

BH Wellness Network will help ease emergency costs

■ Program reduces fees with annual subscription

BY TABOR BREWSTER

It's no secret that life-saving medical care in the U.S. can be costly. For many facing a sudden medical emergency, an ambulance ride alone can result in thousands of dollars not covered by insurance, often in a surprise bill. According to a 2022 study by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, California has the highest median out-of-pocket ambulance bill at \$1,209. To ease the ex-

penses for residents, the city of Beverly Hills and Beverly Hills Fire Department are introducing a cost-reducing program called the BH Wellness Network. For \$90 a year, the city will cover costs of paramedic services left uncovered by insurance.

Beverly Hills Fire Chief Greg Barton said the program started as a collaboration between the fire department and the city.

"The mayor and I had some

See **Beverly Hills** page 21



photo by Tabor Brewster

The BH Wellness Network will help reduce costs for emergency services provided by the Beverly Hills Fire Department for a \$90 annual fee.

BHUSD liable for \$10 million to abuse victim

■ Sexual abuse occurred between 1978 and 1981

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Unified School District must pay \$9.6 million to a former student who was sexually abused by a teacher between 1978 and 1981, a jury ruled on Nov. 26.

Laurie Siegman filed a lawsuit against former Beverly Hills High School teacher and baseball coach Henry "Hank" Friedman and the Beverly Hills Unified School District in 2020 alleging that Friedman sexually abused her and that BHUSD knew that Friedman was unfit to be employed at the time.

Friedman and the BHUSD admitted in the trial that Friedman molested Siegman when she was between 15 and 18 years old. However, the district argued that it did not know at the time that Friedman posed a threat to



photo by Tabor Brewster

Former Beverly Hills High School student Laurie Siegman was abused by a former teacher in the late 1970s.

students. Several of Friedman's other alleged victims also testified during the trial. In addition to the BHUSD, the jury agreed that Friedman must pay \$6.4 million

to Siegman, for a total of \$16 million in damages awarded to Siegman.

See **BHUSD** page 22

County approves law to unmask agents

■ Supporters call for more protections

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a measure on Dec. 2 to create an ordinance prohibiting law enforcement officers, including federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, from wearing masks or concealing their identities while on duty in unincorporated areas of the county.

The measure, authored by Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th District, and co-authored by Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, was approved 4-0, with Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th District, abstaining over concerns about the county lacking power to enforce the law. The measure came in response to numerous instances throughout the Los Angeles area since June where masked federal authorities have targeted and arrested people during immigration enforcement operations.

"I never thought I would see the day when a masked, anonymous federal police force would be swarming our neighborhoods targeting people based on the color of their skin or the language they speak, and forcing men and women into unmarked vans at gunpoint. This is how an authoritarian's secret police operate –



photo by Edwin Folven

Immigrant rights groups demonstrated outside the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration on Dec. 2.

not legitimate law enforcement in a democracy," Hahn said. "This is about our residents' constitutional rights."

"Adopting this ordinance is a direct response to the federal government's shameful targeting of immigrant communities in Los Angeles County. No law enforcement officer should ever be allowed to hide behind a mask or conceal their identity while operating in our neighborhoods – not ICE, not anyone," Horvath

said. "If their actions are truly in the public's interest, they should be willing to stand openly behind them. In Los Angeles County, transparency is not optional, and no agency gets to operate in the shadows to terrorize our residents."

The supervisors acknowledged that the ordinance will likely be challenged in court by the federal government, and it is unclear how the county will enforce the

See **ICE** page 22

Delivery robots keep rolling down West Hollywood streets

■ Council discusses potential improvements for program, streets

BY RANCE COLLINS

West Hollywood approved its contract with Coco and Serve for delivery robot operation within the city, following a multiyear pilot program, at its Dec. 1 City Council meeting. Although it was approved, some concerns were raised by the council members, particularly with how much revenue the city gleans from partnerships and what potential sidewalk upgrades are needed in order for the robots to operate without impeding foot traffic.

"The biggest benefit is cutting down on car trips and emissions from those short deliveries, which really supports our cli-

mate action goals," Councilman Danny Hang said. "It also helps our restaurants stay competitive in this modern delivery world by giving them another reliable way to reach customers. The council's actions set clear rules so the robots operate safely and predictably, keeping sidewalks accessible for everyone. It's about embracing smart technology in a way that works for both people and the businesses that rely on it."

"The biggest benefit of delivery robots is that they reduce traffic congestion and cut down on short-trip vehicle deliveries, which improves safety and sustainability," Councilman John Erickson said following the meeting. "The steps the council took ensure robots operate only where it's safe and predictable,

See **Robots** page 21

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Marcus Miller

Catalina Jazz Club welcomes multi-instrumentalist and two-time Grammy winner Marcus Miller for six performances over three nights from Thursday, Dec. 4, through Saturday, Dec. 6. Miller is highly proficient as a keyboardist, clarinetist, bass clarinetist and electric bassist. He has more than 500 recording credits with musical artists such as Donald Fagen, Eric Clapton, George Benson, Dizzy Gillespie, Wayne Shorter, Roberta Flack, Paul Simon and Mariah Carey.. Showtimes are 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$57. 6725 W. Sunset Blvd. catalinajazzclub.com.



LACMA art talk

Join artist Zheng Chongbin at a screening of his work “Branches are Roots in the Sky” followed by a conversation with curator Susie Ferrell on Friday, Dec. 5, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The film, which explores topological variations in water and the etching of riverways through a landmass, forms a triptych with the two other video works in his exhibition “Golden State.” Through abstract forms and distorted views of California’s natural landscape, Zheng explores water, light and movement. LACMA’s Resnick Pavilion, 5905 Wilshire Blvd. lacma.org.



‘La Virgen de Guadalupe’

Latino Theater Company’s annual holiday pageant “La Virgen de Guadalupe, Dios Inantzin,” returns on Friday, Dec. 5, and Saturday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, downtown. The production tells the story of Juan Diego, a peasant to whom the Virgin Mary appeared on four occasions in 1531 in the mountains of Tepeyac, near Mexico City. Starring Esperanza América as the Virgin and Sal Lopez as Diego, the cast features over 100 actors, singers and indigenous Aztec dancers, as well as children and senior citizens from the community. General admission is free; premium seating is available for \$45. 555 W. Temple St. (213)489-0994, latinotheaterco.org.



‘31 Candles’

Enjoy the L.A. premiere of Jonah Feingold’s film “31 Candles” on Friday, Dec. 5, at 8 p.m. at the Lumiere Cinema-Music Hall 3 in Beverly Hills. When a Jewish film director who makes Christmas movies in New York City decides to have his bar mitzvah at the age of 31, he must navigate “situationships,” exes and family to complete his mitzvah project and impress his childhood crush. 9036 Wilshire Blvd. lumierecinemala.com/film-31-candles.

Spanish art at Getty Center

The Getty Center is holding “Luis de Morales: A Close Look at a Spanish Renaissance Painting” on Saturday, Dec. 6, at 11 a.m. The recently rediscovered work “Christ Carrying the Cross” by Luis de Morales – one of the defining painters of 16th-century Spain – represents a key expansion of the Getty’s collection of 16th century Spanish paintings. The in-depth talk provides illuminating context, including discussion of the painting’s place within Morales’ body of work, its subject and iconography and comparison to several closely related versions of the same subject by Morales. Also, learn insights about the artist’s process that were discovered during the painting’s conservation treatment at Getty. “Christ Carrying the Cross” is on view in the North Pavilion, Gallery N205 at the Getty Center Museum. Admission is free. 1200 Getty Center Drive. getty.edu.

Art of Brian Paeper

CMAY Gallery presents “Where Are You From?,” the first exhibition at the gallery by Los Angeles-based artist Brian Paeper running from Saturday, Dec. 6, through Saturday, Jan. 31. In his new body of work, Paeper constructs meticulously crafted collages using original Fortune magazines from the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. The vintage gravure printing infuses each work with the patina of another era. An opening reception will be held on Dec. 6 from 4-6 p.m. 5828 Wilshire Blvd. cmaygallery.com.

Joe Praml’s ‘Christmas Story’

Celebrate “The Night That Changed the World, a Christmas Story,” written by long-time West Hollywood resident and playwright Joe Praml, on Sunday, Dec. 7, from 11:10 a.m.-noon at St. Ambrose Church. Performed by Joe Praml Readers, the production describes the holiday from its origins, opposition and acceptance by the

church and how it became the holiday practiced today. The Joe Praml Readers was formed in memory of the late Praml, who frequently performed free poetry readings. Donations are appreciated. 1281 N. Fairfax Ave. (323)656-4433, stambrosewho.org.

Friends of Beverly Hills Library

Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library is holding a half-off sale on all books over \$1 from Sunday, Dec. 7, through Wednesday, Dec. 24, at the library. The nonprofit supports services at the Beverly Hills Public Library, raising funds and sponsoring activities that supplement, enhance and enrich the library’s collections and programs. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Saturday; noon-4 p.m., Sunday. 444 N. Rexford Drive. friendsofbhpl.org.

‘Child of Dust’

The Museum of Tolerance is hosting a special screening of “Child of Dust” on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 5 p.m. The film explores the generational effects of war as it follows Sang, one of many children fathered by American soldiers who left their children behind in Vietnam. Forced to grow up without his father, Sang chooses to risk everything for a chance to meet the gravely ill man and find a sense of belonging. A Q&A session with director Weronika Mliczewska, producer Bao Nguyen and protagonist Sang Ngô Thanh, moderated by Academy Award-nominated director Jessica Kingdon, follows the film. Admission is free; RSVP required. 9786 W Pico Blvd. museumoftolerance.com.

Holocaust talk

Holocaust Museum L.A. is holding “What History Teaches: Isolationism, Immigration, and the World Watching,” an online discussion with Dr. Daniel Greene of Northwestern University on Tuesday, Dec. 9, from 10-11 a.m. Learn about the United States’ reaction to Hitler’s rise to power and the persecution of Jews, focusing specifically on restrictive immigration policy, isolationist sentiment and the consequences of American inaction. holocaustmuseumla.org.

Contracting webinar

Small business owners are invited to attend “Navigating L.A. County and Metro Contracting Opportunities,” a free virtual workshop on Tuesday, Dec. 9, from 4-5:30 p.m. Metro Board member and Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, will present information on the regional Contractor Development and Bonding Program’s services and benefits. To register, visit bit.ly/4ITn8NJ.

‘Kimono in Hollywood’

Join Japan Foundation, Los Angeles for “Kimono in Hollywood,” a lecture and demonstration on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 8:30 p.m. Experience the artistry of Sueko Oshimoto, a master Japanese costume designer bridging tradition and innovation. Based in Los Angeles and Japan, her work spans Hollywood productions such as “Shōgun” and top fashion magazines including VOGUE. Oshimoto shares insights into kimono design in film and behind-the-scenes stories from her projects and presents a live kimono demonstration celebrating the timeless beauty and modern evolution of Japan’s iconic attire. Admission is free; RSVP required. 5700 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 100. jflalc.org/event-details.php/317/kimono-in-hollywood.



photo by Tabor Brewster

The union representing Beverly Hills Police Department officers and sergeants ratified the agreement on Nov. 24.

Beverly Hills reaches labor agreement with BHPOA

■ Contract approved by officers after months of negotiations

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The city of Beverly Hills and Beverly Hills Police Officers Association reached a labor contract agreement for 2025-29. The BHPOA, a labor union representing all BHPD sergeants and officers, ratified the contract on Nov. 24. The Beverly Hills City Council will vote on formal approval at its Dec. 16 meeting. “We are pleased that the city of Beverly Hills and the Beverly Hills Police Officers Association have come to an agreement regarding the terms of a new four-year contract,” Mayor Sharona Nazarian said. “There is nothing more important than a healthy collaboration with the incredible men and women who continue to protect our community. We remain focused on the safety and security of our residents, businesses and visitors, and this agreement supports the unified approach needed to protect and serve our community.” “I’m super happy, super thankful the City Council have come to

an agreement,” BHPOA President Christian Bond said. “It was a long haul.” Negotiations began in January and took place amid tension between Beverly Hills Police Chief Mark Stainbrook and officers in the department. The BHPOA issued a vote of no confidence in Stainbrook on June 11, after members raised concerns about his leadership. Additionally, on July 18, the BHPOA sent Stainbrook a cease and desist letter that alleged he circulated false rumors and took retaliatory actions against Bond. In response, the city said Stainbrook met with individual police officers “to keep lines of communication open and solicit feedback.” The new four-year contract will expire on June 30, 2029. It includes a 3.5% cost of living increase for officers and a lump sum payment of \$1,500, both effective immediately. On July 1, 2026, officers will receive a base salary increase of 6%, followed by a 5% increase on July 1, 2027, and a 5% increase on July 1, 2028. Officers with bachelors, masters and advanced degrees and advanced training certi-

See Beverly Hills page 20

L.A. council advances plan seeking options with SB 79

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles City Council on Dec. 2 unanimously approved a motion calling on the Department of City Planning to further analyze how Senate Bill 79 will affect neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles, and how the city may be able to mitigate the impacts. SB 79, which was authored by state Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) and signed into law on Oct. 10, establishes state zoning standards around rail stations and primary bus lines, allowing large multi-family buildings within a half mile of major transit stops. The legislation’s goal is to create more affordable housing in densely populated urban areas near public transportation. The Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Karen Bass opposed SB 79 because it removes city control over zoning. Under the state law, buildings seven to nine stories tall could be constructed in neighborhoods such as Hancock Park and the

Miracle Mile due to their proximity to stations on the D Line subway under Wilshire Boulevard and dedicated bus lanes on Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue. The City Council approved the motion on Dec. 2 to further consider options regarding SB 79 by a 15-0 vote, without discussion. The council allocated \$375,000 to the Department of City Planning to procure the software and technical support necessary for mapping and modeling analyses to see how the city may delay or prevent implementation of SB 79. The state law includes exemptions if cities designate certain areas as historic, and also provides mechanisms for delayed effectuation is the city takes steps to increase housing. The Planning Department is expected to return to the council with a report on options by Jan. 5. The council must act by March to implement a plan for delayed effectuation, because any plan must be approved by the state before SB 79 takes effect on July 1, 2026.

