s career. It has been oft-performed since then, although Burnett’s long shadow has kept the musical closely identified with her. A filmed version of the show aired on television frequently, and the star herself appeared in a limited engagement revival in the early-1970s. In 2005, a television film was produced, again with Burnett, albeit in a different role.

It is a tall order, then, to expect any actress to escape her shadow. Sutton Foster was ready. Foster is a Broadway legend in her own right, winning Tonys for “Thoroughly Modern Millie” (a role Burnett’s best chum Julie Andrews played on screen) and “Anything Goes,” as well as scoring numerous nominations for shows like “The Drowsy Chaperone,” “Shrek the Musical” and “The Music Man.” She also has made appearances on TV, starring in the series “Younger.” The girl has a resume.

In “Once Upon a Mattress” she is Princess Winifred – or Fred – a girl from the wrong side of the marsh in a 15th century medieval kingdom. She is vying to marry Prince Dauntless the Drab, who is the ultimate mama’s boy, attached at the hip with his overbearing mother Queen Aggravain. The queen has rejected many potential brides prior to Fred, putting the women through increasingly ridiculous tests to prove them unworthy for her son. She plans to make Fred sleep atop 20 mattresses and recognize that there is a lump in the mattress because of a single pea buried under all of them.

It’s all wonderfully silly. The cast is stellar from top to bottom. I was impressed with the commitment from the background performers, who are utilized as essential parts of the ensemble. I noted the deadpans and mugging from Destinee Rae and Adam Roberts, among a dozen others, who are called upon to facilitate and accentuate the antics of the main cast members.

Michael Urie might have been my favorite actor in the show. He plays Dauntless, and he walks a fine line between whiny child and naïve hero. When he screeches, “But Mom, I like her,” with a tinge of teenaged wistfulness, I challenge anyone not to laugh. Urie is likely best known for playing Marc St. James on “Ugly Betty,” and he is also a Broadway veteran in his own right, having appeared in “Spamalot” and “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying,” among others.

Ana Gasteyer is the queen, and she calls upon every ounce of comedic timing in her repertoire to squeeze laughs out of every single line. We are so looking to live in the same timeline as Gasteyer – perhaps the most talented series regular in “Saturday Night Live” history. I said what I said. She can sing. She can dance. She does every kind of voice. I’ve even seen her do riveting drama – did you know she was one of the first replacements for Elphaba in “Wicked?” The woman can do it all.

A side plot deals with the knight Sir Harry and his girlfriend Lady Larkin, who has found herself “in the family way.” Of course, because it is all a fairy tale, no one can get married until Dauntless gets married, so the couple has a particular stake in Fred passing her test. Harry, played by Ben Davis, is delightful simple-minded, incredibly confident and totally full-of-himself. He is also very proud of the fact that he recently got spurs on his boots. Davis, opposite the effervescent Nikki Renée Daniels, is wonderful.

I’d be remiss, too, if I didn’t mention King Sextimus the Silent, played by David Patrick Kelly, the long-suffering husband of the very loud queen. He is, as his title suggests, silent, but Kelly effuses the character with more personality, physical humor and heart than scores of monologues could accomplish. It’s narrated, too, by a jester (Daniel Breaker) who keeps the plot moving along at a brisk pace.

It’s a simple production with a minimalistic set. While there are

some fun magic trick moments, the performers are given the spotlight, allowing the cast’s easy chemistry to shine.

It’s not often that Los Angeles gets the entire Broadway company directly after a New York run, but thank goodness we did. Now, through Jan. 5, L.A. has the opportunity for a recharge and to remember just how healing a laugh can be.

For information and tickets, visit centertheatregroup.org/tickets/ahmanson-theatre/2024/once-upon-a-mattress. The Ahmanson Theatre is located at 135 N. Grand Ave.



photo by Joan Marcus
Michael Urie and Sutton Foster lead an energetic cast in “Once Upon a Mattress.”

Notable Quotes

“I dreamed big my whole life, and I dreamed of being in a place where there was love and acceptance and community that I could be a part of, so I came to Los Angeles. I’ve been here for 14 years and I’ve kept trying and I’ve kept asking L.A., please make me be a part of you, please let me be accepted. And today, I feel like I’m home.”

Rance Collins (b.1988)
At his acceptance speech at the Assembly District 51 Award for Excellence in Journalism
12-15-2024

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RESTAURANT NEWS

Spin at The Andaz for a 'Not So Silent Night'

The Andaz West Hollywood is hosting a festive celebration for those looking to enjoy live vinyl music in the heart of West Hollywood on Dec. 19 from 6:30-10 p.m. Kaye Records, the hotel's on-property live vinyl bar, will set the scene for a "Not So Silent Night"—a holiday-themed 'spin' on its usual programming. Tunes will be hand-selected by the resident DJ, all set against a backdrop of festive holiday décor throughout the hotel lobby.

Visitors can sample a selection of exclusive holiday cocktails from the Uncle Nearest Continental Whiskey & Kaye Records holiday edition. Signature drinks include Holiday at the Continental, featuring Uncle Nearest whiskey, grapefruit bitters, Allspice liqueur, pear syrup and lemon juice, and The Last Holiday, made with mezcal.

coconut, walnut bitters, lime juice
and chartreuse.

The night will feature a special holiday set, blending classic Christmas cheer with energetic tunes perfect for dancing. With its rich history as a rock 'n' roll hang-out on the Sunset Strip, Andaz West Hollywood provides an unforgettable setting for this festive celebration.

For information, visit hyatt.com/andaz/laxss-andaz-west-hollywood. The Andaz is located at 8401 Sunset Blvd.

Duck into the Formosa on Dec. 25

The legendary Chinoiserie Formosa Cafe in West Hollywood is serving a dine-in special of whole Peking duck on Dec. 25, served with Bao buns, plum sauce, green onions, cucumbers, spicy mustard and chives. The meal serves 2-4 guests and costs \$125. For information, visit thefor-

mosacafe.com or call (323)794-1106. The Formosa is located at 7156 Santa Monica Blvd.

A host of activities lights up The Maybourne

Nestled in the heart of Beverly Hills' iconic Golden Triangle, The Maybourne Beverly Hills brings the best of London's holiday charm to the West Coast with a line-up of celebrations. With the nearby Rodeo Drive Tree-Lighting kicking off the season, The Maybourne offers guests countless ways to celebrate – from Thanksgiving feasts at The Terrace to Gingerbread House Decorating, a one-of-a-kind Whisky Advent Calendar, festive Afternoon Teas and even a special visit from Santa Claus himself.

Through Dec. 24, enjoy a new whisky every day at Maybourne Bar & Whisky Bar, with the “Whisky of the Day,” a unique daily whisky tasting journey with an exclusive advent calendar, featuring a selection of whiskies to

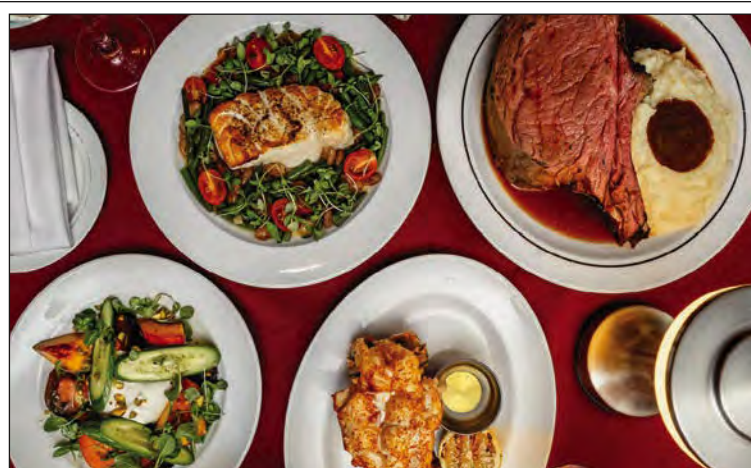


photo by Eugene Dela Cruz

Lawry's The Prime Rib is offering a filling spread for Christmas Eve.

Enjoy 'Prime Rib' for Christmas

Celebrate Christmas Eve in style at Lawry's The Prime Rib, open from 11 a.m.-9 p.m., where timeless elegance meets holiday cheer. Indulge in a specially curated limited menu featuring Lawry's legendary roasted prime ribs of beef, carved tableside from gleaming silver carts. Savor seasonal delights like roasted butternut squash soup, salmon Rockefeller, roasted Chilean sea bass, and more, all while enjoying the enchanting

melodies of roaming Christmas carolers in the dining room.

Toast to the season with a decadent eggnog crafted from Heaven's Door Ascension Kentucky Straight Bourbon, housemade eggnog and a perfect blend of cinnamon, nutmeg, and vanilla. For the full menu and to reserve your holiday table, visit lawrysonline.com or call (310)652.2827. Lawry's The Prime Rib is located at 100 La Cienega Blvd.

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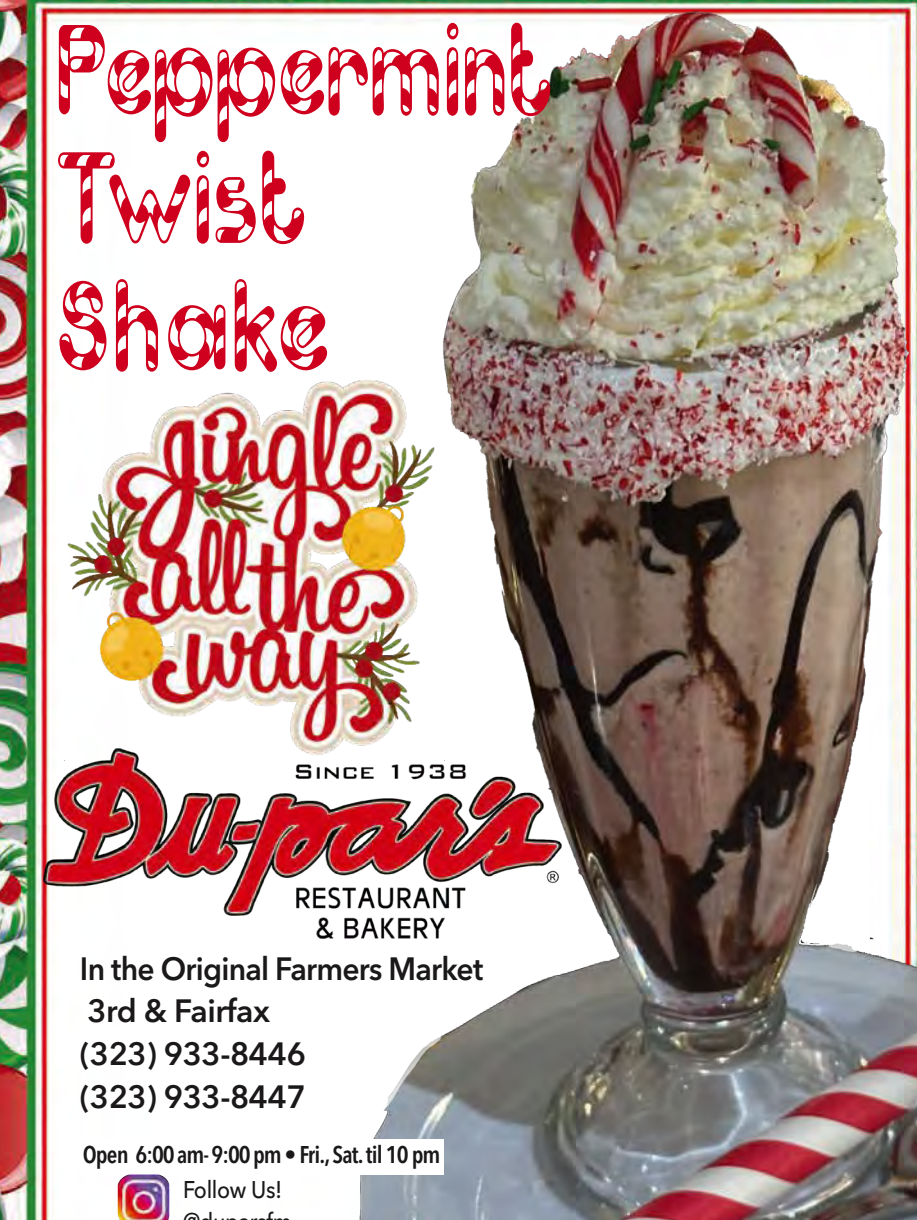


