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

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February 13, 2025

Beverly Hills splits vice mayorship

■ Councilmen Corman and Mirisch to share term

BY TABOR BREWSTER

After a lengthy discussion in its Feb. 5 study session, the Beverly Hills City Council agreed to reshape the vice mayorship, splitting the upcoming vice mayor term between two City Council members – John Mirisch and Craig Corman.

The discussion stemmed from an issue with the city's rotating mayoral system and the schedule for council member elections.

In Beverly Hills, the five City Council members are each elected to serve four-year terms by residents. The mayor and vice mayor are chosen by the council.

Before Senate Bill 415 was passed in 2015, Beverly Hills held all of its elections in March. Due to Senate Bill 415, which requires municipalities to hold elections on established statewide election dates, the city moved its City Council election to June during non-presidential election years.



photo by Edwin Folven

The Beverly Hills City Council will split the next vice mayorship into two six-month terms between two council members.

In non-presidential election years, the City Council has two installations. The mayor and vice mayor are each chosen every April

See **Beverly Hills** page 22

Debris clearance will resume after storm

■ Steps taken to prevent further damage from rain

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Debris removal in the Palisades and Eaton fire burn areas is taking a brief pause due to heavy rain forecasted through Feb. 14, but county, state and federal officials said on Feb. 12 that crews have already started clearing property sites and the process will ramp up considerably in the coming weeks.

Property owners can opt-in to a free government program in which the Army Corps of Engineers will clear sites. It requires owners to submit a Right of Entry form giving crews permission to access private properties. Homeowners have until March 31 to opt-in to the program, and those who do not will be required to pay for debris removal. More than 7,300 Right of Entry forms have been received from property owners in the Palisades and Eaton fire zones.

Los Angeles County Public Works director Mark Pestrella



photo courtesy of L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger's office

Debris removal is underway in the burn zones. Property owners can opt-in for free site clearance by the Army Corps of Engineers.

said county crews have been surveying the burn areas and are taking steps to prevent mudflows from the rain. He said thousands of K-rails and sandbags are in place in the burn areas to catch mud and cautioned that some debris may accumulate on streets, which is part of a plan to create space for debris away from homes. The county has also ensured the flood control system is clear and ready for rainy weather.

See **Program** page 21

Towering project proposed in Beverly Hills

■ 8300 Wilshire Blvd. project dubbed 'The Eastern'

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Development group Millennium Partners has proposed a 34-story tower at 8300 Wilshire Blvd. The mixed-use project, which the developers have named "The Eastern," would be the tallest building in

Beverly Hills. It would also be 10 stories taller than the nearby building at 6500 Wilshire Boulevard, which is 24 stories tall and sits on the adjacent southeastern corner of Wilshire and San Vicente boulevards in Los Angeles.

The site is currently home to a one-story strip mall with several local businesses, including Continental Kitchen, a restaurant that has been at the corner of Wilshire and San Vicente

boulevards for almost 10 years.

Owner Anna Madadian said the developer did not offer her or the other businesses in the mall the opportunity to return to the location once the development is complete. Madadian said if approved, demolition of the existing space is expected to begin in approximately two years.

Mario Palumbo Jr., managing partner of Millennium Partners Los Angeles, said the project brings much-needed housing to Beverly Hills.

"Beverly Hills is one of the most attractive and desirable communities in the Los Angeles region, and it promises to grow even more exciting when Metro extends its subway system west into the city later this year," Palumbo Jr. said. "We firmly believe our brand of amenity-rich, multi-family, mixed-use development is natural fit for Beverly Hills and will breathe much-needed new life into this end of town."

The site is on Beverly Hills' eastern border with Los Angeles, adjacent to a sign with the Beverly Hills shield signifying the perimeter of the city. Additionally, the site is four blocks east of the planned

See **Development** page 22



The project would replace a strip mall with several local businesses.



photo by Edwin Folven

Opponents are challenging the review process for the Television City project, which was approved in January.

TV City project approval faces multiple lawsuits

■ Opponents claim city review process was flawed

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Four separate lawsuits were filed during the past week against the city of Los Angeles regarding

the Television City project, a major studio expansion that was unanimously approved on Jan. 7 by the Los Angeles City Council.

Plaintiffs in the lawsuits include The Grove; A.F. Gilmore Company, owner of the Original Farmers Market; Save Beverly

See **Lawsuits** page 21

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CALENDAR

Freehand Gallery fire relief

Freehand Gallery is holding a fundraiser on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 14-15, for victims of the Los Angeles fires, with 100% of profits from the entire store donated to the L.A. Arts Community Fire Relief Fund, launched by the J. Paul Getty Trust and a coalition of arts organizations, foundations and individuals. For the following month, a special selection of items donated by Freehand Gallery artists and friends will be available, with 100% of the proceeds donated to the fund. Freehand Gallery offers one-of-a-kind objects made by artists around the country. 8413 W. Third St. (323)655-2607, freehand.com.

**Valentine's Day at LACMA**

Celebrate Valentine's Day at LACMA with art, creativity and connection on Friday, Feb. 14, from 3-8 p.m. The romantic event has something for everyone. Enjoy photo opportunities by Las Fotos Project, create unique keepsakes and participate in engaging activities that honor love in all its forms, from musical chairs speed dating to joyful love-song karaoke. Hands-on art activities and the photo booth by Las Fotos Project run from 3-8 p.m., musical chairs speed dating runs from 3-4:30 p.m. and love song karaoke runs from 5-8 p.m. LACMA galleries are free to L.A. County residents with a valid ID on weekdays

after 3 p.m. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. lacma.org.