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Mirisch seeks fifth term on Beverly Hills council

■ Councilman will challenge city’s term limits

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Beverly Hills City Councilman John Mirisch announced that he intends to run for a fifth term on the City Council, challenging the city’s term limits. The next City Council election is on June 2, 2026. Three seats will be up for election including that of Mirisch, Mayor Sharona Nazarian and Councilman Lester Friedman.

In 2022, Beverly Hills voters passed Measure TL, which established a three-term limit for City Council members during their lifetime. However, in the same election where Measure TL was passed,

Mirisch was elected to a fourth term in office. Measure TL indicated that a council member’s previous terms should be counted when determining when a term limit is reached.

But in 2012, then-California Attorney General Kamala Harris issued an opinion that stated terms served before a local term limit ordinance is passed do not count toward term limits.

“A term served on a town council that was served prior to the effective date of a local initiative term-limit ordinance may not be counted against the term limit imposed by that ordinance,” the opinion read.

Mirisch has cited the opinion in his argument that he is entitled to seek another term. His attorney recently sent a letter to the city stating his intention to run again.

“The city has taken an interpreta-

tion that no other city has done,” Mirisch said in an interview. “All other cities, including for example West Hollywood, that have instituted term limits, did not count previously served terms. It seems pretty clear.”

The city of West Hollywood approved a measure in 2013 that limits City Council members to three four-year terms. However, unlike the Beverly Hills measure, the West Hollywood term limits were not retroactive. Councilman John Heilman has served for all but two years on the City Council since the city was incorporated in 1984. His current term will be his last due to the term limits that were enacted in 2013.

Mirisch said he is open to considering the city’s argument, and has not heard back from the city since

his attorney sent the letter stating his intention to run.

“I think we’ve made very good arguments. If [the city] come[s] back and there was a case we missed or there was another case that we weren’t aware of that strengthens their case and their argument, then I think we’d be open to discussing that,” Mirisch said. “In theory, hopefully if it makes sense they’ll say ‘yes we agree and this is the interpretation.’ We just kind of have to wait and see. Hopefully that will happen soon.”

Beverly Hills City Attorney Laurence Wiener responded to a request for comment on behalf of the city.

“The city attorney’s office is in receipt of a letter from the attorneys representing Councilmember Mirisch indicating his desire to seek a fifth term on the City Council,” Wiener said in a statement.

Friedman was elected to the City



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills
John Mirisch has served more terms on the City Council than any council member in Beverly Hills.

Council in 2017 and 2022, and is currently serving his second term. Nazarian was elected to the council in 2022 and is currently serving her first term.

WeHo looks to cut red tape on production permits

BY RANCE COLLINS

The West Hollywood City Council unanimously approved a waiver pilot program for film and television production permits at its Dec. 1 meeting. West Hollywood is home to one of Los Angeles County’s most prominent studios, The Lot at Formosa on Santa Monica Boulevard. Additionally, the Sunset Strip and the Rainbow District have long been oft-shot filming locations.

“Cutting red tape makes it easier

and faster for productions to film in West Hollywood, which keeps jobs local and supports the small businesses that rely on film activity,” Councilman John Erickson said following the meeting. “Filming is part of our city’s cultural identity, and when productions stay here instead of going elsewhere, our community, our workers and our local economy all benefit. We need to do all we can to ease the restrictions on filming in WeHo, and I would encourage other cities to do so as well.”

The program would not start until the 2027 budget cycle as the city explores the best way to implement it.

“It gives time for this to be something that the region moves on, which I also know is something that the county is interested [in],” Mayor Chelsea Byers said during the meeting. “What would it look like to really send a message that the county wide is open for filming, rather than just sort of the city-by-city moment. So, I’m looking forward to telling that story as a region

moving forward through this this item. I’m also interested to see and watch as other cities explore their fee systems, all of the different sort of structural components that make filming a challenge, and to see what else we can learn as this time moves forward.”

The Lot, the location where Best Picture winners “The Best Years of Our Lives” and “West Side Story” were filmed, as well as hit series like “True Blood,” is the epicenter of the city’s production heartbeat. A recent item by the city also moved to protect The Lot, as well as other studio location, safe for the exclusive use of film and television production.

“Many of our residents work in the entertainment industry or in related jobs,” Vice Mayor John Heilman said after the meeting “We need to do everything possible to preserve the film industry in Southern California. Making it easier for filming to take place in West Hollywood helps residents who work in filming, but it also helps our hotels, restaurants and other businesses.”

Stay in LA, among other organizations, was key in bringing \$750 million in California tax incentives, but has also been advocating for local municipalities to make filming easier.

See WeHo page 6



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photo by Edwin Folven

The building that was struck by the vehicle was yellow-tagged, meaning it cannot be occupied until a permit is issued.

Man arrested for DUI after crash sends car into WeHo building

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A 23-year-old man was arrested for felony driving under the influence on Nov. 30 in West Hollywood after he caused a collision that resulted in another car crashing into a building.

The incident occurred at approximately 2:30 a.m. in the 8200 block of Santa Monica Boulevard, just east of Sweetzer Avenue. The suspect, Brenthon Rodriguez, was driving east-bound when he struck the rear of another vehicle traveling in the same direction, said Sgt. Omar Luevano, with the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station. The force of the impact caused the other driver to lose control and crash into a vacant building that formerly housed the Norah

restaurant at 8279 Santa Monica Blvd. Deputies arrived and noticed Rodriguez showed signs of alcohol impairment, Luevano said. After failing field sobriety tests, Rodriguez was arrested and booked at the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station. He was released later the same day on his own recognizance, pending upcoming court proceedings.

The driver of the vehicle that struck the building complained of pain but declined medical treatment, Luevano said.

The building struck by the vehicle is undergoing interior renovations. The city of West Hollywood yellow-tagged the building, which was boarded, until the building is determined to be structurally sound and a permit is issued.

Suspects steal jewelry in Larchmont Village burglary

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Detectives with the Los Angeles Police Department's Wilshire Division are investigating a burglary that occurred on Nov. 21 in Larchmont Village in which the perpetrators stole jewelry valued at \$130,000.

The burglary occurred at a residence in the 100 block of North Gower Street, located a block east of Larchmont Boulevard. The resident was away from home and received an alert around 9:20 p.m. from their security system that a break-in was in progress. The resident called police after remotely checking security camera footage and seeing two masked suspects wearing black clothing inside the residence.

The suspects had already fled the scene when officers arrived. Investigators determined the suspects entered the residence through a rear door. The type of jewelry

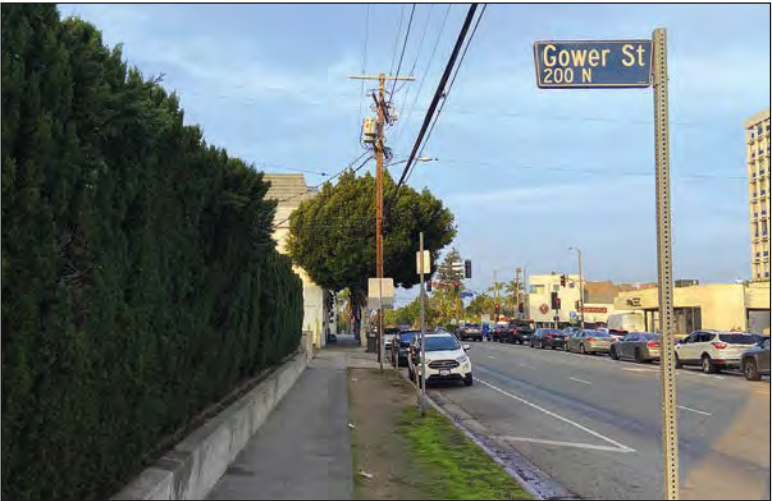


photo by Edwin Folven

The burglary occurred on a stretch on Gower Street between Beverly Boulevard and First Street.

stolen was not disclosed. Police are reviewing security camera footage from the surrounding neighborhood in an attempt to identify the suspects and their vehicle.

Anyone with information is urged to call the LAPD's Wilshire Division at (213)922-8205 and (213)473-0476. During weekends and off-hours, call (877)LAPD247.

Police search for suspect in stabbing near Melrose

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A man was stabbed and injured on Nov. 29 while walking to his parked car on Stanley Avenue after leaving a coffeehouse in the 7600 block of Melrose Avenue.

The victim sought medical attention on his own after the attack and called police from the hospital. Officers searched the neighborhood where the crime was reported but

were unable to find the suspect, who the victim said appeared to be homeless.

The stabbing occurred at approximately 12:30 p.m. The victim told police he left a Starbucks at the corner of Melrose and Stanley avenues and returned to his car when a man walked up and attacked him without provocation. The suspect pulled out a knife and stabbed the victim three times. The victim also sus-

tained two additional wounds to his left hand while defending himself. The suspect then fled the scene.

The victim got into his vehicle and drove to the Kaiser Permanente West Los Angeles Medical Center on Cadillac Avenue. He was treated for a one-inch laceration to his shoulder, a puncture wound below his left ear and an approximately half-inch laceration to the lower left

See **Suspect** page 20

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Kermit will leapfrog from L.A. to Atlanta

■ La Brea Avenue statue donated to Center for Puppetry Arts

BY TABOR BREWSTER

A statue on La Brea Avenue paying tribute to two icons of the silver screen – one known for his top hat and cane and the other known for his small green appearance – will soon hop from Hollywood to Atlanta. The statue at the entrance to the former Jim Henson Company Lot depicting Kermit the Frog dressed in Charlie Chaplin’s unmistakable wardrobe will be donated to the Center for the Puppetry Arts, the Jim Henson Company announced on Nov. 29.

“This Kermit-as-Chaplin statue represents a chapter in The Jim Henson Company’s story,” said Lisa Henson, daughter of Jim Henson and CEO of the Jim Henson Company. “We know that our friends at the Center for Puppetry Arts – who are such important partners in celebrating our history – will provide the per-

fect home where this part of the Henson legacy can be shared.”

The relocation of the Muppets’ leading frog follows the 2024 sale of the lot at 1416 N. La Brea Ave. to musician John Mayer and director McG for \$40 million. The Jim Henson Company has since moved its headquarters to Radford Studio Center in Studio City.

The statue will be placed on the campus of the Center for Puppetry Arts in Midtown, Atlanta. The center is the largest nonprofit dedicated to puppetry, and is home to the largest collection of Jim Henson artifacts in the world. It is unclear when the statue will be relocated and unveiled in Atlanta.

“Thanks to the generosity of the Henson family, including our board member Cheryl Henson, an iconic piece of Hollywood history will continue to delight fans from around the world,” said Beth Schiavo, executive director of the Center for Puppetry Arts. “We are deeply honored to be the new stewards of this joyful symbol of creativity, humor and storytelling.”

The Hollywood lot that will soon

say goodbye to its emblematic frog has a storied history, first serving as Chaplin’s film studio from 1919 to 1952. Between 1967 and 1999, the studio was home to A&M Records, where many of music’s biggest stars recorded, including for the 1985 “We Are the World” charity single. The recording session drew artists including Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, Bruce Springsteen, Cyndi Lauper and Bob Dylan, just to name a few. In 1999, the lot was purchased by the Jim Henson Company, which created the statue of Kermit in “The Little Tramp” attire as an homage to the site’s history.



photo courtesy of the Jim Henson Company

Kermit the Frog dressed as “The Little Tramp” has greeted passersby on La Brea Avenue for 25 years.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian met with Israeli President Isaac Herzog as part of the International Mayors Conference.

Nazarian attends International Mayors Conference in Israel

Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian recently traveled to Israel for the International Mayors Conference led by the American Jewish Congress and the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The conference topic, AI: Empowering the Cities of Tomorrow, brought together 25 mayors from 15 countries with a goal to strengthen cooperation, deepen exposure of Israeli innovation and explore how emerging

technologies can support municipalities. Nazarian toured innovation hubs and learned about AI-driven solutions. Nazarian also met with Israel’s President Isaac Herzog, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Foreign Minister Gideon Sa’ar, senior party leaders and several Israeli mayors, gaining a firsthand perspective on the country’s national and municipal priorities. For information, visit beverlyhills.org.

WeHo aims to make filming easier

From page 3

“Cutting red tape makes it easier and faster for productions to choose West Hollywood,” Councilman Danny Hang said following the meeting. “If we make the process smooth, we stay competitive and keep those jobs, dollars and local business boosts right here in our city. And waiving administrative film permitting fees is also a great incentive to attract production work in West Hollywood. Filming in WeHo keeps our creative identity strong. We are the Creative City, and West Hollywood is definitely the place where stories are made.”

Councilwoman Lauren Meister had a further suggestion

during the meeting to help continue streamlining the permit processes.

“I’ve heard that when there are separate streets being filmed, each street needs a permit, even though it’s the same project,” Meister said. “So maybe that’s something staff can look at.”

“This is not a problem that is just ours locally,” West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Genevieve Morrill said. “It’s a problem that is throughout the state of California, and the state has been trying to do their part, but it’s not enough. So, anything that we can do locally to help is really [appreciated].”

— BEVERLY HILLS —

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Ultimate Hollywood leading lady Sarah Paulson gets her star

BY RANCE COLLINS

Actress Sarah Paulson has graced Los Angeles’ storied studio lots time and again, appearing in a laundry list of films and television series that have been shot in the entertainment industry’s capital city. Now, she is immortalized forever on Hollywood’s most hallowed grounds. On Dec. 2, just west of Wilcox Avenue on Hollywood Boulevard, Paulson’s star on the Walk of Fame was unveiled.

“It is not lost on me what a privilege it is to be honored in this permanent, undeniable way,” Paulson said. “It signals, not only to me, but to every dreamer out there, that dreams can come true.”

As Ryan Murphy’s stalwart leading lady – the writer/producer has created 20 characters for the actress, from “American Horror Story” to “All’s Fair” – Paulson has become synonymous with Hollywood itself. Ryan Murphy Productions have remained committed to filming in Los Angeles, many of his shoots utilizing Hollywood’s own Paramount Studios lot. Paulson has, again and again, given Emmy-winning and nominated performances, in the heart of L.A., even as hundreds of productions have moved to other locations.

“I realize that maybe [acting] isn’t just a narcissistic endeavor to file yourself in front of others, hoping people clap and cheer, but perhaps it is a noble way to spend your time in aspiration,” Paulson said.

“Because in the chaos of our world, the practice of art feels vital to our survival as a society. I can think of nothing more powerful to answer life’s lonelier moments than to try to make one another feel seen.”