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savor throughout December.

On Dec. 21 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., kids of all ages can enjoy colorful candy and holiday treats for a special gingerbread house decorating class. Executive pastry chef Brooke Martin and her team will pre-assemble the houses. The gingerbread houses will be wrapped as keepsakes to take home. The price is \$125 per child. To book, visit exploretock.com/maybournebeverlyhills/event/516187/gingerbread-house-decorating-at-the-maybourne-beverly-hills.

The Terrace at The Maybourne will have a Christmas Eve and Day dinner from 5-9 p.m. on both Dec. 24 and 25. The four-course meal is \$252.53 per person, with a children's menu available for \$65 and a festive win selection for \$95. To book, visit opentable.com/r/the-terrace-at-the-maybourne-beverly-hills-beverly-hills.

A Christmas Day brunch is also offered from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. with sharing plates like signature roast turkey, crisp salads, grilled seafood and hearty pasta dishes. Price is \$195 per person and a kids' menu is available for \$65. To book, visit opentable.com/r/the-terrace-at-the-maybourne-beverly-hills-beverly-hills.

hills.

At sundown in the lobby area on Dec. 25, the hotel will host a menorah lighting ceremony, free to attend, and led by Rabbi Cunin.

The Maybourne is located at 225 N. Canon Drive.

It's a Scottish holiday at Tam O'Shanter

Step into the warmth of tradition this Christmas Eve at Tam O'Shanter, a cherished dining destination for over 102 years. Open from 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m., the restaurant invites all to enjoy a limited holiday menu brimming with festive favorites. Delight in a classic roasted turkey dinner with all the trimmings, pan-seared Scottish salmon, savory holiday stuffing, candied yams and indulgent filet mignon with an optional lobster tail. Of course, no visit is complete without Tam's signature world-famous prime rib.

Enhance your experience with

See page 18

Dine-in or at home with Mastro's December specials

For classic Beverly Hills luxury, Mastro's Beverly Hills will be open Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, serving its fresh oysters, caviar, decadent seafood towers, steaks and sides galore, along with luscious desserts and handcrafted cocktails – even a succulent Rabbi's Daughter kosher bone-in ribeye 16-ounce steak for anyone celebrating Hanukkah (or who just likes great steaks). For the month of December, Mastro's is offering a special holiday cocktail - Under The Mistletoe.

For those who want their holiday meal from the comfort of their own home, Mastro's Beverly Hills will have its famously decadent side dishes to go this year. The following sides will serve up to four people, and cost \$62 each: garlic mashed potatoes; green beans with sliced almonds; creamed corn; and creamed spinach. For a sweet, limited time finish, Mastro's will have a gorge-



photo courtesy of Mastro's

Through Dec. 30, Mastro's Beverly Hills is offering a cinnamon and pecan butter cake.

geous pecan pie as well as a special cinnamon and pecan butter cake – a twist on its famed butter cake – both available through Dec. 30. To order Mastro's Sides, guests just need to call the restaurant to order from before Dec. 22, and they can pick them up on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Mastro's will be open Christmas Eve from 3-10 p.m. and Christmas Day from 2-9 p.m. for information, visit mastrosrestaurants.com or call (310)888-8782. Mastro's is located at 246 N. Canon Drive.

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From page 17

selections from Tam’s renowned whiskey collection, featuring expertly curated whiskey flights and handcrafted cocktails. Adding to the holiday magic, cheerful Christmas carolers will fill the restaurant with songs throughout the day. To view the full menu or secure your holiday table, visit lawrysonline.com or call (323)664-0228. Tam O’Shanter is located at 2980 Los Feliz Blvd.

Hideaway in Beverly Hills for Christmas

For Christmas Eve Dinner, The Hideaway will offer an \$85 per person three-course dinner in addition to their regular dinner menu. Highlights include a chile morita New Zealand braised lamb shank, served with grilled corn, poblano tamale and mint salsa fresca. Guests will have the option of adding a tequila flight (\$50) or wine flight (\$28).

Then, on Christmas Day, The Hideaway will open at 11 a.m. and offer its weekend brunch menu until 4 p.m. The restaurant will offer its regular menu from 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Brunch highlights include a decadent churro sticky bun, the ultimate breakfast burger covered in black truffle aioli, and an avocado toast with the option to add butter poached Maine lobster. While some people dream of a white Christmas, others want to escape to the sunny beaches of

Mexico. At The Hideaway, diners can feel transported to a warmer climate and enjoy boozy popsicles.

For information, visit thehideawaybeverlyhills.com or call (310)974-8020. The Hideaway Beverly Hills is located at 421 N. Rodeo Drive.

Palma brings the piggies to market – and the holiday table

With the holidays in motion, it’s been predicted by the National Retail Federation that holiday spending will reach a new record this year, with each person spending \$902. Seeing how spending habits are getting bold, why not go even bolder at the holiday family gathering with a roasted suckling pig from Palma Ristorante in Burbank.

Priced at \$350, Palma’s signature Ibérico suckling pig must be ordered up to 48 hours in advance. Sourced from Fermin in Salamanca, Spain, these young piglets are brined overnight with imported herbs and spices from Spain, marinated the second night with our signature secreta rub and roasted in a brick oven using time-honored techniques. This process achieves irresistibly crispy skin and juicy, tender meat – perfect for special occasions or an extraordinary dining experience.

Palma Ristorante is located at 269 E. Palm Ave., Burbank. For

information, call (818)748-3000 or visit palmausa.com.

Bundles of Osteria Mamma delights make for cozy dinner

Make the holiday celebrations unforgettable with Osteria Mamma’s holiday take-out bundles. Whether planning a cozy dinner for two or a small gathering with loved ones, Osteria Mamma has the perfect solution to bring authentic Italian flavors to the table. No shopping, no cooking, no cleanup – just the joy of savoring traditional Italian favorites with loved ones. The bundles are freshly prepared and ready to enjoy, making the holiday stress-free and truly delicious. A take-out bundle for two is priced at \$90, while a bundle four is priced at \$135. For information, visit exploretock.com/osteria-mamma-los-angeles. Osteria Mamma is located at 5732 Melrose Ave.

‘Who dun it?’ at the Jamaica Bay Inn

Join Jamaica Bay Inn for “The Most Wonderful Crime of the Year” – a murder mystery dinner on Friday, Dec. 20. After a festive standup show takes a twist, guests will bribe, gather clues and work together to solve the case. A delicious buffet, complimentary drink,

and access to a private bar are included. Tickets are available at eventbrite.com/e/santa-gingerbread-cookies-elf-movie-more-tickets-1042322232857?aff=oddtcreator. The Jamaica Bay Inn is located at 4175 Admiralty Way, Marina del Ray.

A holiday feast is laid at The Wayfarer

Come by the eclectic downtown LA hotel The Wayfarer on Christmas Day to enjoy holiday specials. From noon-8 p.m., chef Victor Morales will cook up special menu items at The Rooftop including red wine poached pear salad, Tuscan kale and bean soup, seared diver scallop, and beef wellington. For dessert, indulge in Buche de Noel and Santa’s spiked milk and cookies. The regular menu will also be available on Christmas Day. For information, visit wayfarerdta.com or call (213)285-4400. The Wayfarer is located at 813 Flower St.

Head to THE Blvd for Christmas Day

Eat, drink and be merry at THE Blvd with the Christmas Day three-course menu by chef Rafael Alcala at \$160 per adult and \$65 per child ages 6-12. The first course

features the choice of a celery root and vanilla soup with poached shrimp, a persimmon and cranberry salad or citrus cured Hamachi with yuzu broth. For the main course, there is a choice of glazed Cornish hen, beef wellington, beet and goat cheese tart or the miso-glazed sea bass. Then make sure to save room for dessert as there is a choice between the apple crumble cheesecake or Mont Blanc complete with smoked cream and rum chestnut. Live music from noon-3 p.m. will also help get guests into the holiday spirit. The dining experience will be offered Dec. 25 dining between 11:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. For information, visit thblvdrestaurant.com. THE Blvd is located at 9500 Wilshire Blvd.

Farmers Market serves up a holiday feast

No matter what one is looking for, the Original Farmers Market has a holiday meal prepared. El Granjero Cantina is serving Mexican hot chocolate and tamales, as well a late-night happy hour with small plates and margaritas. Bennett’s Ice Cream has its seasonal pumpkin and peppermint stick flavors. Du-Par’s is having breakfast with Santa on Dec. 22, and is currently offering freshly baked holiday pies, candy cane donuts, and a ham or turkey holiday feast for dine-in or carry-out. Monsieur Marcel has holiday gift baskets at its gourmet market, among other festive selections. To learn all about how the Farmers

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Market is warming up December, visit farmersmarketla.com. The Original Farmers Market is located at 6333 W. Third St.

It’s a buffet break-fast for Christmas!

This Christmas Day, give loved ones the gift of a festive buffet at The Beverly Hilton. Located at CIRCA 55, indulge in breakfast delights including scrambled eggs and Applewood smoked bacon, alongside fresh European Breakfast pastries and assorted bagels. Entrees include the mouth-watering sweet and savory blend of brown sugar pineapple glaze spiral cut ham, or feast on seasonal butternut squash ravioli. Along with a kids’ corner, delicious salad bar and dessert extravaganza, The Beverly Hilton is sure to make Christmas Day that much merrier. For information and to make a reservation, visit opentable.com/r/circa55-rooftop-restaurant-and-lounge-beverly-hills. The Beverly Hilton is located at 9876 Wilshire Blvd.

Spend the ‘Eve’ at A.O.C.

A.O.C. on 3rd Street and in Brentwood will celebrate Christmas Eve with Suzanne’s à la carte seasonal dinner menu featuring new winter dishes – market fish with celery root, brussels sprouts, sherry and golden raisins; liberty duck breast with verjus-poached quince, mustard greens & hazelnuts; westholme wagyu brisket with potato-gruyère gratin, calabrian crema and beef bacon; and spiced fish tagine with kabocha squash, quinoa, dried cranberries, turmeric and pepita pistou. The meal will also offer classics for the holidays, including Lucques short ribs, a seafood plateau, Murillo’s eggnog, hot chocolate, Christmas cocktails and a holiday flight selected by Caroline Styne. The halls will be decked and the Dickensian carolers will be singing throughout the night as guests enjoy the glowing warmth of the cozy indoor and outdoor fireplaces. For information, visit aocwinebar.com. A.O.C. is located at 8700 W. Third St.

Brunch, dinner and glad tidings provided by Hotel Casa del Mar

Hotel Casa del Mar will offer a Christmas Day brunch and Christmas Day dinner for those looking to celebrate. The Christmas Day brunch is \$125 per person and includes an appetizer such as butternut squash soup or French toast as well as an entrée such as Dungeness crab cake benedict or glazed ham. The Christmas Day dinner is also \$125 per person and includes appetizers such as winter kale salad or Dungeness crab tart and an entrée such as prime rib roast or stuffed conchiglioni. Both the brunch and dinner include an extravagant dessert display filled with sticky toffee cakes, apple pie, eggnog crème brulee, peppermint brownies and gingerbread holiday cookies. For information, visit hotelcasadelmar.com or call (310)581-5533. Hotel Casa del Mar is located at 1910 Ocean Way.



American Beauty has opened in the space formerly occupied by Wood Ranch at The Grove.

New dining concept opens at The Grove

American Beauty and The Win~Dow, part of American Beauty, are now open at The Grove, in time for the holiday shopping season. The new location introduces weekday lunch and weekend brunch – a first for the concept – alongside its classic dinner menu that the beloved steakhouse is known for. American Beauty is a neighborhood steakhouse that takes inspiration from the classic American steakhouse experience and translates it to the next generation of diners. Committed to great product curation, the menu features wood-grilled steaks, seafood and creative, chef-driven takes on a variety of vegetable-forward dishes. The expansive space features an iconic airy, indoor-outdoor horseshoe bar and floor-to-ceiling stackable doors that open to the cozy front patio with fire pits, as well as plush booths, hand-painted murals and a back patio perfect for private events among trees and string lights. For information, visit americanbeauty.la. American Beauty is located at 189 The Grove Drive.

SHOP LOCAL FOR THE HOLIDAYS!



The Original Farmers Market has everything you need to celebrate the holidays. Choose from gourmet essentials - including all-natural turkeys, roasts, baked goods, produce and more, to one-of-a-kind gifts and seasonal specialty foods. Complete your holiday list at the corner of Third and Fairfax.

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Please, we need more films like ‘Carry-On’

Not a debate: “Die Hard” is a Christmas film. It begins and ends with Christmas music and incorporates festive elements into the story, like wrapping paper used alongside a slain foe gifted to Hans, a gun stuck in McClane’s back. All the pieces are there for a proper experience on par with “Elf” and “White Christmas” on a yearly rewatch list.



photo courtesy of Netflix
Jason Bateman is the mysterious and dangerous Traveler in “Carry-On.”

Nature goes ‘On Notice’ at LACMA

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art presents “Nature on Notice: Contemporary Art and Ecology” at the Charles White Elementary School Gallery. The exhibition spotlights more than 20 lens- and light-based artists, from around the globe, who probe the “new normal” in humanity’s relationship with the natural world. Unveiling 25 newly acquired works, “Nature on Notice” calls on both artistic and scientific imagination in countering threats to our ecology. The exhibit opens on Dec. 21 and will be on view through Aug. 2, 2025.

“Nature on Notice” is presented as part of PST ART: Art & Science Collide, a landmark regional event exploring the intersections of art and science, both past and present. The exhibition is curated by Eve Schillo, who serves as the associate curator of Wallis Annenberg Photography Department at LACMA.

For information, visit lacma.org/press/nature-notice-contemporary-art-and-ecology. LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd.

ON SCREEN

WITH
TIM POSADA

or consider that entire endeavor seasonally specific.

“Carry-On” is somewhere in the middle. It never quite commits to the true spirit of the season or completely ignores it. But that shouldn’t dissuade anyone from enjoying this action throwback. Like “Rebel Ridge” a few months ago, this is the kind of lowkey thriller we need more of.

Can a premise be simpler? It’s Dec. 24. Ethan (Taron Egerton) just learned he’ll be a father soon, so he requests more responsibility at work as a TSA employee. Today, he’ll scan carry-on luggage for anything dangerous. This decision places unsuspecting Ethan in the crosshairs of an unknown traveler (Jason Bateman) who needs to smuggle through carry-on. And he doesn’t care who dies to reach that goal – a best friend’s children, a pregnant girlfriend or any number of coworkers. Ethan can try to outsmart this nameless nemesis, but he doesn’t know who’s watching.

This is Egerton at his most straightforward. Ethan is about as everyday as they can come. He coasts at work and regrets losing the job he always wanted. Mostly, he feels unprepared for anything – happiness, parenting, outsmarting a foe who sees his every move.

Ethan might not be a charismatic figure, but once he receives an ear-



photo courtesy of Netflix
Taron Egerton portrays TSA agent Ethan Kopek in Netflix’s “Carry-On.”

piece then a text message to put it in, Bateman’s voice provides all the film’s personality. His unnamed character micromanages Ethan’s movements, correctly guesses various milestone moments from his past and even makes helpful suggestions.

But at no point does he feel like a sympathetic figure. The traveler and his associates have no moral compass. That might make supporting characters like Watcher (Theo Rossi) feel like necessary filler. He sports big black glasses, smiles a lot and knows his way about computers and a sniper rifle. That’s about it. Still, Bateman’s condescending phrasing and familiar annunciation present a memorable villain.

Again, “Carry-On” is a dubious Christmas film. It’s also not quite an action flick. Mind you, some strong sequences occur, including a car fight featuring Los Angeles police detective Cole (Danielle Deadwyler), following the traveler’s breadcrumbs to LAX.

The film operates best as a cat-and-mouse story. It’s similar to the “Trap” from earlier this year, but “Carry-On” enjoys far better acting. How can one nobody TSA guy escape the control of a methodical, deranged killer? Consider it similar to the early 2000s thrillers “Phone Booth” and “Red Eye,” though Ethan enjoys more mobility confined to an airport.



This is a rental film. Yes, that’s an archaic description, but it still holds. You pop by Blockbuster for something easy and plot heavy – “Con Air,” “The Siege,” “The Firm.” No need for excessive CGI or set pieces. Just a simple location and a few lead roles. The stakes can still be high with a budget so low.

Don’t call “Carry-On” movie of the year. It’s a good time that harkens back to thrillers ranging from “The Fugitive” to “Collateral.” Since nothing else premiered that’s worth your time. Stay home with this one and enjoy.

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

Contact Us. Help Us. Join Us.

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

Sages & Seekers offers opportunities to enrich lives

Registration is open for Sages & Seekers' 2025 winter programs. The nonprofit links older adults with students for enrichment, mentorship and positive interactions. For "sages" (adults 60-plus), the program provides an opportunity to share life experiences with an inter-



photo courtesy of Elly Katz

Sages & Seekers brings together young people and older adults for positive relationships.

ested listener. The forum engages participants in a thoughtful examination of life and how personal challenges are overcome. Through interaction, students develop a greater appreciation of older adults and their legacies. Both generations discover commonalities and shatter stereotypes.

"Seekers" (young people ages 14-24) who enjoy speaking with people from older generations are also sought. Candidates include young people looking to pursue a career working with senior citizens and those looking for someone to talk to who listens and is nonjudgmental.

Sages & Seekers also holds online and in-person programs throughout the year. The registration deadline for winter 2025 programs is Jan. 9. For information, email loriann@sagesandseekers.org or visit sagesandseekers.org/enroll.

LACMA imagines 'Black Diasporas'

"Imagining Black Diasporas: 21st-Century Art and Poetics" at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art finds aesthetic connections among 60 artists working in Africa, Europe and the Americas. The exhibition and its catalogue are among the first to examine nearly a quarter century of production by Black artists. The project debuts new acquisitions for LACMA and expands the Pan-African exhibition canon, historically focused on the Black Atlantic, by showcasing artists working along the Pacific Rim.

Nearly 70 works of painting, sculpture, photography, works on paper and time-based media are organized into four themes: speech and silence, movement and transformation, imagination, and representation. Contemporary

poets contributed original work to the catalogue, extending the historical use of poetry in Pan-African discourse. Diaspora's general definition as a displacement from origins excludes all the creativity the term entails.

The exhibition is on display through Aug. 3, 2025. For information, visit lacma.org/art/exhibition/imagining-black-diasporas-21st-century-art-and-poetics. LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd.



photo courtesy of Museum Associates/LACMA

"New Jersey" (2019) by Ariele Bobb-Willis is part of the "Imagining Black Diasporas" exhibit.

LACCD creates task force to support students' rights to education

The Los Angeles Community College District, the largest community college district in the nation, is launching a dedicated Student Protection Task Force to ensure all students, regardless of their immigration status, race, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation have access to a quality post-secondary education, as well as the resources and support all students need to thrive amid heightened uncertainty. The task force will look at establishing protocols to ensure LACCD campuses remain welcoming and safe environments for all students.

The LACCD educates over 200,000 students annually at its nine colleges. The district serves students of all backgrounds and walks of life. It educates more women than men and enrolls more first-generation students, LGBTQ+, low-income students, adult learners, dreamers and undocumented

students, all with aspirations to finish college and pursue a career.

The Student Protection Task Force will stay abreast of federal policy changes and available resources at the local, state and federal levels. It will be a collaborative effort with internal and external stakeholders to share best practices and amplify resources for students. In addition, LACCD's Dream Resource and LGBTQ+ Pride Centers at each of the district's nine colleges will continue to provide key services and resources and a strong referral network with community partners for legal assistance and mental health services for stu-

dents in need.