Her sometimes co-star and life partner Holland Taylor talked about the animal-like prowess of Paulson. “Nothing interferes with her laser perception of her character’s traits, its habitat, vulnerabilities, its heroism, its ugliness, terrible truths, its comic pathos,” Taylor said. “She zeroes in to a story’s central struggle, while most of us aren’t even aware of our own.”

Paulson’s best friend, actress Amanda Peet, shared a message from Pedro Pascal, in which he expressed his regrets in being unable to attend.

“Missing this makes it too hard to find words,” Pascal wrote. “To Sarah, I’ll just say there is no me without you. Without you, I wouldn’t believe in moon or sun or sky. You are the opening in the road. You are the decorated forest. And most importantly, you’re my friend and I’m yours.”

Peet also spoke to Paulson’s unique skillset.

“She can [mimic] anyone – not just iconic people like Julia Roberts, Holly Hunter, Joy Behar and Joan Rivers, [but] also Meryl Streep as Karen Silkwood ... and Meryl Streep as Karen Silkwood imitating Karen Silkwood’s mom,” Peet said. “Sarah also does Sally Field’s ‘I want to know why’ cancer speech in

‘Steel Magnolias’ better than Sally Field, and Edith and Edie in ‘Gray Gardens’ better than Edith and Edie. But it’s not just famous people. It’s people she barely knows – strangers she secretly films on her cell phone – on the subway, waiters, salespeople, politicians, you name it. No one is safe. Her ear, except for when she sings, is remarkable.”

Murphy talked about elevating Paulson to a leading lady with “American Crime Story: The People vs. O.J. Simpson,” in which she portrayed prosecutor Marsha Clark.

“I believe in Sarah Paulson more than myself,” Murphy said. “We were casting the role of Marsha Clark, and I was in a room, and all of the usual big, starry names were bandied about, and it was just a matter of asking one of them and they would accept. Because the role was that great. And I said simply, ‘Sarah Paulson is going to play Marcia Clark. She’s not going to audition, and we’re making the offer tomorrow.’”

Paulson credited Murphy with her career.

“If I were to list all the characters his fever dreams have created, we’ll be here all day,” Paulson said. “Ryan – in the world of dreams coming true – that [dream] happened the day you chose me.”

“She was, in a way, my dream of what a collaborator and a supporter and a fighter in the trenches could look like, feel like, be,” Murphy said. “And from the very first day I met her, I’m thankful I’ve never woken up from the dream that is her.”

A slew of other co-stars and friends joined the event – in addition to a healthy contingent of vocal fans – including Leslie Grossman, Judith Light, Jesse Tyler Ferguson,



photo by Rance Collins

Sarah Paulson’s star on the Walk of Fame is located at 6533 Hollywood Blvd.

Niecy Nash-Betts and Melanie Lynskey.

The “American Horror Story” actress invoked an iconic scene from “Pretty Woman,” one of the most memorable films to use the boulevard as a location, when accepting the honor. Paulson talked about how – as a young girl – she tried to emulate Julia Roberts and wondered, as a struggling New Yorker turned starving Los Angeles actress, why she couldn’t get cast in the roles for which she felt destined, but then it clicked.

“I had practiced her way of talking in the mirror, lamented the fact that I wasn’t born with a wider smile and more teeth,” Paulson said. “Quite frankly, it took me too long to understand that Julia Roberts landed in our hearts because she was so unabashedly herself. And I was so busy dreaming of a working journey that would mimic Julia Roberts, I couldn’t see the road I was already traveling [was] a road uniquely mine.”

Paulson’s star is located at 6533 Hollywood Blvd.



The City of Beverly Hills invites you to join a

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5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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Beverly Hills, CA 90210

BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/MENORAHCELEBRATION



WeHo local and amateur pastry chef featured on new festive baking series

BY RANCE COLLINS

West Hollywood resident Jeff Chudakoff is competing on the Fox Network’s “Next Level Baker,” starting on Dec. 4 at 9 p.m. Hosted by Gordon Ramsay and featuring Carla Hall and Candace Nelson, the series features a holiday theme, where the culinary contestants craft festive treats in a magical winter wonderland.

For Chudakoff, who only began his baking journey five years ago, it is a true dream-come-true.

“It’s been a retreat for me,” he said. “It’s something that I’ve done as more of a creative outlet, which I never felt like I had a creative outlet growing up. I was a math and science student ... I dove in head first.”

By day, Chudakoff, who lives just around the corner from West Hollywood’s Melrose Place and its famed Sunday farmers market, is a Wall Street analyst. What began as a weekend and work-reprieve hobby eventually led to a social media page. While he only has a modest Instagram following, Chudakoff was noticed by the series’ producers.

“I think I always had a hope that I could retire to opening a bakery for myself one day.”

Jeff Chudakoff

“Over the summer, I got a DM, and the DM basically said, ‘Hey, we saw some of what you’ve been posting, and we think it’s pretty interesting.’ And ‘Would you be interested in applying?’ And I didn’t think it was a real possibility that they would pick me to actually be a contestant.”

But he applied, and after a few interviews, Chudakoff was chosen.

“It just kind of landed in my lap,” he said. “Because they reached out to me. I didn’t know that I was even allowed to apply to be a contestant on the show ... but I have watched baking competition shows in the past, so it definitely caught my eye.”

Working with such high-profile names in the world of baking, too, was intimidating for Chudakoff at first.

“They all are heavyweights in baking, and they know exactly how it’s supposed to be when you put something in front of them,” he said. “So, for someone like me who’s baking more usually for someone’s birthday or friends or family – I have an easy crowd ... They’re usually hoping it’s really good and ready to give me positive feedback, even if it’s not. And so definitely intimidating ... I think I had to rely a lot on knowing that I know how to do it, believing in myself, and believing that they wouldn’t have picked me if they didn’t think I was capable of succeeding.”

The series was filmed over 10 days in Ireland, although Chudakoff is tight-lipped on just how long he survives on the series, which eliminates contestants each week.

“I think of some of the other competition baking shows that may require you to be away for a month

or more. And so, it worked out really well for someone like me ... I had to take time off and take vacation days to go and do this,” he said.

With the exposure provided by the series, however, Chudakoff is open to whatever the future may hold.

“I think I always had a hope that I could retire to opening a bakery for myself one day. Something I could share with my family that would be done more out of joy than out of the business side,” he said. “I think that’s still probably my core

motivation in pursuing baking further. I also think I’ve found more and more joy out of the food photography [and] the recipe development. I’m trying to learn more of the videography aspect in today’s social media, so I’m trying to lean more into that, too, now because I think of baking as something that I’ve done to share and to connect with people.”

Los Angeles residents can find the series on KTTV Fox 11 on Dec. 4 at 9 p.m., and it will stream the following day on Hulu.



photo courtesy of Fox
Jeff Chudakoff will work his culinary magic as a contestant on “Next Level Baker.”

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It's December. What are you waiting for?

Thanksgiving made me think that “mashed” potatoes are a missed opportunity. Smashed potatoes. Bashed potatoes. All seem more fun and apt and likely to make us happy.

“Please pass the bashed potatoes” would turn a typical holiday feast into a Seussian celebration. And while we’re at it, why not some green smithereens casserole?

Point is, rejoice in this crazy holiday season. Sure, it seems like a bluff sometimes, a cruel trick, a test of faith and family finances. So let this be your little pre-holiday pep talk.

Because, amid the mayhem and the manufactured mirth, there can still be moments:

- A whiff of that fresh \$200 Fraser fir.
- The warmth of good yarn, bourbon, single-malt scotch, poodles.
- Doorbells and sleigh bells and schnitzel with noodles.
- That relief you feel when you finally plop your fanny into your aisle seat, after a typically nasty trip through a major American airport on your long journey home.

“Home for the holidays.” Honestly, is there a richer, more-evocative phrase? Home. Holidays. Light the fireplace and put on some Nat King Cole.

Perhaps our hunger for home is why “Planes, Trains and Automobiles” is such a perennial



holiday favorite. Tonally, it’s nearly Biblical...two strangers traipsing across a harsh American snowscape in search of missing treasures (family, fellowship, belly laughs).

“Those aren’t pillows!!!” As you’ve noticed, the holidays start earlier every year. Maybe I’m wrong, but my sense is that advertisers and retailers just can’t wait another minute to mark the birth of baby Jesus.

And how about that radio station that plays nonstop Christmas tunes. Do they now start that at Halloween? Or Labor Day?

But I find the holidays in small resonant ways as well. The menorah in the window of that cozy little house. The dazzling display fronting Peggy’s beloved gift shop. The little tree in the front window of the Armenian dry cleaners.

These aren’t religious statements so much as relics of the heart. During the holidays, we’re all sentimental fools. You could scrape me off the floor.

Of course, we don’t get much snow in So Cal, and when you

don’t get snow you grasp for other embellishments. Surfing Santas. Boat parades. The way the morning sun kisses the tops of the trees. Butterscotch on a spoon. Yum.

Here’s to matching PJs and the hugs you really mean. It’s December. What are you waiting for?

Here’s to everything. Much to be grateful for. The wine aisle at Ralph’s. Empty calories (bashed potatoes, icy beer). Holiday episodes of “Friends.” The airing of grievances at “Festivus.”

This is a season that sticks to your ribs. Some days I can find God in a stuffed mushroom as much as I can find God in a sky full of stars.

A poet Mary Oliver said, the soul is “built entirely out of attentive-ness.”

For the record, I now have several personal pastors: Gary, Chuck, Ross. Think of them as a bevy of renowned medical specialists. In fact, the best cardiologist might be anyone – a person of the cloth, an old pal – who actually cares.

Anyway, one of my pastors (Gary) says God exists in the neutrons, the protons, that heaping plate of spaghetti at the next table, the one you wish you’d ordered.

In short, God is everywhere. In the layer of Parmesan cheese. In the kids’ swimming-pool eyes. In the twinkle of your great-grandma’s smile.

As Blake said, “For everything that lives is holy, life delights in life.”

So, now – almost inadvertently – we’ve created these pocket celebrations of the heart, which are more likely to attract God’s grace than some clang-bangy Mariah Carey special, though don’t tell me



photo by Chris Erskine

Here’s to matching PJs and the hugs you really mean.

there isn’t something spiritual there as well, in music that sounds like the drummer’s drunk and the bandstand just collapsed.

Bravo! See, every good feeling is the answer to some little prayer. Every group gathering – the feasts, the sing-alongs, the school plays – speaks to something a little grander than we are all by ourselves.

So much humanity graces our small and tasteful Christmases. Dickens found it in words. Schulz

and Capra captured it in wry, troubled smiles. Target finds it in Aisle 7, near the digital ear muffs and chocolate-covered pretzels.

Look, I don’t know what you believe. Nor do I really give a flip. I just hope you find something joyful in this busy, bloated, jingle-bell ball – a movie scene that moves you, a song that lifts a wobbly heart.

Life is short. Christmas is shorter. Make it merry, Mary.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

The Hanukkah Craft Fair on Dec. 14 provides holiday shopping opportunities for everyone on your list.

Beverly Hills Farmers’ Market presents Holidays and Hanukkah Craft Fair

The city of Beverly Hills’ Community Services Department and the Farmers’ Market announced the Holidays and Hanukkah Craft Fair and Gingerbread House Contest, a festive community event to celebrate the season with local artisans for holiday gift shopping, family-friendly activities and a new gingerbread contest that invites creatives of all ages to participate.

The event takes place on Sunday, Dec. 14, from 8 a.m.-noon at the Beverly Hills Farmers’ Market, 9300 Civic Center Drive. The Holidays and Hanukkah Craft Fair will include an expanded Hanukkah section of unique vendors and crafts celebrating the holiday season. The fair provides an opportunity for

holiday gift shopping while supporting local vendors.

The inaugural gingerbread house contest, the cornerstone of the Holidays and Hanukkah Craft Fair, asks contestants to construct gingerbread houses at home and bring them to the market by 9 a.m. on Dec. 14 for judging. Houses will be displayed for public voting, and prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place honorees. Entry is open to all. To enter, submit before Dec. 14 at beverlyhills.org/csevents.

Free two-hour parking is available adjacent to the market in the Civic Center Parking Garage, located at 450 N. Rexford Drive.

For information, visit beverlyhills.org/csevents or call AskBH at (310)285-1000.

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WeHo lays framework for converting commercial buildings

BY RANCE COLLINS

The West Hollywood City Council approved an ordinance on Dec. 1 that will establish processes for converting commercial spaces into housing. The ordinance is in keeping with earlier motions by the City Council, including the conversion of the former Holloway Motel into the Holloway House, which is now used as transitional housing for unhoused individuals.

There were two different potential versions of the ordinance discussed, one which would have removed most council and community oversight to fully streamline conversion of hotels and motels – if such an opportunity arose – and one which allowed the planning commission, council and public to still weigh in during the process. While the full council approved the ordinance, Councilwoman Lauren Meister and Vice Mayor John Heilman preferred the streamlined version, believing the extra ministerial steps were not necessary.

“Very few of our commercial spaces will likely be converted to housing,” Heilman said following the meeting. “Converting an existing commercial building to a residential use is very expensive and, in some instances, it isn’t feasible. I doubt that we will see many office or retail buildings being converted to housing. We will more likely see new residential and mixed-use buildings in our commercial corridors rather than old commercial buildings being converted.

I preferred option one in the staff report because it created a streamlined process for any commercial conversion to residential.”

“I also think that we have a number of hotels in residential neighborhoods that were converted years ago from residential to hotels now,” Councilwoman Lauren Meister said during the meeting. “Not that I think that they’re going to ever change, but if they did change back, I can almost guarantee that the residents that live in those areas probably would be happier with having residential neighbors versus hotel guests. And I think that we should

at least leave that option open, because we did lose several buildings to hotels that were residential buildings.”

The other council members, however, said keeping the public and city government’s involvement in the process was important.

“Under state law, underused office and commercial buildings are strong candidates for conversion into new housing – especially along major corridors where services and transit already exist,” Erickson said. “Option two was the right choice because it gives us flexibility, creates the most realistic path to new homes and keeps workers and community voices at the table. I supported what I believed was the most responsible and effective way to move forward.”

United Here Local 11 was the lone public speaker on the item.