"As an educator and advocate, I am deeply committed to ensuring that every student, regardless of their background or immigration status, has access to the education and opportunities they deserve," said Nichelle Henderson, president of the LACCD Board of Trustees. "This task force reflects our district's values of equity and inclusion, and we will work tirelessly to provide our undocumented students with the resources, protections and support they need to succeed. We must ensure that no one is left behind in pursuit of their dreams."

The LACCD student body comes from predominantly underrepresented communities with 68% of LACCD students coming from low-income and over fifty-one percent 51% of LACCD students living below the poverty line.

"Our undocumented students come from all racial and linguistic backgrounds, and walks of life. LACCD has played a critical role in helping them achieve success in education and make valued contributions to the state's workforce," said LACCD trustee Gabriel Buelna, chair of the Student Protection Task Force.

For information, visit laccd.edu.

Breakfast with Santa



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Richard Orlinski runs wild on ‘Rodeo Drive – The Podcast’

The Rodeo Drive Committee recently announced the launch of “Born Wild on Rodeo Drive: Richard Orlinski Breaks the Rules,” the fifth episode in season five of “Rodeo Drive – The Podcast.”

Rodeo Drive has gone wild. Visitors to the luxury street have fallen in love with eight colorful, life-size sculptures of animals – “Wild Kong,” “Standing Bear,” “Panda” and “Crocodile” – designed by the French artist Richard Orlinski, and part of this summer’s “Rodeo Drive Celebrates Fashion.”

But sculptures are only part of Orlinski’s multifaceted output. He was the artist of record at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, he mixes up art with music and stand-up comedy, and he has partnerships with international brands including

Lancome, Hublot, Puma and Disney. He has written a book – “Pourquoi J’ai Cassé les Codes,” or “Why I Broke the Codes” – about his life of going against the grain.

He stopped off recently in Beverly Hills and talked with Lyn Winter about his unconventional approach to art and life, starting with why he chose to celebrate wild animals in his sculpture.

Animals, he says, have much to teach humans, as they “obey a virtuous circle,” and kill only for food, while humans kill for nothing. He spoke about his personal experience with a violent father, which also laid the ground for his future self.

“I realized very early that I have nobody to trust so I was very alone. And when you’re like that, you’re angry, and you want to succeed,” Orlinski said.

He says that fighting spirit helped him deal with initial rejection from the Parisian art world and develop his mass appeal with a sense of freedom to do his own thing.

Orlinski explains his admiration for Andy Warhol, why he opened his own chain of Orlinski galleries, and how he treats art more like fashion with seasons, and a branded experience that is meant to be fun for people of all ages. The future, he says, is big spaces, where visitors can eat, spend time and enjoy a multisensory experience.

“The competition is always the same. So you have to create, invent something new, and I think the artist and the galleries and the people in this industry need to create something like that,” he said.

To listen, visit rodeodrive-bh.com/podcast.



photo courtesy of the Rodeo Drive Committee

The artist installed eight colorful animal sculptures this year on the iconic street.

Photorealism’s lineage traced at MOCA



photo courtesy of the artist

Michael Alvarez’s “Look at This Photograph” (2018) is included in the “Ordinary People” exhibit at MOCA.

Reexamining the postwar art movement of photorealism and tracing its lineages in art of the present day, “Ordinary People: Photorealism and the Work of Art” since 1968 includes more than 40 artists (largely though not exclusively North American), spans the 1960s to the present, and features paintings, drawings and sculptures. This historical, scholarly, group exhibition recovers the social art history of photorealism and complicates its meaning as realism. The exhibition is now on display at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

While photorealism is often regarded as an end-of figuration, of representation, and even of painting at the close of the 1960s–this timely exhibition recasts photorealism as beginning, arguing for its continued presence in contemporary art. It features canonical and under-recognized photorealists of the 1960s and ‘70s (Robert Bechtle, Vija Celmins, Chuck Close, Richard Estes, Audrey Flack, Duane Hanson, Idelle Weber); reconsiders well-known figures within photorealist frame-

works (John Ahearn and Rigoberto Torres, Barkley L. Hendricks, Joan Semmel, Amy Sherald); and identifies younger generations of artists’ receptions of photorealism (Gina Beavers, Cynthia Daignault, Sayre Gomez, Vincent Valdez, Christine Tien Wang).

“Ordinary People” examines the representational politics of photorealist painting in the context of the recent rise of figurative portraiture, considering its key place in the ongoing remedial project to repopulate the museum with pictures of people and places historically excluded or disfigured.

It further explores photorealism’s significance as painting of everyday life and pulls apart the intrinsic tension between ordinary images and extraordinary artistic methods by focusing on relationships of labor, value, populism and taste. As well, it takes seriously the myriad ways artists have deployed photorealism to entice viewers with a non-confrontational aesthetic often only to show images of painful historical events

and social experiences that might otherwise be regarded as too difficult to look at, or too easy to ignore.

The exhibition is accompanied by a 256-page catalogue co-published by MOCA and DelMonico Books.

“Ordinary People” is on view through May 4, 2025. MOCA is located at 250 S. Grand Ave.

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:

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Los Angeles, CA 90048

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

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

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

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

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

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

This notice is provided in compliance with California law.

Holiday market opens at Vintage Land

Vintage Land, the beloved home of the Los Feliz Flea Market, is thrilled to announce its highly anticipated three-day Holiday Market, offering a festive experience like no other. From Dec. 19-21 the market will transform the bottom level of Vintage Land into a holiday wonderland, open daily from 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

This special holiday market will feature an eclectic mix of vintage clothing, antiques, artisan goods and handmade treasures – perfect for unique and thoughtful gift-giving. Shoppers can enjoy delicious treats from a full food court, desserts and a coffee bar, alongside festive drinks from a full-service bar.

In the spirit of giving, the market will host a toy drive benefiting the Art is My Drug Foundation. This meaningful initiative not only aims to provide toys to children in need but also fosters a welcoming space where they can experience the joy and magic of the season.

More information about Vintage Land, the Los Feliz Flea and upcoming events can be found at vintageland.la. Vintage Land is located at 1030 Alpine St.

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L.A. Theatre Works releases collection of Tennessee Williams plays

L.A. Theatre Works announced the availability of four audio theater productions of classic plays by Tennessee Williams. The company's Tennessee Williams Collection launched with the release of "The Glass Menagerie" on Dec. 10, followed by three titles in 2025 – "A Streetcar Named Desire" on March 11, "The Rose Tattoo" on April 8, and "Summer and Smoke" on May 6. Listeners will be able to find each recording online at latw.org, as well as at retailers and libraries everywhere.

A co-production with NPR affiliate KCRW 89.9 FM and the BBC, the L.A. Theatre Works audio production of "The Glass Menagerie," Williams' autobiographical "memory play" that launched his career, reunited the cast of the Roundabout Theatre's celebrated revival – Julie Harris, Calista Flockhart, Kevin Kilner and Zeljko Ivanek, and features John Goodman as the narrator. Set in 1935 and based on Williams' own family, the play centers on the Wingfield family who live together in a cramped St. Louis flat, forced to wrestle with unrealized dreams and painful memories.

Glenne Headly, Vincent D'Onofrio, Amy Brenneman and David Selby headline the cast of "A Streetcar Named Desire," an L.A. Theatre Works co-production with the BBC and CBC. In Williams' Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece, Blanche DuBois, once a well-heeled Southern belle but now alcoholic and destitute, arrives in New Orleans to stay with her sister Stella and her brutish brother-in-law Stanley. As Stanley terrorizes the fragile Blanche, reality slips slowly away from her.

Mercedes Ruehl and Anthony LaPaglia, who starred in the 1995 Broadway production of "The Rose Tattoo" that earned awards for both actors, reunited to record the play for L.A. Theatre Works in front of a live audience at L.A.'s Skirball Cultural Center. The story of an Italian-American widow in Louisiana who has allowed herself to withdraw from the world after her husband's death, the large cast also includes Emily Bergl, Marieclaire Costello, Tim DeKay, Brent Hinkley, Carol Locatell, Kate Mulligan, Antonia Ray, Peggy Roeder, Vincent Schiavelli and Claudette Sutherland.

Finally, "Summer and Smoke's" Alma Winemiller is a shy, religious young woman who grew up pining for the boy next door. He's grown up to become an undisciplined doctor, so when he returns to their Mississippi town to start a medical practice, their strange attraction sets them on a path of turmoil and heart-break. Also recorded before a live audience at the Skirball, the L.A. Theatre Works audio production stars Ann Gee Byrd, Kristen Frazier, Mark Kudisch, Carlos Lacamara, Gabriel Olds, Tina Sánchez, David Selby, Tegan West, Armin Shimerman, Kitty Swink and Sarah Zimmerman.

For information, visit streaming.latw.org.



photo courtesy of L.A. Theatre Works



photo by Michael Kovac/Getty Images for MPTF

John Ritter's widow actress Amy Yasbeck and sons actors Jason Ritter and Tyler Ritter took part in the "Lights, Camera, Take Action!" telethon.

Entertainers 'Take Action' with annual telethon

On Dec. 9, the Motion Picture and Television Fund's telethon for entertainment industry members in need returned for its third year, raising \$810,770 and exceeding the original goal of \$750,000. "Lights, Camera, Take Action!" aired live on KTLA on Sunday, Dec. 8, with presenting sponsors City National Bank and UCLA Health leading the charge on the philanthropic endeavor. Yvette Nicole Brown ("Disenchanted," "Community") and Tom Bergeron ("Dancing with the Stars," "Hollywood Squares") returned as hosts and served as two of the producers for this uplifting, entertaining evening of stories, songs and celebrities. KTLA's Dayna Devon returned to host the live Celebrity Lounge, and Tiffany Smith hosted the Tote Board throughout the evening.

"We have met so many amazing people who both serve at MPTF and are served by MPTF. Donating tonight, you are helping to provide hope to someone who has been hopeless," Bergeron said. "Those who are reaching out to MPTF are often making that call as their last resort. Your donations help to make sure there is someone at the ready to provide the comfort and guidance that will make this season brighter."

"The peace of mind your donation makes to someone who does not know how they will avoid eviction is priceless," Brown said.

Special guests included the cast of "The Neighborhood," Bruce Dern, Colin Farrell, Cooper Koch, Jimmy Kimmel, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Kyle MacLachlan, McG, Morgan Freeman, Tony Goldwyn, Virginia Madsen, Whoopi Goldberg, Will Forte and William Shatner.

The "Lights, Camera, Take Action!" telethon was available across the country via ktla.com and mptf.com. It is available to watch now at mptf.com/telethon.

Get a WeHo-approved poem for the holiday

Celebrate the winter holiday season with poetry with a free hotline. Discover the words of poetry to find something heartwarming to share with the grandkids or grandparents.

Through Tuesday, Dec. 31, West Hollywood Poet Laureate Jen Cheng is inviting the community to call into the Holiday Poetry Hotline at (310)853-3952. Prerecorded poems are available to listen to 24 hours per day every day through the end of the year.

The hotline will feature "poetry prescriptions" to respond to common ailments of winter blues. The hotline has poems from Jen Cheng, as well as former West Hollywood City Poets Laureate Steven Reigns, Kim Dower, Charles Flowers and Brian Sonia-Wallace. Cheng will also host a live call-in event on Saturday, Dec. 21, from 2-5 p.m. where callers can enjoy live readings from the curated list of "poetry prescriptions" or request a custom poem written for them.

"Whether you want to celebrate your successes or find comfort and solace, we look forward to hearing your calls this Saturday."

*West Hollywood Poet Laureate
Jen Cheng*

"The live Holiday Poetry Hotline offers a poetic conversation for anyone with a phone, and perhaps someone who might feel a little lonely or stressed during this time of year," Cheng said. "I especially hope that this hotline will serve our vulnerable populations like older adults, people who live alone, or people who might not have families to be with. Whether you want to celebrate your successes or find comfort and solace, we look forward to hearing your calls this Saturday."

Last year's hotline received a variety of callers from around Southern California and across the nation, from an 8-year-old girl who wanted to celebrate her love for soccer to a homesick grandson with homesickness who wasn't able to take the expensive flight to visit his grandmother. Poet operators are trained and welcome calls during the live hotline hours of Saturday, December 21, 2-5 p.m.

This project is supported by the West Hollywood Library and the city of West Hollywood's Arts Division. For information about arts programming, visit weho.org/arts.

VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

A white Christmas on Alandeale Avenue



It was a white Christmas in the Miracle Mile in this photograph in the Dec. 16, 1954, issue of the Park Labrea News. The beautiful Christmas tree belonged to the Langdon family and was located in front of their residence on South Alandeale Avenue. The staff at the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News wishes everyone happy holidays and merry Christmas.



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Police Blotter

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Dec. 6 and Dec. 14. 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. 8

At 12:19 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Carmelita and Oakhurst.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 500 block of N. Hillcrest at 10:38 a.m.

At 11:50 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of Foothill.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of S. Willaman at 4:24 p.m.

At 8:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9300 block of Wilshire.

Dec. 9

At 1:39 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9600 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near Wilshire and Linden at 2:18 p.m.

At 4 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 300 block of S. Spalding.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of S. Bedford at 8 p.m.

Dec. 10

At 6 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of S. Arnaz.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of N. Almont at 10 a.m.

At 12:05 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 5600 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of S. Spalding at 6 p.m.

At 6:13 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9700 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of S. Tower at 10 p.m.

Dec. 11

A vandalism incident was reported in the 9800 block of Wilshire at 4 p.m.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of S. Elm.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 9:30 p.m.

Dec. 12

At 9:51 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of S. Robertson at 2:30 p.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. Gale.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of S. Gale at 6 p.m. An additional auto burglary was reported in the same area at 9 p.m.

At 8:47 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of S. McCarty.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. Gale at 9 p.m.

Dec. 13

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 600 block of N. Oakhurst at 9:15 a.m.

At 2:22 p.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the 9200 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9600 block of Wilshire at 3:06 p.m.

At 3:30 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 100 block of N. Clark.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9500 block of Brighton at 4:50 p.m.

At 10:06 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 300 block of N. Cañon.

Dec. 14

At 6:14 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly.

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

Dec. 8

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 800 block of West Knoll.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Beverly at 10:39 a.m.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8400 block of Sunset.

Dec. 9

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8400 block of Holloway at 10:45 a.m.

At midnight, a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1300 block of N. Harper.

Dec. 10

At 9:10 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 800 block of Westmount.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1000 block of N. La Brea at 12:30 p.m.

At 6:12 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1200 block of N. Fuller.

An unknown suspect stole a vehi-

cle parked in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 9 p.m.

Dec. 11

At 4:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 500 block of N. Croft.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8000 block of Sunset at 6:20 p.m.

At 9:30 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near Santa Monica and Palm.

Dec. 12

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 800 block of N. Kings.

Dec. 13

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8600 block of Sunset at 2:37 p.m.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8700 block of Shoreham.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of N. La Cienega at 9:05 p.m.

At 10 p.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 9000 block of Santa Monica.

Dec. 14

At 7:45 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1200 block of N. La Brea.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8700 block of Santa Monica at 8:15 a.m.

Los Angeles Police Department

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.

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

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle near the corner of Selma and Argyle at 9 p.m.

Dec. 7

At 12:01 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1700 block of N. Hudson.

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

At 8:49 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 700 block of N. Spaulding.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7000 block of Hollywood at 4:45 p.m.

Dec. 8

At noon, an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 5600 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6300 block of Third at 3 p.m.

At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6100 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near Cherokee and Yucca at 5:36 p.m.

At 5:55 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of S. La Brea.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of S. Las Palmas at 7:30 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1800 block of Wilton.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of Lodi at 9 p.m.

Dec. 9

At 12:01 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Hollywood and Stanley.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 6300 block of Longview at 12:10 a.m.

At 12:20 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6100 block of Fifth.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 100 block of The Grove at 12:42 p.m.

At 1:10 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near Hawthorn and Poinsettia.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Sycamore at 5:15 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5800 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 100 block of The Grove at 7:10 p.m.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 7900 block of Blackburn.

Dec. 10

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 5700 block of Franklin at 12:30 a.m.

At 7 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 4700 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of Keniston at noon.

At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 400 block of S. Coverdale.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of The Grove at 4:30 p.m.

At 8:28 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of The Grove.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7000 block of Hawthorn at 10 p.m.

Dec. 11

At 1:54 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6600 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 500 block of S. Ogden at 8 a.m.

At 8 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5300 block of Packard.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1800 block of N. Van Ness at noon.

At 1:15 p.m., an unknown suspect

committed a petty theft in the 1100 block of S. Rexford.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Beverly at 3:13 p.m.

At 3:49 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of The Grove.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of S. Edinburgh at 4:25 p.m.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 4700 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7200 block of Franklin at 5:30 p.m..

At 5:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of N. June.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 600 block of S. Masselin at 8:30 p.m.

At 8:55 p.m., a petty theft was reported in the 8400 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6000 block of Eleanor at 9 p.m.

At 9:45 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Barton and Gower.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Fountain and Las Palmas at 10 p.m.

Dec. 12

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near Sixth and Fairfax at 2:30 a.m.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 200 block of S. La Brea.

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 100 block of The Grove at 6:21 p.m.

At 8:25 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 6500 block of San Vicente.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 600 block of N. Beachwood at 8:30 p.m.

At 8:45 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Wilshire and Ogden

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 6200 block of Sunset at 9:38 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1700 block of El Cerrito.

Dec. 13

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 1300 block of Schuyler.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1900 block of Tamarind at 5:15 p.m.

At 5:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5200 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of S. Van Ness at 6 p.m.

At 10:20 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Wilshire and Ogden.

Dec. 14

At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 300 block of S. Fuller.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of S. Citrus at 4 p.m.

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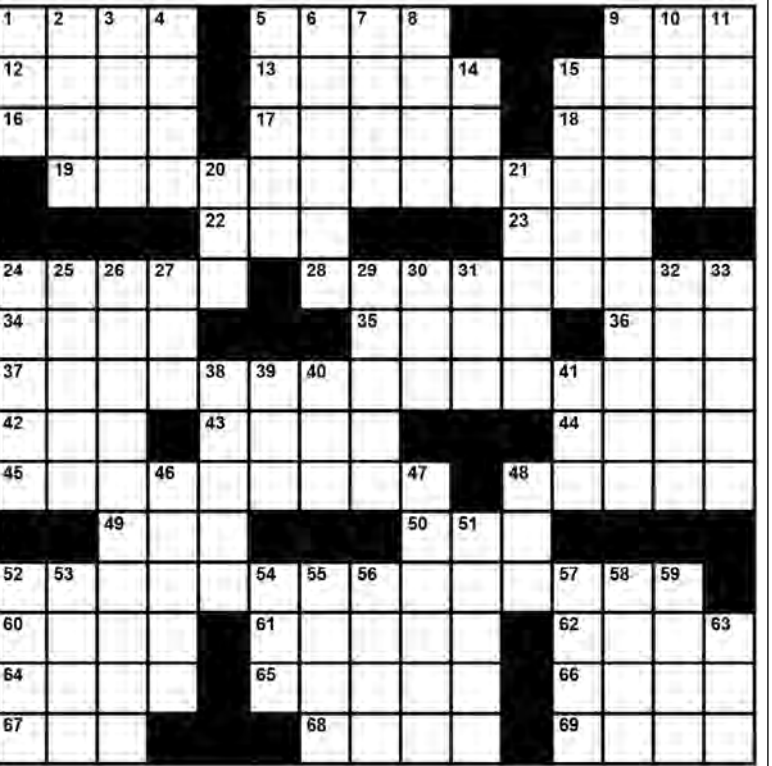


Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

- Across

 1. Ballpark figures
 5. "Money, money, money" singers
 9. Used a bench
 12. ___ Alto, Calif.
 13. They shift
 15. Landers and others
 16. Where Jamal Malik grew up
 17. Spokes
 18. Alcove
 19. Singers of "Bad Liars" and "Believer"
 22. Prefix with cellular
 23. Ugly spot
 24. A black key
 28. Very smart people
 34. Pharmaceutical
 35. Sound
 36. Society page word
 37. Phil Collins and Eric Clapton sang in them
 42. Significant period
 43. Bowie's model wife
 44. Goes with Spumanti
 45. Arranges a performance for love
 48. Soups
 49. Business degree
 50. Fairy tale mattress lump
 52. They sang "Jesus Is Just Alright"
 60. River of Normandy
 61. Pole position?
 62. Sounds of relief
 64. Called it a day, for short
 65. Sentence divider
 66. Rolls around the edge
 67. Volcano output
- Down

 1. Good economic indicators
 2. W. African republic
 3. Deep purple
 4. Biological body
 5. Wearing ___ (smiling broadly)
 6. Skullcap
 7. Summoned
 8. Uninteresting
 9. The act of acting stuck-up
 10. By and by
 11. Sounds of disapproval
 14. Male aristocrat
 15. Rolling Stones ballad
 20. Prepare to be totally remodeled
 21. Worshipper of Quetzalcoatl
 24. Noses (out)
 25. Bordeaux bro
 26. Period of the moon's revolution
 27. Epoch
 29. Frivolous
 30. Oui's opposite
 31. Basic version, abbr.
 32. "Swell!"
 33. Tractor trailers
 38. Egyptian desert
 39. Introduction, in a way
 40. Miserable
 41. Bollywood star Aishwarya
 46. Receded
 47. Perfect
 48. ___-jongg
 51. Prefix with linguistics



52. Copperfield's childish bride
 53. Tin, gold...
 54. Bailout key
 55. Tome
 56. Reign
 57. Elephant flappers
 58. A pluviometer measures it
 59. Obnoxious person
 63. Opposite NNE

answers on page 26

LAST MINUTE

Gifts

“A Spring Morning”
by Roberta and
Dave Williamson

Visit Freehand Gallery for unique
handmade holiday artistry

Freehand Gallery, 8413 W. Third St., is a one-stop destination for unique handmade gifts during the holidays. The gallery offers expertly crafted, one-of-a-kind objects made by artists nationwide. Items include hand-painted ceramic menorahs, hand-blown glass, original handcrafted jewelry and exquisitely woven blankets and scarves. The gallery specializes in jewelry, ceramics, glass fiber and wood. Among the artists represented are Roberta and Dave Williamson, who live and work together in Berea, Ohio. Their jewelry uses straightforward fabrication methods, casting and soldering, and is inspired by family and their garden. The artists’ distinctive work is highly collectible! Holiday hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. For information, call (323)655-2607, or visit freehand.com.



photo courtesy of Freehand

A necklace with a sterling silver pendant, baroque pearl and vintage glass cabochon – is among the hand-made works at Freehand Gallery.