“I would encourage you to move forward with this ordinance as proposed in option two, with some amendments for clarification, such that existing hotels are not allowed to be converted to residential through the ministerial process, and that the conversion of existing commercial buildings to proposed mixed hotel and residential projects is also not allowed ministerially,” Unite Here Local 11 representative Jonah Breslau said, pointing out tension between various development goals as the county looks to the World Cup in 2026 and the Olympics in 2028. “Local 11 strongly supports increasing affordable housing supply in the city, but applying the ordinance’s streamlined conversion process to all hotels or to projects that may include hotels could exacerbate these policy contradictions, including by unintentionally encouraging more short-term rentals. Similarly, we believe that conversions to mixed use hotel and residential uses should be subject to a careful and thorough consideration with the public process that may not be possible under the streamlined proposal.”

United Here Local 11 endorsed Mayor Chelsea Byers, Councilman Danny Hang and Erickson in their

City Council campaigns.

“We’re mostly talking about office or commercial spaces that just haven’t bounced back since the pandemic,” Hang said. “I supported option two because it gives us flexibility to consider conversions while still keeping an already established review process with the Planning Commission and the council. That way, we don’t lose community input, transparency or oversight just for the sake of speed. Option two keeps the public’s voice in the process while still allowing good projects move forward.”

As of now, there is not a specific project in the pipeline for conversion, and the ordinance will be tested whenever the next such project comes along.



photo by Jon Viscott

The Holloway House was converted from a motel into transitional housing for those experiencing homelessness.



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

LOCATIONS:	Citywide, West Hollywood, California
REQUEST:	The City Council will hold a public hearing to consider a proposed zone text amendment to comply with recent changes to State law that impose new limits on local authority to regulate Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units (JADUs).
PERMIT(S):	Zone Text Amendment, and any other required permits.
APPLICANT(S):	City of West Hollywood
TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:	Monday, December 15 . at 6:00 p.m West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard West Hollywood, CA 90069
ZONES:	Citywide
ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:	California Public Resources Code Section 21080.17.

Complete digital agenda packets will be available on Wednesday, December 10, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at www.weho.org

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

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

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

For further information regarding this item, contact Adria Stauber, Assistant Planner at (323) 848-3146 or via email at: astauber@weho.gov.

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

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

Notable Quotes

“The progress of Evolution from President Washington to President Grant was alone evidence enough to upset Darwin.”

Henry Brooks Adams (1838 - 1918)
from “The Education of Henry Adams”

Henry Brooks Adams was an American historian and a descendant of the 2nd U.S. President John Adams, and the 6th U. S. President John Quincy Adams.

Republican Ulysses Grant, 1822-1885, was elected President in 1869 and re-elected in 1872. His administration was plagued by executive scandals during his 2nd term, including his response to the economic panic of 1873. He was ineffective in halting the long depression which contributed to the Democrats winning the House majority in 1874.

And then along came Trump.

source: Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations

RESTAURANT NEWS

Kimpton Everly Hollywood is ‘Home Alone’ for the holidays

The holidays have arrived, and Kimpton Everly Hollywood, a stylish boutique hotel in the heart of Hollywood, is bringing festive magic to Los Angeles.

This season, on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Written Hand – the hotel’s Mediterranean-inspired restaurant and cocktail bar – transforms into a “Home Alone”-inspired holiday hide-away, complete with pizza, popcorn, eggnog, festive treats and a classic movie screening. Guests can also savor hot apple cider and morning coffee before unwinding at a chic Kimpton Social Hour, featuring seasonal cocktails and chef-driven bites as part of the hotel’s Winter Guest Journey. Together, the experiences make Kimpton Everly Hollywood a

cozy, spirited home base for celebrating the season in style – without leaving the city.

For information, visit everly-hotelhollywood.com. The Kimpton Everly Hotel is located at 1800 Argyle Ave.

Experience one-of-a-kind holidays at L’Ermitage

L’Ermitage Beverly Hills announced this year’s holiday programming, continuing its beloved tradition of festive celebrations. This season introduces an inspired lineup of limited-time collaborations and signature experiences, from a couture installation by Vera Wang and a commemorative capsule collection with Dinner Service New York to celebratory holiday dining experiences. Guests are invited to stay in one of the hotel’s spacious, residential-style

Langer’s offers Hanukkah favorites to-go

Langer’s Delicatessen-Restaurant, the legendary Los Angeles institution known for its iconic #19 pastrami sandwich and more than 78 years of culinary excellence, announced the launch of its 2025 family-style Hanukkah dinner, available for in-store pickup. With Hanukkah running this year from Dec. 14-22, Langer’s is offering families an opportunity to celebrate the holiday with authentic Jewish comfort food prepared by one of America’s most celebrated delis.

As more Americans embrace prepared holiday meals, Hanukkah remains one of the most underserved holiday dining markets. While Los Angeles offers dozens of Thanksgiving and Christmas take-home options, few restaurants offer high-quality, traditional Hanukkah meals. Langer’s – long recognized as one of the nation’s premier Jewish delis – is stepping in to fill that gap with a festive, family-friendly menu featuring its



photo courtesy of Langer’s Delicatessen

Langer’s Hanukkah meal includes brisket, potato latkes, a vegetable medley, and a bread and dessert selection.


signature brisket and classic sides. This year’s family-style Hanukkah dinner is \$195 plus tax and includes: beef brisket – Langer’s renowned slow-cooked brisket, tender and rich with creamy gravy; potato latkes – golden, crispy, and perfectly seasoned, served with sour cream and applesauce; vegetable medley – a colorful mix of seasonal, flavor-packed vegetables; bread selection – Langer’s famous rye bread and egg

bread; dessert – choice of noodle kugel, chocolate brownie or Langer’s chocolate chip rugelach. Customers can also substitute Langer’s world-famous pastrami for brisket at no extra charge. Orders are available for in-store pickup and must be placed at least three days in advance. For information and to place an order, visit langersdeli.com or call (213)483-8050. Langer’s Deli is located at 704 S. Alvarado St.




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suites, blending the warmth of home with modern elegance, and enjoy curated holiday experiences that delight the senses and capture the spirit of the season.

“The holidays are a truly special time at L’Ermitage Beverly Hills, as the hotel transforms into a haven of seasonal charm and bespoke moments,” L’Ermitage general manager Frederic Zemmour said. “Beverly Hills shines even brighter during this time of year, and the hotel is proud to be at the center of the festivities. From culinary offerings to exclusive L’Ermitage experiences, our thoughtful programming allows guests to embrace the season both on property and throughout the city.”

Celebrate Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at Costa Covo Osteria with an indulgent seasonal prix fixe menu. The holiday dining experience begins with festive starters – goose liver terrine, salt spring mussels, and winter squash – setting the stage for sumptuous entrées such as chestnut agnolotti with shaved winter truffle, prime ribeye, and dayboat scallops. The evening culminates in an abundant dessert buffet, a decadent finale honoring the warmth and tradition

of the holiday season.

Ring in 2026 with The Golden Countdown, a glamorous black-and-gold celebration offered in two seatings. The evening highlights exceptional cuisine and warm hospitality, with an elegant selection of dishes including goose liver terrine with black truffle, bluefin tuna carpaccio, potato and Taleggio ravioli, halibut and Australian lamb chops, followed by the signature desserts “Paris” and “Beverly Hills.” A live DJ sets the tone for the night, complemented by festive touches including a midnight toast and a memorable takeaway gift, with a photoworthy moment and a sparkling champagne tower adding to the occasion. Guests are invited to immerse in a sumptuous, gilded atmosphere as Costa Covo Osteria welcomes 2026 in unforgettable style. Guests may enhance the holiday experience with the option to add free-flowing Veuve Clicquot Gold Label or Dom Pérignon for an additional price.

For information, visit lermitage-beverlyhills.com. L’Ermitage Beverly Hills is located at 9291 Burton Way.

See page 14

Christmas sparkles at The London WeHo

Set within the elegant ambiance of The London West Hollywood, guests and locals can enjoy the warmth, sparkle and flavor of the holiday season surrounded by family, friends and festive cheer.

Celebrate the magic of Christmas at Boxwood with a dazzling three-course holiday dinner by executive chef Anthony Keene. Indulge in a festive culinary journey featuring roasted free-range turkey with chestnut stuffing, roasted Beef Wellington, wood-fired filet mignon, roasted rack of lamb, charcoal-grilled sea bass, and New England lobster risotto – along with seasonal starters and decadent desserts like eggnog brûlée, pavlova, and Bûche de Noël. Enhance the evening with a curated wine pairing (\$45) or begin with an indulgent iced seafood tower and a holiday-inspired peppermint espresso martini. The dinner is \$110 per person, plus tax and gratuity.



photo courtesy of The London West Hollywood

The London West Hollywood is offering a three-course holiday dinner by executive chef Anthony Keene.

The Christmas Eve a la carte menu will be served from 5-10 p.m. and the Christmas Day prix fixe menu will be served from 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Reservations can be booked via OpenTable. For information, visit thelondonwesthollywood.com. The London West Hollywood is located at 1020 N. San Vicente Blvd.



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The Ebell opens submissions for women’s art show

The Ebell of Los Angeles invites artists to submit original artwork for its upcoming juried exhibition “A Woman’s Place: Framing the Future” presented in celebration of National Women’s History Month, in March 2026. A panel of three professionals from the Southern California art scene – Dominique Clayton, consultant and founder of Dominique Gallery; Shana Nys Dambrot, writer and co-founder of 13ThingsLA; and Heidi Johnson, founder of HIJINX Arts in Los Angeles – will select the pieces for the special exhibit.

“A Woman’s Place: Framing the Future” will be on display following a public opening night reception on Thursday, March 19, hosted by The Ebell, to celebrate the selected artists and recognize the winners.

“At The Ebell of Los Angeles, we believe that women’s stories shape not only our history but also

our future. ‘A Woman’s Place: Framing the Future’ invites artists to envision new horizons and reimagine what is possible,” said Dr. Stacy Brightman, CEO of The Ebell of L.A. “We are proud to provide a platform where women’s voices can chart the course for art and society alike. The exhibition is further enriched by the expertise and vision of our esteemed jurors, whose leadership in the Southern California arts community ensures a vibrant range of voices and perspectives.”

The first-place winner will receive a \$200 cash prize. The second-place winner will be awarded a \$150 Blick Art Materials gift certificate sponsored by family-owned BLICK Art Materials. The third-place winner will receive a \$100 Pizzeria Mozza gift certificate. Additionally, all winners will be gifted a one-year membership to The Ebell of Los Angeles. The

exhibition will run through April 22, 2026, for viewing during other public Ebell events – including the Ebell + L.A. Festival: Powered by Women.

Entries are open to all people living and working in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Kern, San Diego and Imperial counties. The submission period closes on Feb. 24, 2026. The fee to enter is \$25 and artists are welcome to submit up to three, two-dimensional entries with a maximum size of 24-by-36 inches, including the frame. Art must be hand delivered to The Ebell of Los Angeles. No exceptions will be made.

All chosen artists will have the opportunity to offer their exhibiting pieces for sale during the show. To apply, visit bit.ly/ebelloflaartshow.

The Ebell of Los Angeles is located at 743 S. Lucerne Blvd.

The Wallis welcomes diverse dance company for versatile program

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts presents BODYTRAFFIC, a Los Angeles-based contemporary dance company led by artistic director Tina Finkelman Berkett, on Dec. 11, 12 and 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Bram Goldsmith Theater.

The performances mark the second engagement in the company’s Los Angeles home season. The program showcases BODYTRAF-

FIC’s dazzling versatility with four distinct pieces that celebrate bold style, storytelling and movement. The works include a newly announced world premiere by BODYTRAFFIC creative partner Trey McIntyre for four dancers set to the music of Sam Cooke.

The program also features Cayetano Soto’s “Schachmatt (Checkmate!)” which turns a giant chessboard into a theatrical play-

ground, drawing inspiration from Pedro Almodóvar’s cinematic flair and Bob Fosse’s choreographic swagger. “Flyland” by David Middendorp, offers a heart-tugging duet blending animation, projection and choreography to stunning effect. Jordyn Santiago’s “Coalescence” presents a vibrant, affirming love letter to femininity, queerness and community.

The engagement is a continuation of a long partnership between The Wallis and BODYTRAFFIC.

“Partnering with The Wallis over the last eight years has allowed BODYTRAFFIC to create a true home in L.A. – a space where our audience can grow with us and share in the BODYTRAF-FIC journey,” Berkett said. “The Wallis is more than just a venue to us; it’s an intimate and thoughtfully designed space that helps to foster a deep connection between our



photo courtesy of BODYTRAFFIC

BODYTRAFFIC performs “Coalescence” by Jordyn Santiago during the engagement at The Wallis.

See from 13

33 Taps hosts festive ‘Yappy Hour’ for pups

‘Tis the season for pups, cocktails and holiday giving. 33 Taps Silver Lake is hosting a Holiday Yappy Hour on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 12-4 p.m., benefitting the Pasadena Humane Society. Guests can enjoy \$8 Pawgaritas from Mezcal Amarás, bone broth pup-tails from Healthy Spot, festive photo moments, puppy bowls, adoptable dogs on site and a week-long dog toy drive with all toys donated to Pasadena Humane Society.

For information, visit eatdrink33.com. 33 Taps Silver Lake is located at 3725 W. Sunset Blvd.

Holiday bar pops up at DTLA Proper Hotel

This holiday season, the Downtown Los Angeles Proper

Hotel is offering “In Good Spirits,” a mezcal-forward holiday pop-up at Dahlia running every Thursday through Saturday, Dec. 5-20.

The space transforms into a low-lit, design-driven holiday lounge featuring a mezcal-focused cocktail menu created in partnership with Illegal Mezcal, paired with seasonal small plates from Cabrillo like bright ceviche, warm churros and late-night snacks offered à la carte.

Each night brings a new energy with rotating programming (vinyl DJs, acoustic sets, chain-stitch artists and tarot readings) with select evenings enhanced by additional talent through Dahlia’s partnership with Bacardi. It’s an intimate, festive destination in DTLA that’s perfect for holiday meetups, post-dinner drinks, date nights and year-end gatherings.

Programming highlights include an opening night vinyl DJ on Dec. 5, an acoustic guitar set by Vahagni of Paco Versailles on Dec. 10, 18 and 19, a Bacardi-sponsored vinyl DJ on Dec. 12, and a live band and tattoo artist activation on Dec. 20.

For information, visit properhotel.com/downtown-la/in-good-spirits-ilegal-mezcal-pop-up. The Proper Hotel is located at 1100 S. Broadway.