HESTAN

Give the chef on your list a Hestan OvenBond Tri-ply Quarter Sheet Pan with Rack, available at Williams Sonoma. The quarter sheet pan is crafted from triple-bonded clad stainless steel with a responsive aluminum core designed to emit heat evenly, producing beautifully browned goods and perfectly roasted foods, while the roasting and cooling rack is crafted from stainless steel. Not only is it highly functional, it is beautiful, too! At the Original Farmers Market 6333 W. Third St., (323) 801-2459. Also stores in Santa Monica and Pasadena.



photo courtesy of Hestan Culinary



photo by Connie And Stewart Photography

STARBURST

David Yurman
The Grove

Starburst was born from David and Sybil Yurman’s experience watching fireworks illuminate the Paris night sky. The magical bursts of light greatly moved Sybil, inspiring David to create designs of brilliant star motifs.

18-karat yellow gold
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Bracelet, 3.5mm



Slinky

Who doesn’t love a slinky? The iconic toy, originally sold Gimbel’s department store in Philadelphia in 1945, is still delighting “kids” of all ages. Kip’s Toyland at the Original Farmers Market, also founded in 1945, carries this tried-and-true invention, among many other toys that are not electronic, including Lincoln Logs and classic dolls. 6333 W. Third St. (323)939-8334.

Musso and Frank ornament now available!

This collectible ornament is now available for purchase at Musso’s! Ask any server at the restaurant or shop their online store for other great Musso and Frank items, including their book, tote bags, t-shirts and golf balls. Make the holiday season memorable with a special dining experience at the 105-year-old establishment in the heart of Hollywood! Call (323)467-7788 or visit Mussoandfrank.com or opentable.com. 6667 Hollywood Blvd.



photo courtesy of Musso and Frank

The collectible ornament is available at the restaurant and online.

Grant helps partnership improve LAUSD math instruction

The Los Angeles Unified School District and the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools have received a \$16.8 million five-year grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to continue programs to enhance and revolutionize math instruction.

In 2015, the partnership launched an initiative to introduce high-quality instructional curricula in LAUSD schools. Since the program’s inception, the district and partnership have implemented an upgraded math curriculum in 223 secondary schools.

The LAUSD has invested more than \$73 million in transforming instructional practices in math since 2020. In the last year alone, the investments have led to math proficiency in the district that outpaced

the state overall, particularly for higher-need student populations.

Supplementing the professional learning opportunities offered by LAUSD, the partnership and district worked closely with educational organizations, including Leading Educators and the Achievement Network, to offer direct support to schools. The support includes coaching, teacher professional development and group learning opportunities for LAUSD school leaders and regional directors.

The new round of funding will support ongoing district efforts to improve and build coherence around math instruction. The partnership will work with LAUSD to provide support in the categories of District-Level Work, Regional-Level Support and School-Level

Focus.

The LAUSD and the partnership serve as a national model for curriculum adoption and implementation. The five-year timeframe allows the partnership to significantly contribute to LAUSD’s long-term goals for instructional improvement.

“In recent years, the coordinated investments in improving math instructional practice have shown significant gains for Los Angeles students,” LAUSD Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho said. “We are proud of our meaningful collaboration with our educators, the Division of Instruction and the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools, and look forward to the incredible results that we will achieve with our district’s significant investments in materials and interventions in tandem with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grant.”

Guadalupe Guerrero, CEO of the Partnership for Los Angeles



photo courtesy of the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools

The nonprofit Partnership for Los Angeles Schools provides educational support to improve student learning.

State superintendent announces legislation to keep ICE off campuses

State Superintendent Tony Thurmond is sponsoring legislation introduced by Senate Majority Leader Lena Gonzalez (D-Long Beach) on Monday, Dec. 16, aimed at keeping Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents off of school campuses to protect California schools from a drop-off in attendance or funding in response to federal threats of mass deportation.

The legislation to be introduced by Gonzalez will protect California

schools from a potential decline in attendance or funding during potential increased immigration enforcement by protecting school zones, as well as school data and sensitive family information.

The bill would: prohibit school districts, county offices of education, charter schools and their personnel from granting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers or other federal authorities access to campuses without a judicial warrant; prohibit

police cooperation with any immigration enforcement efforts within a one-mile radius of school to ensure a safe corridor for parents to bring their children to and from school; and prohibit the sharing of any information about students, families, their households or school employees with ICE officers.

“This bill seeks to push back against threats of deportation that create fear in immigrant families. These practices suppress school attendance and rob schools of needed revenue,” Thurmond said.

“All California children deserve safe school environments that prioritize student learning, regardless of immigration status,” Gonzalez said.

“As chair of the California Latino Legislative Caucus, I’m proud to be partnering with Superintendent Tony Thurmond to author this important legislation, which will prevent disruptions to student learning, keep children in school and prevent families from being torn apart.”

Research has shown that immigration enforcement in the area of schools has a chilling effect on school attendance for students from impacted communities, regardless of students’ citizenship or immigration status.

The legislation would also strengthen safeguards against unauthorized disclosure of education

records and personal information to federal agents. Combined, the protections would ensure that families are able to safely send their children to school without fear of being separated from their children, and families would also be able to fill out necessary school forms that are essential to students’ well-being and educational services without fear of being separated from their children.

In California, 93% of children who have one or more undocumented parents are U.S. citizens. Additionally, all children in the United States, regardless of immigration status, have a right to a free and appropriate public education.

‘Enchanted Forest’ returns to Descanso for holiday

Descanso Gardens’ much-loved “Enchanted Forest of Light” is back for the 2024 season, delighting visitors with a breathtaking mix of returning favorites and fresh attractions. This immersive event, running through Jan. 5, is a captivating experience where guests can explore dazzling installations set against the garden’s natural beauty.

Visitors will journey through an illuminated landscape, including a unique display in the Rose Garden, where HYBYCOZO’s 3-D geometric sculptures transform the Rose Garden labyrinth into an extraordinary experience of light and form. Adding to the charm, a glowing meadow grass installation gently ripples among the oaks, inviting awe and wonder.

With wonderful surprises at every turn, this year’s “Enchanted” also includes Descanso Railroad, with its miniature model trains and landscapes lit up for the holiday season, bringing extra magic to the

journey.

“We’re delighted to welcome families back to Enchanted this season,” said Juliann Rooke, CEO of Descanso Gardens. “This year, familiar favorites have been given a fresh glow, and we’ve woven in a few surprises to make sure there’s a spark of wonder for every visitor, young and old alike.”

Adding to the visual delights, Tom Fruin’s vibrant “stained glass” houses return to create a radiant village on the Main Lawn. Enhanced with interactive lighting, they form a lively, whimsical scene that invites visitors to engage with the light and color. Under the majestic oaks, guests will discover a hanging light installation that evokes an ethereal ambience, complementing Descanso Gardens’ serene setting.

Tickets for “Enchanted” are available at descansogardens.org. Descanso Gardens is located at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada Flintridge.



We’re building better transit from DTLA to the Westside.

December Updates

Happy Holidays from the D Line Subway Extension Project! Stay tuned for more updates in 2025.



photo courtesy of Kathryn Rapier

The gardens are ablaze with light for the 2024 holiday season.



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Celebrate the holidays in L.A. County on Christmas Eve

A Los Angeles holiday tradition since 1959, the two-time Emmy award-winning L.A. County Holiday Celebration returns on Tuesday, Dec. 24 to celebrate 65 years with a fresh look and feel to welcome a new generation of audiences.

Sponsored by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and presented by The Music Center, the one-of-a-kind, free, three-hour spectacular provides Angelenos an opportunity to come together every year on Christmas Eve and experience the variety of rich, dynamic cultures that can be found throughout Los Angeles County. Audiences can choose to watch in person at The Music Center’s iconic Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, from the comfort of their own homes on TV at PBS SoCal, online at pbsso.org and on the free PBS App.

A new producing team from Milkmade and executive producer Lindha Narvaez will embrace the

evolution of the 65th annual show with a fresh approach including new artistic genres, such as a circus act and a marionette performance. Audiences will also enjoy watching performances by dance companies, music ensembles and choral groups.

“This year’s L.A. County Holiday Celebration will demonstrate the county’s commitment to inclusivity and response to the interests of even more Angelenos,” said Rachel S. Moore, president and CEO of The Music Center. “The show will be exciting, building on its 65-year history, while offering new experiences that will resonate with both long-term fans and those who will enjoy it for the first time.”

A diverse lineup of 28 Los Angeles-based artists will take the stage to present their artistry and traditions. The show will include several pre-produced mini documentaries to highlight some of the

artists’ unique stories.

Performances include many returning artists and plenty of fresh faces to entertain attendees.

The 65th Annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 24 from 3-6 p.m. Entrance to the in-person event is free, however, advance tickets are required for entrance. Tickets are general admission and are available now online at holidaycelebration.org. Doors will open at 2:30 p.m. There will also be a standby line for anyone interested in attending, but who may not have a ticket. Entry without a reserved ticket is not guaranteed. Ticket holders arriving after 3:30 p.m. will relinquish their reserved seats and be directed to the standby line.

The Music Center’s Dorothy Chandler Pavilion is located at 135 N. Grand Ave. Parking is free in The Music Center parking garage.

For information, visit holidaycelebration.org.



photo courtesy of Timothy Norris/The Music Center

The annual celebration will include live performances on Christmas Eve in The Music Center’s Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

New sculpture spreads love in Beverly Hills

“The Heart Hand” sculpture is a tribute to love and unity, celebrating the admiration that both residents and visitors feel for the world-renowned city of Beverly Hills. It symbolizes Beverly Hills as a beacon of luxury, creativity and inclu-

sivity, capturing the spirit of its cultural identity.

The work was commissioned by Jason Aftalion, who immediately envisioned Dr. Simon Ourian as the ideal artist to bring it to life. Together, they joined forces to cre-

ate a landmark destined to resonate with the city’s legacy. The hand-heart gesture was chosen for its universal appeal, transcending language barriers, cultural boundaries and geographical divides. Within the context of Beverly Hills, it embodies the city’s welcoming nature and invites everyone to experience its charm, sophistication and timeless elegance.

This sculpture is designed to reflect the love, beauty and unity that define Beverly Hills. It will serve as a cultural and emotional touchstone for residents, visitors and workers alike – a place for celebration, reflection and connection. Ourian described Beverly Hills as more than a location – it is a global icon of beauty, elegance and the pursuit of excellence, perfectly captured in this monumental work of art.

The sculpture can be seen at two locations: across the street from the Beverly Hills sign in Beverly Gardens Park, at 9439 Santa Monica Blvd; and on the corner of the 9600 block of Sunset Boulevard and N. Crescent Drive.



photo courtesy of Jason Aftalion

The new sculpture symbolizing love, beauty and unity can be seen across the street from the Beverly Hills Hotel.

Voyage to space at the California Science Center

The Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center’s Work In Progress Gallery offers a sneak peek at new exhibits and artifacts at the California Science Center.

Launched in June 2024, the Work in Progress Gallery displays space artifacts planned for the future Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center at the California Science Center. Large colorful renderings show how space artifacts in the Work in Progress Gallery will look when placed in new locations alongside hands-on exhibits.

December updates to the Work in Progress Gallery include the relocation of the Mercury-Redstone 2 Capsule (1961), the Gemini 11 Capsule (1966) and the Apollo Soyuz Command Module (1975). All three capsules have previously flown to space and are on loan from the National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution. A full-scale engineering model of the Viking Lander, the first U.S. spacecraft to successfully land on Mars (1976) joined the newly located collection in November. The Viking Lander is on loan from Lockheed Martin Corporation.

The artifacts were previously exhibited on the second floor of the Science Center, but their new temporary location provides a rare opportunity to display the capsules to the public outside of their traditional working cases due to the optimal levels of light, temperature and humidity inside the Work in Progress Gallery.

The Work in Progress Gallery also features video and time-lapse media celebrating important milestones including Space Shuttle Endeavour’s historic arrival, the journey of External Tank ET-94, the transport of two solid rocket motors and the stacking process to

assemble the complete Space Shuttle System in launch position (Go for Stack). Also included are time-lapse construction progress and a detailed scale model of the future Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center.

The California Science Center Foundation is fundraising to complete the ambitious project with \$370 million raised toward the \$425 million total project budget. To contribute and for information, visit endeavourla.org.

The California Science Center is located at 700 Exposition Park Drive. For information, visit californiasciencecenter.org.



photo courtesy of the California Science Center

The Mercury-Redstone 2 Capsule, left, Gemini 11 Capsule and Apollo Soyuz Command Module are on display in the Work In Progress Gallery at the California Science Center.

Costume guild nominees announced

The Costume Designers Guild has announced the official nominees list for the 27th Costume Designers Guild Awards.

Celebrating excellence in film, television, short form costume design and costume illustration, the annual CDGA ceremony will take place on Thursday, Feb. 6, at The Ebell of Los Angeles. Winners in the nine categories will be announced live at the event.

Western Costume returns as a Premiere Sponsor of the 27th CDGA. The host, presenters and additional sponsors and honorees will be announced in the coming weeks. For information on the awards show, please visit the

CDGA on X, Instagram and Facebook.

“I am thrilled to congratulate all the nominees for this year’s CDGA. Your exceptional creativity and dedication continue to elevate the art of costume design. We look forward to celebrating your incredible achievements on this magical evening. Best wishes to each nominee,” said Terry Gordon, president of the Costume Designers Guild, IATSE Local 892.

Among the nominees are “Conclave,” “Emilia Pérez,” “Wicked,” “Hacks,” “FEUD: Capote vs. The Swans,” “Dancing With the Stars” and “Agatha All Along.”

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BHUSD embarks on new board era

From page 1

was struck by a stolen vehicle near the “Rodeo Nights, Holiday Lights” celebration on Nov. 14. Because he is still recovering and cannot fully move his right arm,

Stuart’s daughter stood next to him at the installation ceremony, helping him raise his right hand to be sworn in.

In his speech, Stuart thanked law enforcement for apprehending the suspect, and thanked the com-

munity and his family for supporting him through his injuries. He outlined his vision for his term on the school board.

“As I take on this new role, I am guided by the principles I’ve championed throughout this campaign,” Stuart said. “We want a district that values academic excellence, safety, transparency and accountability.”

The board also re-installed Dr. Amanda Stern, a school psychologist who was the most recent board president.

The school district bid farewell to Noah Margo, a board member who completed his final term after 13 years on the school board. He thanked his BHUSD colleagues and offered words of encouragement toward the incoming school board members.

“Bring solutions, not problems. Plenty of folks will bring you problems,” Margo said to the new board. “Work together, not apart. There are always five of you. Clean up your own mess. Say you’re sorry when you hurt somebody. Be aware of wonder, it’s what keeps us young. Think what a better board it would be if the whole board listened to each other



photo by Tabor Brewster

Firearms dealer and security professional Russell Stuart, center, was sworn in by Beverly Hills City Councilman John Mirisch. Stuart’s daughter helped him raise his right hand.

and those around you, and did not jump to conclusions. Live a balanced life, you are not just board members.”

Rachelle Marcus was sworn in as board president and Judy Manouchehri was sworn in as vice president.

The ceremony was attended by many leaders in the Beverly Hills community, including Councilman Craig Corman, BHPD Chief Mark Stainbrook, Deputy City Manager Keith Sterling and leadership from the Beverly Hills Education Foundation and PTA.



photo by Tabor Brewster

Construction contractor Sigalie Sabag, left, was sworn in by Beverly Hills Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian.

WeHo council ready to tackle issues facing city

From page 1

make our streets safer and better. We’ve done this on Melrose, we’re planning for it on Beverly and we are, and will, do it on Santa Monica Boulevard and Fountain Avenue, where I live,” he said. “There have been too many crashers, too many speeders, and sadly, one too many deaths, that occurred as a result of our outdated infrastructure. While the incoming administration will prove a challenge for federal funding, we must look to our resourceful diversity here at home to transform our streets and make them all better.”

The council also voted for its next mayor and vice mayor, roles that will be filled by current-Vice Mayor Chelsea Byers and Councilman John Heilman. While Heilman has served several terms as mayor – more than any other person in West Hollywood history, in fact – this will be his first time holding the title of vice mayor, a role that was previously called mayor pro tempore.

“I look forward to working with Mayor Byers in the upcoming year,” Heilman told the Beverly Press. “In her two years on council, she has demonstrated a kind and thoughtful approach to governance. I’m certain she will carry that attitude forward during her term as mayor.”

Dozens of local officials and community members appeared at the ceremony, with many offering well wishes to Erickson and Hang, including Assessor Prang.

“You’re smart,” Prang said to Hang. “You work hard. You care about people. You bring a great deal of passion and innovative ideas to the council, and I can’t wait to see how you thrive [and] the thumb print that you put in the legacy of this city. Mr. Mayor, you are just a force of nature. It’s a pleasure to watch you grow over the years. I remember when you came to City Hall just as an intern, and to see the public official that you’ve become over the years has been

really remarkable to watch.”

“I want you to know that the county is here to be your partner in this work,” Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, said in a pre-recorded message. “Together, we can address the most pressing challenges facing our communities, from ensuring housing stability, to promoting economic growth to protect our most vulnerable so that West Hollywood continues to thrive.”

The current council also offered advice for Hang as he sat on the dais for the first time.

“Listen to all your residents, even the ones who didn’t vote for you,” Councilwoman Lauren Meister said. “All voices need to be heard, and all voices have something to offer ... you can take a ‘no prisoners’ approach, but that’s really good for an activist, and it doesn’t always work for governing. So, think about, sometimes compromise is OK. If it improves the situation, if it moves the needle, you can compromise without compromising your values. And so I hope that this council can work together to move that needle forward in a way that all of our residents feel heard.”

Byers will officially take on mayorship on Jan. 13.

“We are at an exciting moment as a city with so many new programs and projects rolling out, and we have such an important role to play in the conversation happening across the country about how to make our communities more inclusive for everyone,” Byers told the Beverly Press. “I grew up in a different state and found community in West Hollywood ... by building bridges and working towards shared goals I believe collaboration is the heart of what makes government work and I’m looking forward to coming together with my colleagues, the community and our world class city staff to ensure West Hollywood has a strong and bright future ahead.”

Metro D Line takes holiday hiatus, then full speed ahead

Metro is restoring sidewalks, curbs and streets along Wilshire Boulevard from Wilshire/Western to Wilshire/La Cienega as part of D Line subway extension construction.

Work continues in late December on the project, which runs from Wilshire/Western to the Westwood/VA Hospital station. Section One from Wilshire/Western to Wilshire/La Cienega will open at the end of 2025, Section Two to the Century City/Constellation station will open in 2026 and Section Three to the Westwood/VA Hospital station will open in 2027.

Street restoration is ongoing through January along Wilshire Boulevard at the eastern end near Wilshire/Western. Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction between Oxford Avenue and St. Andrews Place. Left turns are prohibited from Wilshire Boulevard to Western Avenue and from eastbound Wilshire Boulevard to northbound St. Andrews Place.

Work is also ongoing at street level near the Wilshire/La Brea and Wilshire/Fairfax subway stations. K-Rail work zones remain in place between Wilshire/La Brea and Wilshire/Detroit, and in the middle of Wilshire Boulevard between Courtyard Place and Masselin Avenue. Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction between Ridgely Drive and Curson Avenue. Left turns are prohibited along Wilshire Boulevard near the work zone.

Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in each direction at La Jolla Avenue through March. A K-rail enclosure is located on the west side of the



photo by Edwin Folven

Street restoration work is ongoing through January near Wilshire/La Brea.

Wilshire/La Jolla intersection to accommodate cross passage work.

Work is ongoing at and around the Wilshire/La Cienega station. A K-rail work zone will remain in place along the north side of Wilshire Boulevard, which is reduced to two lanes in each direction between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards. Northbound La Cienega Boulevard will also be reduced to two lanes just north of Wilshire Boulevard.

At the Wilshire/Rodeo station, crews are working in construction staging areas. After the holidays, up to 18 full weekend street closures of Wilshire Boulevard are planned between Crescent and El Camino drives. The closures will facilitate deck removal and street restoration and will run from 8 p.m. on Friday through 7 a.m. the following Monday. Beverly Drive will also be closed at Wilshire Boulevard when work takes place.