Craft Contemporary presents festive Makers Market

Join Craft Contemporary for the annual Makers Market, a festive shopping weekend from Dec. 5-7 showcasing a curated selection of exceptional one-of-a-kind contemporary craft and design by L.A.-based makers.

The market includes ceramics, jewelry, textiles, glass, metalwork and unique handcrafted items. It kicks off with a ticketed Preview Night on Dec. 5 from 6-9 p.m., followed by two days of shopping on Dec. 6-7 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. The Dec. 5 event features music in the courtyard, an open bar, complimentary refreshments and a first look at the makers participating in the event. Tickets are \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members. Ticket holders receive a complimentary gift bag, while supplies last.

Admission to the Makers Market on Dec. 6 is included with \$9 museum admission at the door and is pay-what-you-wish on Dec. 7. Workshops will be held on both days of the market and numerous vendors will participate.

“Craft Contemporary’s Makers Market is more than a marketplace – it’s a celebration of cre-



photo by Sherry Chen, courtesy of Craft Contemporary

Visitors can find unique handcrafted pieces by Southern California artisans at Craft Contemporary’s Makers Market.

ativity, community and the incredible talent of Southern California makers,” Craft Contemporary executive director Rody Lopez said. “We’re excited to bring together artists, designers and audiences for a weekend of connection and inspiration.”

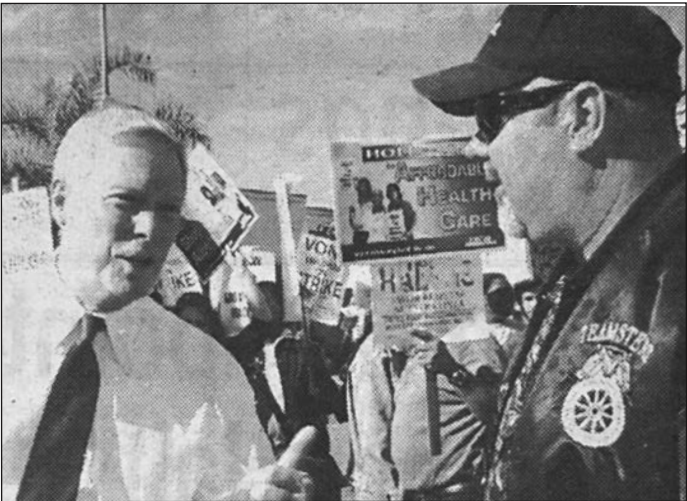
Craft Contemporary is located at 5814 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit craftcontemporary.org/makers-market2025.

dancers and the audience. It’s a place where the joy of dance can be fully experienced by all present and we are so grateful to be able to share that feeling in this special place.”

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills. Tickets start at \$42.90. For information and tickets, call (310)746-4000, or visit thewallis.org.

VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

Presidential candidate supports grocery workers in WeHo



Then-U.S. Rep. Dick Gephardt, left, met with striking grocery workers outside the Pavilions store on Santa Monica Boulevard in West Hollywood in this photograph in the Dec. 4, 2003, issue of the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News. More than 70,000 employees of Albertsons, Ralphs and Vons went on strike during fall 2003 over cuts to health care benefits. Picket lines formed outside many stores in the local area including Pavilions, which is owned by Albertsons. Gephardt, a Democrat who represented Missouri’s 3rd Congressional District in the House of Representatives, was campaigning at the time in the 2004 U.S. presidential election. He was joined on the picket line by Beverly Hills resident and International Brotherhood of Teamsters union member Dana Stewart. The grocery strike extended through the holiday season, ending in late February 2004.

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY HOSPITAL CLOSURE Effective January 1, 2025

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

The three nearest facilities offering comparable services are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This notice is provided in compliance with California law.

Merry Melrose makes holidays bright at Melrose Trading Post

December at the Melrose Trading Post is extra festive this year with Merry Melrose, a month-long celebration of local makers, family-friendly activities, community giving and one-of-a-kind holiday shopping.

Every Sunday, guests can browse 260-plus artisan and vintage vendors, enjoy live performances and take advantage of special giveaways and admission offers. All proceeds support arts education at Fairfax High School through the Greenway Arts Alliance.

Every Sunday in December, IATSE, SAG-AFTRA and Actors' Equity members with valid union ID receive free admission. The Melrose Trading Post offers artist-made photo ops on the Flower Wall and Mega Mirror Wall, pop-up performances from the Grand Arts Jazz Carolers and Little Women Ballet and poets from the L.A. Poet Society writing custom holiday poems.

On Sunday, Dec. 7, the Melrose Trading Post is holding the Prosperity Market Pop Up, which features a 48-foot mobile farmers market with Black farmers, chefs and creators parked at the Melrose Trading Post entrance. Those who make a purchase receive free MTP admission. Donate to Prosperity Bucks (supporting families in need) and receive two free passes. The Dec. 7 event also includes the

Mágico Toy Drive as well as the Catitude Holiday Magnet Workshop, the How to Grow a Tree Healing Art Workshop with kid MANDU and Circular Fashion L.A. Re-Dye to Re-Love Workshop.

The Mágico Toy Drive is also being held on Dec. 14. Receive free admission with a donation of a new, unwrapped toy. Free photographs are available with Rock 'n' Roll Santa from noon-3 p.m. The Circular Fashion L.A. Re-Dye to Re-Love Workshop and the Felt

Letter Ornament Workshop by Tori Drew It will be held.

On Dec. 21, Rock 'n' Roll Santa returns from noon-3 p.m., as well as the Felt Letter Ornament Workshop by Tori Drew It. The Melrose Trading Post welcomes Loved Again Pet Rescue for an adoption pop up on Dec. 28. Find a furry friend in need of a home

The Melrose Trading Post directly funds arts education and leadership programs for Fairfax High School students through the Greenway Arts Alliance. The Melrose Trading Post is held on Sundays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 7850 Melrose Ave., on the campus of Fairfax High School. For information, visit melrosetradingpost.org.



photo courtesy of Melrose Trading Post

The activities include performances from the Grand Arts Jazz Carolers, crafts workshops, photos with Santa and unique holiday shopping opportunities.

Join Holiday Open House on Larchmont

The Larchmont Boulevard Association is hosting the Larchmont Holiday Open House on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. along the boulevard.

The celebration includes shopping, carolers, music, activities, hot chocolate and photographs with Santa. The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will offer gift-wrapping for purchases at Larchmont businesses.

The Larchmont United Neighborhood Association will support Ornaments for Altadena, an organization supporting Altadena residents celebrating the first holiday season after the devastating January wildfire. LUNA will collect unique holiday items in good condition such as ornaments, stars, menorahs and kinaras – vintage, meaningful, handcrafted or uniquely beautiful. Pair donations with a note to share the item's origin or special meaning. LUNA will be assisted by Kids Helping L.A., which provides ornament crafting for kids. The blue LUNA holiday truck will be parked in the lot by the Clock Tower.

For information, visit larchmont.com and larchmontunited.org.



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

Festivities will take place along Larchmont Boulevard's business district.

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Fire Station 58 opens doors to community

■ Foundation donates food pantry for firefighters

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The public is invited to an open house on Sunday, Dec. 7, from 2-3:30 p.m. at the Los Angeles Fire Department's Station 58 at 1556 S. Robertson Blvd.

The community can meet the firefighters who serve the Pico-Robertson area and take photographs. The event also provides an opportunity to learn about fire safety and preparedness.

The open house is sponsored by the First-In Fire Foundation and Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District. The nonprofit First-In

Fire Foundation provides resources such as food and freezers to fire stations to ensure that personnel have nutritious meals during long periods at or away from the fire station. The foundation also previously donated portable food pantry boxes similar to ice chests so firefighters can take nourishment with them in the field. On Dec. 7, the First-In Fire Foundation will dedicate a large permanent food pantry at the fire station.

"We have been working with the councilwoman for two years on the pantry program. We delivered two mobile pantries and we will now deliver the big steel pantry," First-in Fire Foundation president Lyn MacEwen Cohen said. "It's going to be a big benefit for the firefighters. Everyone is welcome. We are

beside ourselves with happiness about it."

LAFD Capt. Jon Barnhart, of Station 58, said the event offers an opportunity for people to get to know first responders and emergency personnel. He added that members of the public seldom stop by the station, so he hopes people from the surrounding community will take part in the celebration.

"We are always open to visitors," he added. "People are more than welcome to stop by fire station."

Cohen said the foundation plans to donate large permanent pantries to all seven LAFD fire stations in the 5th City Council District, and donations are always welcome. For information, visit firstinfirefoundation.org.



photo courtesy of First-In Fire Foundation

The First-In Fire Foundation donated portable food pantries in February to personnel at LAFD Station 58, and is returning to donate a permanent pantry.

Petersen to unveil 'Legends of the Dirt'

The Petersen Automotive Museum will debut "Legends of the Dirt," showcasing some of the most successful and extraordinary racing vehicles from a variety of off-road motorsport disciplines. Located in the Nearburg Gallery and powered by OPTIMA Batteries, a Clarios Brand, "Legends of the Dirt" is set to open on Dec. 7. The display will spotlight the machines, engineering breakthroughs and racing cultures that have defined off-road competition for decades.

"Legends of the Dirt" will showcase vehicles from major U.S. events such as the SCORE Baja 1000 and King of the Hammers, as well as legends from international competitions, including the World Rally Championship. It will also showcase vehicles from specialized disciplines, including motorcycle hill climb and stadium truck racing.

The exhibit will highlight off-road racing as one of the most thrilling and technically demanding forms of motorsport, featuring purpose-built vehicles engineered to conquer some of the world's most rugged terrain. "Legends of the Dirt" will also educate guests about key automotive technologies that were invented for or significantly advanced by off-road racing, including all-wheel drive systems, communications and GPS equipment, durability improvements and modern suspension design.

Featured vehicles include the 2017 Volkswagen Beetle GRC driven by Tanner Foust, the 1983

Lancia Rally 037 that earned the World Rally Championship Constructors' title with drivers Walter Röhrl and Markku Alén, the 1995 Herbst "LandShark," a game-changing Terrible Herbst Motorsports creation that redefined Class 1 desert racing, the 1993 Suzuki Cultus Twin-Engine Pikes Peak Special built for Nobuhiro "Monster" Tajima, the 2010 Coleworx "Screaming Blue" rock bouncer, the 1970 Ford Bronco "Big Oly" and the first King of the Hammers-winning Ford Bronco Ultra4. The display will also include a curated collection of significant off-road motor-

cycles.

"Legends of the Dirt" opens on Dec. 7 and runs through January 2027. For tickets and information, visit petersen.org/exhibits.

The Petersen Automotive Museum is located at 6060 Wilshire Blvd.



photo courtesy of Kahn Media

The exhibition will feature the 1005 Terrible Herbst Class 1 "Land Shark."

PHOTO25 benefits Boys & Girls Club of Hollywood

PHOTO25 – The Photography Auction to Benefit Boys & Girls Club of Hollywood, will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 9, at Milk Studios. VIP viewing begins at 5:30 p.m., doors open at 6 p.m. and the auction starts at 7 p.m.

PHOTO 25 is the latest installment of philanthropic events produced by Milk Studios of Los Angeles. From the series' conception almost a decade ago, Milk has left a legacy of hosting one-of-a-kind auctions in support of community pillars, including STORIES: The Foundation for the AIDS Monument, Project Angel Food and Boys & Girls Club of Hollywood. Art collectors, philanthropists, photographers and artists from around the world will come together in support of the event.

With donated pieces from lesser known artists and big donors alike, PHOTO 25 aims to raise funds for Milk's neighbors – Boys & Girls Club of Hollywood. The Club serves more than 1,400 young people from predominantly low-income families.

Milk Studios is located at 855 N Cahuenga Blvd. To RSVP and to donate, call (323)461-1000, or visit givebutter.com/c/photo25.

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‘Zootopia 2’ is good – incredibly good

Are you worried about Disney? Wondering if the House of Mouse lost it? To be fair, no single studio is at fault for the latest wave of mid-dling entries, but Disney and its Jedi, Pixar and super friends always seemed to rise above, at least for a time.

Then came Covid. Then came Disney+ micro series, like “Zootopia+,” which didn’t really serve a purpose. It’s enough to make anyone wonder what on Earth is going on with those creatives.

Enter “Zootopia 2.” It is good. Very good. Incredibly good. The kind of good that makes you believe nature is healing, that the theater-going experience doesn’t need to feel like a gamble. This is

what sequels should be: made with love, care and an eye towards the future, not the past. A nod to what has occurred without derailing an original story.

Officers Judy Hopps (Ginnifer Goodwin) and Nick Wilde (Jason Bateman) have a lot to prove. Thus far, their partnership remains a challenge. Can a bunny and a reformed fox continue to make Zootopia a better place, or are they one-hit wonders?

Doubt continues, even as they suspect a snake has been smuggled into Zootopia. That’s a problem since all armless slithering creatures aren’t permitted on the mainland. The unlikely buddy-cop pair embark on a new mission that trans-

ON SCREEN WITH TIM POSADA

ports them through unseen parts of Zootopia’s many artificial climates that cater to most mammals (key term, mammals).

Too many sequels are drunk on the nostalgia of the original film’s success. So much so that throw-backs, flashbacks and reprisals prevent the present story from doing anything new, emotionally or in the plot itself. (I’m looking at you “Wicked: For Good.”)

Somehow “Zootopia 2” finds proper balance, winking at the first film without sacrificing the present story. Plenty of familiar faces stop by (why spoil any of them), but the main plot is never thrown off by these brief, but cleanly engraved moments.

Call these crowd pleasers fan service if you must, but “Zootopia 2” should serve as a guide for what mass audiences want. And oh boy do folks want this film, which grossed more than \$500 million in less than a week. It’s a deserved win.

Writer and co-director Jared Bush takes great care to get the story right with clever jokes, inside references and the little things that make these anthropomorphic characters feel human.

More than anything, “Zootopia 2” is funny. Remember classic



photo © 2025 Disney. All Rights Reserved

Nick Wilde (Jason Bateman), Nibbles Maplestick (comedian Fortune Feimster) and Judy Hopps (Ginnifer Goodwin) make “Zootopia 2” a fun adventure.



photo © 2025 Disney. All Rights Reserved

Gary (Ke Huy Quan) is a pit viper on the run in “Zootopia 2.”