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

At Century City/Constellation, the crews are working on the subway station and concrete placement, storm drain construction and side structure work. Partial traffic lane closures are in place on Constellation Boulevard for daytime station construction and material deliveries. Eastbound and westbound vehicle access on Constellation Boulevard is being maintained between Century Park West and Century Park East.

No work will occur on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, the first night of Hanukkah (Dec. 25), New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day. For questions and concerns about the D Line Extension project, call the 24-hour project hotline at (213)922-6934, email the team at purplelineext@metro.net, or visit metro.net.

BHPD checkpoint results in two citations

The Beverly Hills Police Department held a DUI checkpoint on Dec. 13 from 7 p.m.-2 a.m. at North Santa Monica Boulevard and Crescent Drive.

During the operation, 1,470 vehicles passed through the checkpoint and 150 drivers were screened. Two

drivers were cited for operating a vehicle without a valid driver’s license.

DUI checkpoint locations are selected based on data indicating a history of impaired driving-related crashes. The primary purpose of DUI checkpoints is to promote pub-

lic safety by removing suspected impaired drivers from the road.

Funding for the checkpoint was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Assembly District 51 awards Pink's as Small Business of the Year

From page 1

young and emerging talent in the field, Rance Collins of the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News ... Rance's love for his community is clear in his writing, as well as his desire to uplift the LGBTQ+ community."

Zbur praised Collins' coverage of local issues – reporting that has included illuminating LGBTQ+ stories and examining the implications of the overturning of Roe v. Wade in California.

"Rance is an impressive young journalist and I know he'll continue to demonstrate the skill, integrity and genuine kindness he has brought to his career so far," Zbur said.

In his acceptance speech, Collins highlighted the role of local journalism in a democracy.

"Misinformation is rampant in our society, and if there is not a truth base at the local level, there can never be truth at the national level," Collins said.

He celebrated his personal journey – following his dreams from humble beginnings in a small Texas town to becoming an award-winning journalist in Los Angeles, while also finding acceptance as a member of the LGBTQ+ community.

"I dreamed big my whole life, and I dreamed of being in a place where there was love and acceptance and community that I could be a part of, so I came to Los Angeles. I've been here for 14 years and I've kept trying and I've kept asking, 'L.A. please make me be a part of you, please let me be accepted.' And today, I feel like I'm home," Collins said.

Following the awards ceremony, attendees enjoyed light refreshments and hot dogs from Pink's Hot Dogs –an L.A. institution which received the Assembly District 51 Small Business of the Year Award. Zbur recognized the 85-year-old eatery as an iconic landmark on La Brea Avenue near Melrose Avenue – now called "Pink's Square" – and as a family business that has consistently given back to the community through its annual charity program.

Beverly Hills drugstore and restaurant Mickey Fine Pharmacy also received a Small Business of the Year Award. The family-owned business opened in 1962 and has been a staple of Roxbury Drive ever since, providing essential medical care while also serving breakfast and lunch in an old-school diner setting.

Former Beverly Hills mayors Lili Bosse and Julian Gold were hon-

ored with the Community Excellence Award for Distinguished Service in Local Government.

Additional honorees included: AD51 Woman of the Year Award – Lillian Raffel; AD51 Man of the Year Award – Tod Hallman; AD51 Nonprofit of the Year Award – Williams Institute; AD51 Community Excellence Award for LGBTQ+ Inclusion and Visibility – Dustin Lance Black, Tom Daley; AD51 Community Excellence Award for Combating Antisemitism – Dena Bloom, Lauryn Harris, Jonah Platt; AD51 Community Excellence Award for Distinguished Service in Local Government – Glean Davis; AD51 Community Excellence Award for Social Justice – Rabbi Mari Chernow of Temple Israel Hollywood, Hollywood Food Coalition; AD51 Community Excellence Award for Animal Advocacy – Vanderpump Dog Foundation; AD51 Community Excellence Award for Neighborhood and National Advocacy – Brian Colker, Susan Sheu; AD51 Community Excellence Award for Environmental Protection – Marian Dodge; AD51 Community Excellence Award for Public Safety Advocacy – Melrose Action, Danny Lee; and AD51 Community Excellence Award for Homelessness Advocacy – Kerry Morrison.



photo courtesy of Pink's Hot Dogs
Pink's Hot Dogs, which catered the reception, was honored with the Assembly District 51 Small Business of the Year Award.

Bromaghim chosen as Yaroslavsky's new chief of staff

From page 1

"I'm grateful to Council President Harris-Dawson for trusting me with these roles. Serving as chair of the Budget Committee and vice chair of the Energy and Environment Committee both carry big responsibilities, especially as we navigate the city's current financial challenges," Yaroslavsky said. "This moment calls for effective management and prudent leadership to address our current financial situation while advancing priorities that will meaningfully improve our daily lives. My team and I are ready to get to work."

Bromaghim will assist the council member and her staff in preparing for the Los Angeles Olympics and Paralympic Games. She most recently served as Mayor Karen Bass' deputy mayor of international affairs, building connections with international partners and leading efforts to expand investment, international relations and trade, and educational and cultural exchange.

"I am so excited to step into this role and to support the councilwoman and the people of Council District 5," Bromaghim said. "I want to thank Mayor Bass for the opportunity to serve on her senior staff and to learn from her fearless leadership, and to express my gratitude to Gary for building such a talented and capable team."

"Erin Bromaghim is one of the most effective and hardworking people at City Hall. Whether it's tackling complex challenges or finding opportunities to bring people together, Erin gets it done," Yaroslavsky said. "I'm thrilled

she'll be leading our team's efforts to deliver for the residents of Council District 5, and I know she's ready to hit the ground running."

Bromaghim's service to the city started in 2017, leading Olympic and Paralympic Development during the tenure of former Mayor Eric Garcetti. She helped Los Angeles meet the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Bromaghim also previously served in the U.S. Department of Defense for 13 years, managing budget, defense, intelligence and security reforms.

Gero has been chief of staff since Yaroslavsky took office in December 2022. During his tenure, the district experienced a 15% year-over-year reduction in street homelessness. The office also secured the single largest funding increase for domestic violence survivors, significant changes to the proposed Television City project to reduce its impact on surrounding communities and funding for the city's first Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, Yaroslavsky said. The plan will provide a framework for the city to enforce sustainability goals, combat climate change and strengthen communities.

"It has been the privilege of my career to serve Councilwoman Yaroslavsky and the residents of the 5th District," Gero said. "It was also a completion of a circle for me personally as I started my career in this city 35 years ago. I am grateful to Katy for the opportunity and her trust and am glad to turn over the reins to the next generation of leaders who will move our communities and this city forward."

Beverly Hills announces Golden Globes street closures

The 82nd annual Golden Globe Awards ceremony will take place at the Beverly Hilton on Sunday, Jan. 5. Partial lane and full street closures will take place in the city of Beverly Hills on Wilshire Boulevard and North Santa Monica Boulevard. Residents are advised to use alternate east-west routes such as South Santa Monica, Olympic, Pico and Sunset boulevards.

Residential streets surrounding the venue will be posted with no-parking signs. For information and the complete list of closures, visit beverlyhills.org/goldenglobes.

North Santa Monica Boulevard will have a westbound curb lane closure, west of Wilshire Boulevard beginning at 10 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 29, through 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 8. North Santa Monica Boulevard will have a full westbound closure – a complete sidewalk and street closure from Wilshire Boulevard to Century Park East – from 9 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 3, through 5 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 6.

North Santa Monica Boulevard will have an eastbound full closure

– a complete sidewalk and street closure from Century Park East to Wilshire Boulevard – from 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 4, through 5 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 6.

South Santa Monica Boulevard will remain open in both directions.

Wilshire Boulevard will have eastbound/westbound lane reductions taking place at 9 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 4. Wilshire Boulevard will have an eastbound/westbound full closure – a complete lane closure of Wilshire Boulevard between Comstock Avenue and South Santa Monica Boulevard – from 5 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 5 until 5 a.m. Monday, Jan. 6.

Eastbound lanes of Wilshire Boulevard will have a limited closure at Beverly Glen Boulevard with local access only to residents in the 10200 – 10300 blocks of Wilshire Boulevard beginning at 9 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 4 until 5 a.m. Monday, Jan. 6.

Whittier Drive, Carmelita Avenue, Elevado Avenue, Lomitas Avenue, Trenton Drive and adjacent alleys will have limited clo-

sures beginning at 5 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 5, to 5 a.m. Monday, Jan. 6.

Parking will be completely restricted – with no exceptions – from 5 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 5, through 5 a.m. Monday, Jan. 6, on the following streets: Whittier Drive – Wilshire Boulevard to Elevado Avenue; Carmelita Avenue – Wilshire Boulevard to Walden Drive; Elevado Avenue – Wilshire Boulevard to Walden Drive; Trenton Drive – Whittier Drive to Wilshire Boulevard; Walden Drive – Santa Monica Boulevard to Elevado Avenue; Lomitas Avenue – Wilshire Boulevard to Walden Drive.

For residents without permit parking, a parking exemption can be obtained by contacting the city's parking exemption line at (310)285-2548 or by visiting beverlyhills.org/parkingexemptions.

For questions and concerns before the day of the event, call the askBH customer service line at (310)285-1000 from 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and the after-hours Golden Globes hotline that will be active on Sunday, Jan. 5, from 2-8 p.m. at (310)550-4680.

Registration open for Griffith Park Run, Feb. 2

Participants can now register for the Griffith Park Run Half Marathon and 5K – which will take place on Sunday, Feb. 2, at 4730 Crystal Springs Drive – and will benefit the Los Angeles Parks Foundation and Los Angeles City Parks. The race is open to runners and walkers of all ages and abilities, as well as pets, with a course that takes participants through the scenic trails of Griffith Park with minimal hills. As the only half marathon that covers all the main trails in Griffith Park, participants can enjoy the backdrop of iconic landmarks such as the Old Pony Ride, Merry-Go-Round, Travel Town, L.A. Zoo and Autry

Museum. The 5K route will be flat, scenic and shaded. Rewards will be given to the first male and female runners who reach the last peak. All finishers will be awarded medals designed by Los Angeles-based artist, Beatriz Mojarro.

Promising a great family day out, the half marathon will begin at 7:30 a.m. and the 5K race will begin at 10 a.m. Registration fees include raffle items, commemorative die cast medal, a premium t-shirt and access to sampling booths. Parking will be located off Crystal Springs Road. All proceeds will benefit Los Angeles Parks Foundation.

For information and to register, visit runggpr.com.



photo courtesy of LA Parks Foundation
It's never too early to start planning for the new year. Register now for the Griffith Park Fun Run.

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