Pixar: humor for kids and adults? That tried-and-true method makes this one an all-ages film.

Top that with another storyline that invites discussion about contemporary issues. Themes like race, prejudice and power glitter the film without preaching. But they are most definitely there and asking for deeper consideration.

As expected, the animation is top tier. We finally have a worthy competitor for “KPop Demon Hunters” at the 2026 Oscars. Either win would be exciting. And for that matter, Shakira’s song “Zoo” rivals “Try Everything” from the first film.

That’s a theme. In every way, “Zootopia 2” is on par with the first entry, maybe even better in some ways. It’s definitely funnier and

wonderfully builds on the emerging lore of this animal planet.

And it figures out how to introduce new faces. Unlike “Moana 2,” which drops three unwanted newbies into a story that should solely focus on the original duo, these additions make sense and enrich the story. This is especially the case with Gary (Ke Huy Quan from “Everything Everywhere All at Once,” “The Goonies”), a pit viper on the run, and Nibbles Maplestick (comedian Fortune Feimster), a beaver who podcasts about conspiracy theories.

This is what Disney does when it operates on peak capacity: build on an original story and create another equally original one. Maybe we don’t have to wait another nine years for something just as good.

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State education leaders outline priorities

California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond hosted an informational hearing of the Statewide Literacy Task Force at the California Department of Education on Dec. 1 regarding educational proposals that Thurmond is exploring for the upcoming legislative and budgetary cycles.

State Assemblywoman Heather Hadwick (R-Alturas) and State Sen. Susan Rubio (D-Baldwin Park) join Thurmond for the presentation, as well as program-area experts, scholars, school administrators, educators and school employees.

Among the topics discussed was the future of the California

Community Schools initiative; a proposal for kindergarten for all students; a proposed five-year plan to help students reach literacy by third grade; and efforts to close the learning gap for Black and Native American students.

For the first time in the history of the California School Dashboard, every accountability indicator for TK-12 schools reflects statewide progress in 2025. Thurmond's 2026 proposals reflect the need to deepen investments to accelerate achievement for all students and close persistent gaps in student outcomes.

"We must accelerate the momentum that we are seeing for student achievement in California. By codifying community schools as a core

part of our education system, strengthening literacy instruction to ensure all students are reading to learn by third grade and providing every child with a high-quality kindergarten education, we can address the specific gaps in educational services that hinder student progress," Thurmond said. "Moving the needle for student achievement must remain a priority in the upcoming legislative session and the school years ahead, and we must focus on narrowing the persistent learning gaps that our Black and Native students experience."

The hearing is among the initial steps to build legislative proposals in the months ahead. For information, visit cde.ca.gov.

KCCLA invites audiences to see the world through a new lens

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles and the Photographers Society of Southern California present "The 19th Photographers Society of Southern California Exhibition: Riches of the Land Through the Lens" on view from Dec. 11-26 in the Korean Cultural Center Art Gallery, 5505 Wilshire Blvd.

This year's exhibition showcases 40 works by 11 artists, featuring striking images of natural landscapes across the globe, diverse cultural and everyday moments and notable scenes of Korea's traditional heritage. Through distinct perspectives and artistic vision, the participating photographers capture the beauty of nature, resilience of



photo by Bugweon Ju/courtesy of KCCLA

The exhibit includes striking photographs of landmarks around the world, including the Griffith Observatory by Bugweon Ju.

life and fleeting moments often overlooked in daily experience.

Founded in 2005, the nonprofit Photographers Society of Southern California has played an active role in promoting cultural exchange between the Korean-American community and the U.S. public. The society supports the advancement of photographic arts through annual exhibitions, workshops and educational programs.

Participating artists in the 2025 exhibition include Alex Kim, Helen Shin, Jin Park, Kathy Lee, Jinsun Kim, Bugweon Ju, Heebin Im, Joanne Kim, Jesoung Kyoung, Jina Rucker and Haesook Min.

"Photography is an art that allows us to rediscover beauty and depth that often go unnoticed," KCCLA Director Haedon Lee said. "We hope this exhibition provides visitors with a meaningful opportunity to explore rich narratives of nature and humanity, and to reflect on the precious moments found in everyday life."

"We are delighted to showcase the scenes and moments our members have captured throughout the year," Photographers Society of Southern California Alex S. Kim added. "We look forward to sharing with visitors the emotional resonance and unique power of photography."

The exhibition is free and open to the public. KCCLA is located at 5505 Wilshire Blvd. For information, call (323)936-3014, or visit kccla.org.

Families invited to Greystone Gala

The city of Beverly Hills' Community Services Department presents the Greystone Gala Family Dance, a festive family-friendly event designed to create lasting memories for kindergarteners through third graders and their loved ones. The evening will feature dinner, dancing, games and photos in a magical setting at Greystone Mansion and Gardens, 903 Loma Vista Drive.

Join the city of Beverly Hills for a sparkling winter wonderland experience to delight youngsters and families. Dress in your finest winter attire and create cherished moments.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

The event takes place on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 6-9 p.m. Tickets are \$125 per couple; \$65 for each additional family member. Registration is required at beverlyhills.org/csevents.

The gala at Greyston Mansion and Gardens gives parents and their children the opportunity to experience the magic of the holidays.

BHHS hosts Oct. 7 survivor and IDF soldier

Beverly Hills High School welcomed two guest speakers as part of its commitment to real-world, firsthand learning.

On Monday, Nov. 24, more than 200 BHHS students had the rare opportunity to hear from Almgog Meir Jan, a former hostage recently rescued from captivity, and Ben Ladany, a wounded IDF soldier and survivor of a brutal ambush, as part of the school's guest speaker series.

Meir Jan was abducted from the Nova music festival on Oct. 7, 2023, was in captivity for over eight months and was rescued during Operation Arnon, one of the war's most daring missions. Since return-

ing home, he has traveled internationally to share his firsthand experience.

Ladany served in the IDF's Oketz K-9 unit alongside combat dog, Jack. During a mission in Gaza, he was ambushed and shot seven times. Jack was fatally wounded while protecting Ladany and his team. After surviving two months in a coma, Ladany now shares his story.

"Few educational experiences are as powerful as hearing directly from someone whose life has intersected with history in such a profound way," BHHS Principal Loan Srirkasa said.

For information, visit bhhsd.org.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Almgog Meir Jan and Ben Ladany are two Israeli survivors of the Israel-Palestine war.

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Wilshire Boulevard Temple welcomes community to ‘Chanukah Aglow’

Wilshire Boulevard Temple presents “A Very Wicked Chanukah Aglow” on Sunday, Dec. 7. Pre-show concessions begin at 4:15 p.m. and the musical starts at 5 p.m.

Each year, Wilshire Boulevard Temple transforms its sanctuary into a world of immersive storytelling and wonder for its signature event “Chanukah Aglow.” The beloved community celebration reimagines the Festival of Lights

through a theatrical experience that blends live performance, original music, projection and intricate set design. This year’s “Wicked”-themed musical continues the tradition of imaginative storytelling, leading families on a journey to “Wilshiz” – a world of courage, friendship and light in dark times. Made possible through the generosity of Margie Blatt, “Chanukah Aglow” celebrates family, tradition and the joy of Jewish life.

“Chanukah is a story of hope and a rededication to the deepest core of our Jewish values, the power of light,” said Lisa Peicott, senior cantor at Wilshire Boulevard Temple. “In the darkest time of the year, and in a challenging time in our world, ‘Chanukah Aglow’ is a reminder of this core value, but is transmitted to our congregation and the Los Angeles community through the magic and awe of live theater.”

Wilshire Boulevard Temple is located at 3663 Wilshire Blvd. To RSVP, visit [simplenetix.com/e/avery-wicked-chanukah-aglow-tickets-241457](https://www.simplenetix.com/e/avery-wicked-chanukah-aglow-tickets-241457). For information, visit [wbtl.org](https://www.wbtl.org).

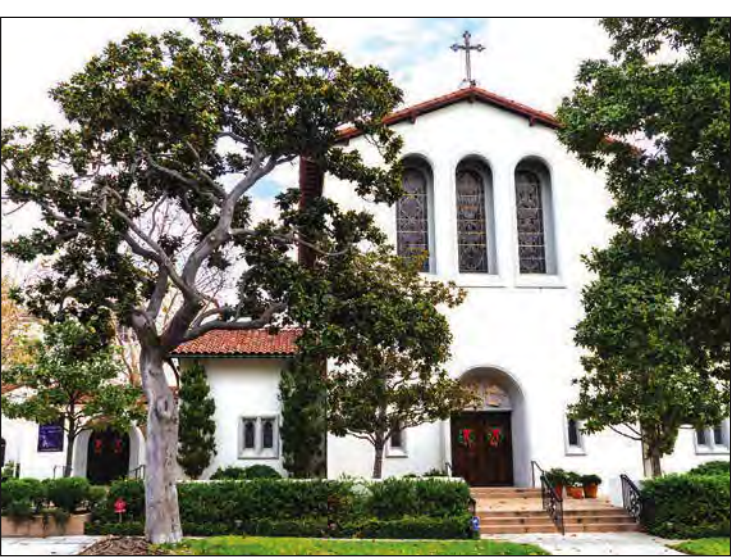


photo courtesy of All Saints' Beverly Hills

The performance blends scripture, choral music and holiday carols for an unforgettable evening.

Nightly snowfall creates a winter wonderland at The Grove, Americana at Brand

Unpack your luggage and cancel your flight. With nightly snowfalls at The Grove and the Americana at Brand, there’s no need to leave Los Angeles to be immersed in a magical, snow-filled winter wonderland.

Grab a camera and create lasting memories with loved ones at Caruso’s nightly snowfalls, presented by Disney+ and Hulu. No need to check the weather. It’s guaranteed to be a white winter with snowfalls forecasted every night at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at The Grove, and 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. at The Americana at Brand.

The Grove is located at 189 The Grove Drive and The Americana at Brand is located at 889 Americana Way, Glendale. For information, visit thegrovela.com and americanaatbrand.com.



photo courtesy of Caruso

Snow is forecasted every night at The Grove and the Americana at Brand.

All Saints’ celebrates holidays with Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols

All Saints’ Episcopal Church in Beverly Hills presents the beloved Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 5 p.m.

The cherished service, adapted over a century ago at King’s College, Cambridge, weaves together scripture, choral music and holiday carols to illuminate the Advent journey toward Christmas. Under the direction of Canon Dr. Craig Phillips, the All Saints’ Choir will offer an exquisite program to deepen reflection and inspire joy during the Advent season.

The musical program features a rich collection of works by

Thomas Foster, Felix Mendelssohn and Philip Ledger, and arrangements by John Scott and Stephen Cleobury.

Bring family and friends to experience one of the most treasured traditions in the Anglican world and begin the holiday season with an evening of beauty and song. The entire community is welcome to immerse themselves in the spirit of the season and experience the joy of a cherished holiday tradition.

All Saints’ Beverly Hills is located at 504 N. Camden Drive. For information, call (310)275-0123, or visit allsaintsbh.org.



photo courtesy of NHMLAC

Celebrate the diverse communities of Los Angeles at the Natural History Museum.

Natural History Museum hosts inaugural Cultural Treasures Market

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County in Exposition Park is partnering with arts nonprofit LA Commons to present the museum’s first Cultural Treasures Market on Saturday, Dec. 6.

The latest entry in NHM’s Partners in Commons series brings a celebration of the rich cultural traditions, creativity and resilience of the artisans, vendors and small businesses of South Los Angeles and Altadena to NHM Commons. Visitors to the Cultural Treasures Market will discover unique holiday gifts from local artists and vendors, listen to live music on NHM’s community plaza, enjoy delicious bites from neighborhood food vendors and participate in a fun all-ages art activity. The market features a joyful gathering to honor the creative spirit and strength of South L.A. and Altadena. It is the museum’s final Partners in Commons event in 2025, and the culmination of LA Commons’ year-long 25th

anniversary celebration.

The marketplace’s goods and gifts vendors include Sika’s/Queen Midas Gold, Mother Sun Records, How Bazaar, Zakruu, Nappily Naturals, Hya, Queen Aminah’s, The Plant Chica, Soul Food Candle Co., La Libreria and Reparations Club. South L.A. Cafe, All Chill Ice Cream, Crenshaw Juice Co, El Rincon Hondureno, Dulanville and Fuegos LA will offer food and beverages.

The Cultural Treasures Market takes place in NHM Commons, which is free and open to the public. A separate general admission ticket is required for access to the museum’s main galleries and exhibitions. Limited paid parking will be available in the NHM Car Park on Bill Robertson Lane.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is located at 900 Exposition Blvd. For information, visit nhm.org/calendar/cultural-treasures-market-nhm.

Hammer Museum announces five centuries of works on paper

The Hammer Museum at UCLA presents “Five Centuries of Works on Paper: The Grunwald Center at 70,” a two-part exhibition celebrating the 70th anniversary of the UCLA Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts. With more than 45,000 prints, drawings, photographs and artist’s books, the Grunwald Center’s collection of works on paper is among the most significant in the United States. Part one of the exhibition, opening Dec. 20 and on view through May 17, 2026, features nearly 100 works reflecting the breadth of the collection, from the Renaissance to present day, including works by Albrecht Dürer, Rembrandt van Rijn, Vassily Kandinsky, Käthe Kollwitz, Ansel Adams, Elizabeth Catlett, Corita Kent, Bridget Riley, Ed Ruscha and Vija Celmins.

“It is a pleasure to honor the 70th anniversary of the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts with two exhibitions that will span nearly a year on view,” Hammer Museum Director Zoë Ryan said. “The story of the collection begins with Fred Grunwald, who donated his collection to UCLA in 1956 with the hope that it would become a vital resource for learning and would enrich the university experience. Seventy years later, the Grunwald Center has delivered on that promise through its extraordinary collection, a magnificent gallery for its display and a study center that serves scholars, students, artists and the general public week in and week out.”

“The Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts is a cornerstone of the Hammer Museum – comprising the

majority of the museum’s holdings – and a vital resource for UCLA,” said Naoko Takahatake, director and chief curator of the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts. “For seven decades, generations of curators have worked alongside donors, scholars and artists to shape the center’s collection and programs, expanding upon Fred Grunwald’s founding vision to embrace a diverse range of artistic traditions. Promoting critical thinking, visual

literacy and cross-disciplinary engagement, the center serves as both a repository of cultural history and a forum for contemporary artistic practice. Co-curated with Cynthia Burlingham, who led the center from 2005 to 2023, this exhibition celebrates its remarkable growth and enduring contributions to learning and discovery.”

The celebration of the Grunwald Center’s 70th anniversary continues well into 2026, when part two of the exhibition opens on June 7, 2026, running through Oct. 25, 2026.

For information, visit hammer.ucla.edu. The Hammer Museum is located at 10899 Wilshire Blvd.



photo courtesy of the Hammer Museum

The exhibition includes works by Vassily Kandinsky.

POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Nov. 23 and Nov. 28. The information was compiled from crimemapping.com. To report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies: Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (213)473-0476, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department West Hollywood Station (310)855-8850, and the Beverly Hills Police Department (310)550-4951.

Beverly Hills Police Department

Nov. 23

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of N. Cañon at 9:45 a.m.

At 5:50 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire.

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Olympic and Doheny at 8:38 p.m.

Nov. 24

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of N. Cañon at 3 p.m.

At 2:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Crescent.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly at 2:50 p.m.

At 4:50 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 400 block of N. Cañon at 5:31 p.m.

At 7:18 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire.

Nov. 25

At 10:35 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly at 2:45 p.m.

At 3 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 400 block of S. Spalding.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 4:30 p.m.

At 4:42 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. Peck.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly at 6:13 p.m.

Nov. 26

An unknown suspect stole auto parts in the 200 block of N. Crescent at 2:30 p.m.

At 6:20 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 9700 block of Wilshire.

Nov. 27

At 2:36 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 200 block of N. Robertson.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 11:30 a.m.

At 11:07 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 100 block of N. La Cienega.

Nov. 28

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 900 block of Hillcrest at 7:50 a.m.

At 11:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire.

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

Nov. 23

At 1:40 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 900 block of Larrabee at 2:30 a.m.

At 3:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

A burglary was reported in the 1200 block of N. Vista at 3:15 a.m.

At 1:11 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8600 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 500 block of West Knoll at 6:29 p.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8900 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near Santa Monica and San Vicente at 8 p.m.

Nov. 24

At 1:49 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 12:30 p.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1300 block of N. Hayworth.

Nov. 25

At 9 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 900 block of Hammond.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Melrose at 12:05 p.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7700 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a vehicle burglary in the 600 block of Almont at 8:10 p.m.

Nov. 26

At 9:54 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

Nov. 27

At 4:20 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7500 block of Norton.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 8:45 a.m.

At 6:23 p.m., an unknown suspect

Law safeguards victims of trafficking, violence

Los Angeles City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto and L.A. County District Attorney Nathan Hochman recently celebrated the Victim and Witness Protection Act being signed into law. Authored by Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo (D-Santa Clarita) and co-sponsored by Feldstein Soto and Hochman, the bill strengthens protections for survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking and sex crimes by ensuring that victims and witnesses can seek justice without fear of retaliation.

“Victims of crimes, such as domestic violence and sexual abuse, deserve to be free from witness or victim intimidation or being dissuaded from seeking justice,” Feldstein Soto said. “This critically important bill will empower victims and witnesses, including children, to assist law

enforcement without fear of intimidation or retaliation.”
“Our justice system depends on the ability of witnesses and victims to testify in court without fear or intimidation,” Hochman added. “AB 535 makes it crystal clear, trying to stop anyone from reporting or helping prosecutors after charges are filed is a crime – period.”

In 1980, California enacted penal code section 136.1 to ensure that victims and witnesses can safely report crimes without fear of retaliation. It was designed to provide comprehensive protections for victims and witnesses throughout all phases of the criminal justice process, not solely prior to the filing of charges.

The Victim and Witness Protection Act reaffirms and extends protections against “post-charging” intimidation because

witness and victim intimidation frequently occur after charges have been filed. It is crucial for public safety that witness dissuasion is not limited to the period before a criminal case is initiated, the authorities said.

Feldstein Soto’s office cofounded the Domestic Violence Restraining Order Enforcement Task Force, a citywide collaboration that addresses the gap between California’s firearms relinquishment laws and implementation. The task force recently received a \$1 million grant.

Schiavo secured \$100 million in state funding for crime victim programs to ensure survivors of domestic violence, elder abuse and trafficking have access to support. For information, visit cityattorney.lacity.gov and da.lacounty.gov.

Beverly Hills reaches labor agreement with BHPOA

From page 2

cates will receive additional salary increases. Additionally, the total paid time off has increased from an accrued maximum of 160 hours to a maximum of 220 hours per year.

Bond expressed satisfaction with the final agreement, and said that approximately 80% of BHPOA members were in support.

“As far as the monetary [increases], it’s huge,” Bond said. “It puts us on par with the highest paid agencies in the area. It makes us more attractive for recruitment and retention.”

stole a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of N. Detroit.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8800 block of Cynthia at 6:30 p.m.

At midnight, an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

Suspect sought after stabbing

From page 4

side of his neck.

The victim could not provide any description of the suspect, according to the police report. Detectives are following up with the victim and are searching for security camera footage in the area and witnesses.

Anyone with information is urged to call detectives at the LAPD’s Wilshire Division at (213)922-8205 and (213)473-0476.

During weekends and off-hours, call the LAPD’s hotline at (877)LAPD247.

Nov. 28

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of N. Robertson at 1:05 a.m.

At 3:53 a.m., an assault occurred in the 900 block of Larrabee.

An unknown suspect committed a

vehicle burglary in the 7600 block of Lexington at 10 a.m.

At 9:54 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at 11 p.m.

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Beverly Hills provides emergency service aid to residents

From page 1

conversations. The mayor wanted to find out a way to ensure that the community wasn't worried about paying bills but still receiving the emergency medical services needed," Barton said. "This was one of her thoughts and her initiatives that she brought up that she really wanted to move forward with."

The program covers emergency medical services provided by the BHFD within city limits, and includes transportation to area hospitals such as Cedars-Sinai, UCLA Health and Kaiser Permanente.

"We got a lot of calls from residents expressing concern about their bills," Nazarian said. "We were trying to brainstorm and the chief came up with this plan to be able to help address that."

Nazarian recounted the experience of one resident who called emergency services after her husband fell and she could not help him back up. After paramedics arrived and provided immediate assistance, the woman was shocked to see a \$1,000 bill. Nazarian said the \$90 annual rate in comparison

to the high cost of emergency services is a way to provide residents with affordable medical care.

"It's really a remarkable gift that we are offering to our community because we want it to be as equitable and as fair as possible, and to have everybody get the care that they need," Nazarian said.

All Beverly Hills residents are eligible to enroll in the program. Residents who are uninsured can enroll for a \$150 reduction in paramedic services.

Households that enroll in the BH Wellness Network will be covered for every individual that lives at the address. Tenants of apartment buildings can sign up on a per-unit basis.

Registration for the program began on Dec. 1 for the 2026 calendar year. Coverage will begin on Jan. 1, 2026. Residents can enroll at any time from now throughout 2026, and will be covered until Dec. 31, 2026.

For information and to enroll, visit beverlyhills.org/1685/bh-wellness-network.

Jackie Rocco announced as new WeHo city manager

The City Council of West Hollywood has announced its selection of Jackie Rocco to serve as the city's next city manager. The announcement was made during the regular meeting of the City Council on Monday, Dec. 1.

Rocco, who currently serves as assistant city manager for West Hollywood, will take over for David Wilson, who announced that he will be retiring from the position of city manager effective January.

The City Council will consider approval of an employment agreement at its Monday, Dec. 15 regular meeting. Rocco was selected following an extensive recruitment process conducted by the City Council.

"The selection of Jackie Rocco as our next city manager is especially meaningful for all of us in West Hollywood who have had the joy of knowing her and working with her," Mayor Chelsea Byers said. "Over the past several months, the city conducted a comprehensive national search and screened more than 70 talented candidates. In the end, it was clear that Jackie brings not only exceptional expertise, but also an unmatched commitment to the West Hollywood community. We are confident that we've chosen the very best person to help guide our city forward."

Rocco is an accomplished professional with more than 27 years of executive and management experience in both the private and public sectors, and nearly 18 years of local government service to the West Hollywood community.

Prior to becoming assistant city manager, Rocco was the city's deputy city manager fo-

cused on development impacts and the oversight and coordination of the efforts of the departments related to private and public infrastructure and development in the city. The development impacts team is comprised of the departments of Economic Development, Public Works, Community Development, and related to this, the Property Development Division and Urban Design and Architecture Studio Division.

Prior, Rocco served as the city's Director of Public Works and was responsible for leading the Department's three Divisions at that time: 1) Engineering; 2) Neighborhood and Business Safety (Code Enforcement); and 3) Parking Services.

Rocco began her tenure in West Hollywood in 2008 as the city's Parking Operations Manager overseeing parking enforcement, on-street and off-street parking, permit parking and taxi operations. She then transitioned to the Economic Development Department as its business development manager responsible for managing programs and services to support the West Hollywood business community, before joining the Department of Public Works.

In recent years Rocco completed the California City Management Foundation's New & Future City Managers Seminar and the International City/County Management Association's Leadership ICMA Program. She has also been instrumental in developing a forward-looking internal organizational change management plan during the past year.

Prior to joining West Hollywood, Rocco worked in



photo courtesy of the city of West Hollywood
Jackie Rocco is currently West Hollywood assistant city manager and has been with the city for 17 years.

organizational management, process improvement and operations. She served as vice president of operations for a full-service parking management company; provider of parking management services to municipal and commercial clients nationwide; regional director of operations for a Fortune 500 company that provided information technology services and business process outsourcing worldwide; and acting assistant director for the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles.

Rocco holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and a Master of Arts in Urban Planning from University of California, Los Angeles.

Robots will continue deliveries in the city of West Hollywood

From page 1

so pedestrians, seniors and people with disabilities always have clear access to the sidewalk. Additionally, as it was reported, there are just a few complaints, typically from the same people who just hate the program. That's not how we should make policy."

Erickson noted that 34,000 trips were made by Coco and Serve in the first six months of the year. Vice Mayor John Heilman echoed Erickson's sentiments but spoke to some of the concerns discussed at the council meeting.

"The robots are being used by a lot of our restaurants to deliver short distances in the city," he said. "Every trip by one of the delivery robots is one less trip by a car. While the program has been successful, we also need to ensure that the robots are programmed to ensure accessibility on our sidewalks. We have already identified some streets where the robots can't operate because the sidewalks are too narrow. We need to continue to monitor the robots to make sure they are operated according to our regulations."

Among the streets that have sidewalks deemed too narrow for the robots is Fountain Avenue, which will undergo a extensive transformation in the years to come to widen the sidewalks and add bike lanes. Resident Yola Dore spoke at the meeting to voice concerns with the robots.

"We all know Route 66," Dore said. "[But] 66 is an even more important number. This is the width our sidewalks need to be to be accessible in order for a person with disabilities and a robot to walk on the same sidewalk simultaneously. It must be 66 inches. So, to say that only two sidewalks do not

qualify [as accessible] is absurd. Many sidewalks on the east side, like North Vista, do not meet the necessary criteria for accessibility. More research needs to be done before going forward. After all, disabled persons deserve their equal 66 access on neighborhood sidewalks throughout our WeHo."

Councilwoman Lauren Meister – the lone "no" vote – remained steadfastly against the robot system.

"I'm not really supportive of the robots because of the accessibility issues, supervision issues, and I also don't think that the city is getting enough of a fee for allowing them to operate in the city," Meister said during the meeting. "We have to weigh things and while we may be saving some trips on the street, we may be affecting walkability in the city. And the city is known to be one of the most walkable cities in the country, so I'm not supportive of the item."

Several residents spoke in favor of the robot's use.

"They reduce the number of cars driving through our neighborhoods, which means less noise and less congestion," resident Stephen W. said. "They help local businesses with delivery without adding more drivers."

"I want to highlight how delivery service directly supports our small businesses and local restaurants," resident Rodrigo Bonta said. "We know all how delivery can cause and can make or break their margins, and these robots keep [a] more affordable, reliable way to serve the customers, which [make them more] competitive, especially with the big chains. This kind of innovation keeps money in our community and help our favorite local places thrive."

'Tamale Wars' offers free holiday gathering for LGBTQ youth

The city of West Hollywood is co-sponsoring the 23rd annual "Tamale Wars," a free holiday dinner for youth experiencing homelessness and those at-risk of becoming homeless. "Tamale Wars" is presented by the C.I.T.Y. x1 Youth Group on Sunday, Dec. 7, from 6-9 p.m. in Plummer Park's Great Hall/Long Hall, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.

"Tamale Wars" is a longstanding community tradition that provides a welcoming, festive and supportive holiday celebration for LGBTQ+ youth – particularly those facing homelessness, housing instability and challenges. The evening features a free tamale dinner, uplifting entertainment, community resources hosted by local organizations and an opportunity for youth to be recognized for resilience and leadership.

The event will also include special appearances by members of the 501st Legion as "Star Wars" characters, a live Santa Claus visit and holiday carols performed by the Founders Metropolitan Community Church Los Angeles. Advance registration is encouraged by visiting eventbrite.com/e/the-tamale-wars-tickets-1964549096231.

The C.I.T.Y. x1 (Community Intervention Through Youth) Youth Group is a nonprofit that holds free social events for at-risk and homeless LGBTQ+ youth ages 14-24. C.I.T.Y. x1 connects LGBTQ+ homeless youth to life-changing social services including GED and job training, transitional housing assistance, medical care and health services, support groups and food assistance. Since 2005, C.I.T.Y. x1 has served more than 7,500 youth

through collaborative partnerships with local service providers, nonprofits and local municipalities such as West Hollywood.

In 2009, the city of West Hollywood started partnering with C.I.T.Y. x1 to provide financial support for community events and dinners. Over the years, members of the city's LGBTQ+ Commission supported and volunteered at the holiday events.

All C.I.T.Y. x1 events are alcohol and tobacco-free and are intended to serve as an alternative to the club scene. Since 2019, 300-500 meals have been served each year at the event.

For information, call West Hollywood Community and Legislative Affairs Supervisor Jennifer Del Toro at (323) 848-6549, or email jdeltoro@weho.org.



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BHUSD must pay out \$10 million to victim

From page 1

“I am profoundly grateful to the victims and witnesses who had the courage to share their stories during my trial,” Siegman said in a statement. “After all these years, having the truth acknowledged means more than I can express. I am also thankful for the incredible legal team that stood by me and fought tirelessly on my behalf.”

Siegman was represented by attorneys Stephen Weisskopf of Levato Law and David Gammill of Gammill Law.

“We are incredibly happy for Laurie. This verdict delivers justice and recognizes the profound harm she suffered and continues to suffer,” Weisskopf and Gammill said in a statement. “We are deeply grateful for the jury’s careful consideration and proud of our team’s commitment to ensuring her truth was heard. We also hope this ver-

dict sends a clear message, one that deters future perpetrators and pushes school districts to do more to protect the children in their care.”

The BHUSD responded to the verdict in a statement.

“This case involves allegations dating back more than 45 years,” the statement read. “District counsel is reviewing all legal options, including a potential appeal. Importantly, our superintendent, with the support of the board, located insurance policies from the 1970s that previous administrations were unable to find. As a result, the Beverly Hills community will likely not bear the financial impact of this matter. While we respect the legal process and all parties involved, our focus remains on moving forward and continuing to create safe, supportive learning environments for every student.”

The lawsuit against Friedman and BHUSD was filed in 2020 after the passing of California Assembly Bill 218, a 2019 bill that temporarily allowed the filing of civil lawsuits that involved childhood sexual assault claims that would otherwise exceed the 10-year statute of limitations. The bill took effect on Jan. 1, 2020, and expired on Dec. 31, 2022, allowing victims to file claims during a three-year window.

In April 2024, a mistrial was declared in the lawsuit as jurors could not agree whether BHUSD knew at the time that Friedman was unfit to be employed. However, after the lawsuit returned to court this year, jurors unanimously agreed that BHUSD was responsible for 60% of the harm suffered by Siegman, and Friedman was responsible for 40%, resulting in the damages awarded.

No Matter What Recovery names Robert Young new clinical director

No Matter What Recovery Detox, an inpatient substance abuse detox and residential treatment center serving the LGBTQ+ community, has named Robert Young, a Los Angeles-based clinician with more than 20 years of experience, as its new clinical director. The announcement was made by Anthony Arranaga-Grayson and his husband Paulo Anthony-Grayson, co-founders of the program.

“Returning to a detox and residential clinical setting feels like a homecoming for me, especially since I will be once again focusing my care on clients struggling with the oftentimes disastrous intersection of crystal meth misuse and sex,” Young said. “I’m excited for this next chapter in my professional journey, and, most importantly, for the critical work to help individuals in the LGBTQ+ community recover their lives.”

“We’re thrilled to welcome Robert to the team,” Arranaga-Grayson said. “His depth of experience especially as it relates to working with clients struggling with crystal meth use, as well as his compassionate approach, will enhance our inpatient program and

help individuals and families navigate recovery, healing and personal transformation.”

“Robert’s extensive work with adults, adolescents, LGBTQIA+ individuals and veterans reflects our mission of inclusivity and empathy,” Anthony-Grayson said. “His trauma-informed and affirming style will be invaluable in helping clients rebuild their lives with strength and purpose.”

In addition to being a licensed marriage and family therapist, Young is a certified sexual addiction therapist – an expertise especially relevant to clients struggling with chemsex and sexualized drug use. In his new role, he will provide specialized clinical guidance that bridges the transition from detox to ongoing outpatient care.

Recognized for its affirming and inclusive environment, No Matter What Recovery programs support clients from diverse backgrounds who have faced discrimination, isolation and rejection – factors that often contribute to mental health and substance use challenges. Studies show that LGBTQ+ adults are more than twice as likely as their heterosexual peers to use illicit drugs and



photo courtesy of No Matter What Recovery
Robert Young has more than two decades of experience as a clinician.

nearly twice as likely to experience a substance use disorder.

Currently, No Matter What Recovery operates five sober living homes in Los Angeles, serving up to 40 clients at a time, and next year will expand its current detox and residential operations with an additional six beds.

For information, visit nomatterwhatrecovery.com or call (323)792-2948. No Matter What Recovery is headquartered at 3409 W. Temple St.

Television Academy reelects Cris Abrego as board chair

The Television Academy has announced that its Board of Governors has re-elected Cris Abrego to serve a second consecutive term as chair effective Jan. 1, 2026. The academy also announced its newly elected officers and governors who will serve on the board for the 2026-27 term.

Abrego’s first term marked a period of meaningful institutional progress and strategic gains for the organization. Under his leadership, the academy achieved record membership and retention, now representing more than 27,000 television professionals across 31 peer groups. He also oversaw the launch of Televerse, the academy’s inaugural multiday public-facing television festival; advanced the academy’s industry advocacy work, including direct engagement with policymakers in Washington, D.C.; and strengthened the Innovation Advisory Committee, broadening member

education around AI and emerging technology.

During his tenure the academy also partnered with its broadcast partners to expand the reach and viewership of the Emmys telecast, which resulted in two consecutive years of ratings increases, first on ABC and then on CBS.

A veteran studio executive and producer, Abrego is co-founder and chief executive officer of Hyphenate Media Group, a premium content studio and holdings company. He previously served as Chairman and CEO of Banijay Americas and prior to that Chairman and CEO of Endemol Shine North America. Early in his career he co-founded 51 Minds Entertainment where he pioneered the celeb-reality genre and built that company into a leading force in the burgeoning unscripted business before its acquisition by Endemol five years later.

“I’m honored to continue in this

role,” Abrego said. “The past two years have underscored the vital role that the Academy serves in supporting our members, strengthening the television community and advancing the initiatives that support the long-term health of our industry. I look forward to working alongside our newly elected officers and governors as we build on this momentum and continue guiding the academy and the Emmy Awards through a dynamic period of transformation for our industry.”

The incoming officers, elected by the Board of Governors, who will serve a two-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2026, through Dec. 31, 2027, are: Jacob Fenton (professional representatives), vice chair; Jo DiSante (television executives), second vice chair; Megan Chao (documentary programming), secretary; and Tony Carey (producers), treasurer.

For information, visit televisionacademy.com.

ICE agents required to show faces in Los Angeles County

From page 1

law. A second reading of the ordinance is expected to take place on Dec. 9 and if approved, the law will go into effect 30 days later.

The county’s ordinance follows the passage of similar state legislation. The Trump administration sued the state of California claiming that laws requiring the unmasking of agents violate the Constitution’s Supremacy Clause. The United States Department of Homeland Security has said it will not comply with county and state unmasking laws, and masked agents continue to conduct immigration enforcement operations in Los Angeles.

“If this means a fight with the federal government, I think it is a fight worth having,” Hahn added. “We cannot give in now and make this OK in America.”

Immigrant rights groups demonstrated outside the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration in Downtown Los Angeles on Dec. 2 ahead of the vote. The group chanted “Evict ICE, not us” and called on the supervisors to do more to ensure immigrants and low income residents are protected. Members of the group, including street vendors and car wash workers, detailed how immigration raids have led to fear and financial impacts.

“The past few months have been particularly challenging for our family. My husband’s work has slowed down when immigration agents are in the area. The car wash often closes out of fear of being targeted,” said Betty Hernandez, of

CLEAN, the Community Labor Environmental Action Network.

“We are living with a constant fear and stress about the possibility of being caught, which is affecting us, economically and emotionally and morally.”

“Our community is living in fear because of the ICE raids that terrorize our community. Many of us have had to stop going to work out of fear that immigration agents would detain us. And what happens when we can’t go to work? We can’t pay the rent, and when we can’t pay the rent, eviction follows,” added Tony Martinez, of the Community Impact Network.

A day after the board of supervisors approved the ordinance, Gov. Gavin Newsom and California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced a new online state portal where people can report misconduct by federal agents. The goal is to assist members of the public in sharing information with the California Department of Justice regarding potentially unlawful activity by federal agents and officers. The public is encouraged to submit video and photographs, which the California Department of Justice will use to create a record of potential unlawful conduct by federal agents.

“This new portal gives Californians an easy and safe way to speak up, share what they see and help us hold people accountable,” Newsom said. “No one is above the law.”

To access the state portal, visit oag.ca.gov/reportmisconduct.

Ridership on Metro Rail trends upward

Metro has announced that ridership on the A, B, C, D and K rail lines increased over the previous year. Gains on the five lines ranged from 5.9% to 12.8% over levels in October 2024.

The 53rd Los Angeles Korean Festival, Dodger home games and CicLAvia drove ridership increases on the Metro B and D lines, which were up 5.9% over last year. The B Line runs between North Hollywood and Union Station and serves Hollywood. The D Line runs between Union Station and Wilshire/Western.

The Metro A Line was up 6.3% year over year. Weekend ridership on the Metro E Line was up 11.6%, due in part to Los Angeles Football Club and Angel City soccer matches and college football games at University of Southern California. Metro C and K lines, which served the Taste of Soul event on Oct. 18 and Los Angeles Chargers and Los Angeles Rams

games at SoFi Stadium, saw ridership increase 12.8% over 2024.

Additionally, results of a Metro October quarterly customer experience survey showed that more than half of all riders believe that the customer experience has improved over last year, particularly as related to service, safety and security, and that satisfaction with Metro Rail rose for the third consecutive quarterly survey.

Although Metro Rail saw modest gains in ridership over 2024 levels, federal law enforcement activity continued to affect ridership on the Metro Bus system, which is down slightly over 2024. Metro Bus experienced 21.3 million boardings, down 5% percent from last year. Weekday boardings were down 5.5%, while boardings on Saturdays and Sundays were down 3.5% and 1.9%, respectively.

For information, visit metro.net.



photo courtesy of the Television Academy
Cris Abrego is the chair of the TV Academy Board of Governors.

Answers From Page 23

1	C	B	S	4	A	D	A	M	6	S	P	E	D	U	P
14	L	O	A	V	I	C	I	U	R	S	I	N	E		
17	E	N	G	L	I	S	H	S	H	E	E	P	D	O	G
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37	I	T	S	A	L	L	G	R	E	E	K	T	O	M	E
42	S	E	A	M	43	I	N	S	E	R	T				
44	M	A	R	C	O	N	I	46	I	S	47	O	B	A	R
51	S	T	A	S	H	52	T	O	A	D	54	H	U	G	O
58	T	H	R	E	E	F	R	E	N	C	H	H	E	N	S
64	O	U	T	E	A	T	65	G	E	E	D	66	A	T	E
67	A	M	E	N	R	A	68	A	W	E	S	69	U	S	S

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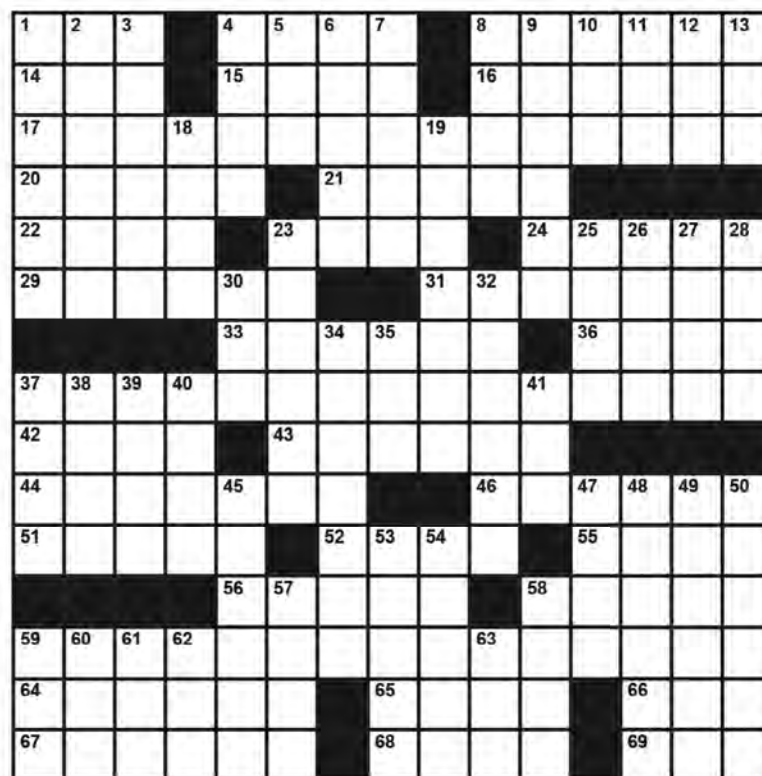
Across

1. It keeps an eye on TV
4. Rodin sculpture at the Met
8. Accelerated
14. Hawaii's Mauna ____
15. Part of a Caesar quote
16. Bear-like
17. Old ____
20. Unbending
21. Frankincense and myrrh, but not gold
22. Pair
23. Blessing
24. English horse racing locale
29. Body of work for Agatha Christie?
31. Like some pitches
33. Jurors
36. Place on the schedule
37. Bewildered comment
42. A-line line
43. Put a key in the lock
44. Telegraphy inventor
46. Meteorologist's line
51. Stow away
52. Contemptible one
55. Award for Isaac Asimov
56. Considers
58. Tiny openings in the skin
59. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" gift
64. Best at putting things away
65. Urged a right turn
66. Feasted upon
67. Supreme Egyptian god
68. Mixed emotions of wonder

69. Ship

Down

1. Man of the cloth
2. Handsome shark?
3. Baked clay box
4. Gung ho
5. Negative prefix
6. Cause for a blessing?
7. Bungle
8. Employer's fear
9. Car radio button?
10. Seer's alleged gift
11. Accomplished
12. Single in Madrid?
13. Square _____, round hole
18. Like a plant in need of water
19. VIP
23. "Cabaret" setting
25. Attention grabber
26. Storage place
27. Laker, Lamar
28. Distribute, with "out"
30. N.L. Central team, abbr.
32. Cyberhandle
34. Illuminator
35. Hems and haws
37. Doctrines
38. Suckling spot
39. Hall and Oates' "_____ Smile"
40. Gremlins, Pacers, etc.
41. Gold units, abbr.
45. "_____" how did that happen?



47. Cry of eagerness
48. News office
49. Middlemen
50. Characters in "Macbeth" and "Poldark"
53. Last letter of the Greek alphabet
54. Good __ : repaired
57. Former trade agreement
58. Professors' degs.
59. One ____ customer
60. Sing with closed lips
61. I-95, e.g.: Abbr.

62. Bard's nightfall
63. Clamp shape

answers on page 22

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

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