Art of Paul Flores

Control Gallery presents "Paul Flores: Good Morning Los Angeles, How Are You?" running Saturday, Feb. 15, through Saturday, March 29. The gallery hosts Flores' first solo Los Angeles exhibition, which captures the beauty and melancholy of moments that define the city including nostalgia, community and the lasting imprints of change. An opening reception will be held on Feb. 15 from 6-9 p.m. Regular viewing hours are 11a.m.-6 p.m., Wednesday-Saturday. 434 N. La Brea Ave. control.gallery.

**Terri Lyne Carrington**

BroadStage presents "Terri Lyne Carrington: We Insist!" on Saturday, Feb. 15, at 7:30 p.m. In 1963, pioneering drummer and composer Max Roach performed his "Freedom Now Suite" in honor of the centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation. Multi Grammy Award-winning drummer Carrington reimagines Roach's "Freedom Now Suite" for a new era, honoring the jazz traditions of the original while embracing the influences of other Black musical forms including gospel, R&B and indigenous Afro-diasporic rhythms. Tickets start at \$45. 1310 11th St., Santa Monica. broadstage.org.

**L.A. Louver**

L.A. Louver is celebrating its 50th anniversary with an exhibition surveying the gallery's history from Saturday, Feb. 15, through Saturday, June 14. One of the longest-operational contemporary art galleries on the West Coast, L.A. Louver has presented more than 660 exhibitions since 1975. The exhibition includes works by dozens of artists. 45 N. Venice Blvd. lalouver.com.

Cory Doctorow book signing

Author Cory Doctorow will discuss and sign "Picks and Shovels: A Martin Hench Novel" on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 6:30 p.m. at Diesel, A Bookstore in Brentwood. The event is free and will be held in the courtyard. Seating is limited. The book will be available for purchase. 225 26th St., Ste. 33. diesel-bookstore.com.

Theatre West plays

Theatre West presents a series of play readings of new works written, directed and performed by company members from Tuesday, Feb. 18, through Sunday, April 27. The series launches on Feb. 18 with "A Christmas Carol" written by Tom Walla and directed by Michael van Duzer, followed on March 4 by "The Conference" by Lloyd J. Schwartz and directed by Bill Scheres, and "Ox-Bow Incident" written by Jim Beaver, adapted from the novel by Walter Van Tilburg Clark and directed by Charlie Mount on March 11. See schedule for a complete list of plays. Showtimes are at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. 3333 Cahuenga Blvd. West. (323)851-4839, theatrestwest.org.

Piano Spheres

Piano Spheres welcomes Vicki Ray performing "Brook and Meadowcroft" on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 8 p.m., featuring new commissions by composers Taylor Brook and Thomas Meadowcroft. Brook's "Nox" combines the composer's unique approach to the integration of electronic and digital media as he explores the passage of time through a single night. Meadowcroft's "All Possible Combinations" is the next installment in a series of works focused on aspects of "deep easy listening." General admission is \$25.75. Thayer Hall, Colburn School, 200 S. Grand Ave. pianospheres.org.

**Salastina**

Classical music fans are invited to Salastina's performance of Dvořák's Piano Quintet on Sunday, Feb. 16, at 3 p.m. at the Moroccan Room at the Village Studios. What is it about Dvořák that's so compelling and familiar and what does it mean to be a "nationalist" composer? Resident host Brian Lauritzen explores the composer's work as Salastina performs. A complimentary wine reception with the artists follows the concert. Tickets are \$45. 1616 Butler Ave. salastina.org.

**Holocaust film**

Join director and choreographer Dr. Suki John for "Sh'ma: A Story of Survival," a film screening and workshop on Sunday, Feb. 16, at 3 p.m. at Holocaust Museum L.A. "Sh'ma" tells the story of Johns' mother and family during the Shoah, weaving together dance, music and film to convey a unique personal perspective on ethnic violence and human resilience. Admission is free but reservations are required. 100 The Grove Drive. holocaustmuseumla.org.

**'A Drag is Born'**

Du Díaz's award-winning solo show "A Drag is Born" is featured as part of Hollywood Independent Theater Festival on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m. at Stephanie Feury Studio Theatre. The nonverbal theatrical production offers a whimsical and poignant exploration of diversity as an unsuspecting man is hilariously and heartwarming transformed onstage into a drag queen. Tickets are \$25. 5636 Melrose Ave. hitfest.stagey.net.



photo by Edwin Folven

Wilshire Boulevard will be closed between El Camino Drive and Crescent Drive for three weeks beginning on March 17.

Beverly Hills council OKs expedited Metro work**■ Wilshire Boulevard to fully close for three weeks**

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills City Council on Feb. 5 approved Metro's request for a three-week closure of Wilshire Boulevard and a six-week closure of South Reeves Drive to continue ongoing construction of the D Line Subway Extension Project. Previously, Metro planned to close the portion of Wilshire Boulevard for up to 13 weekends to conduct the work.

Wilshire Boulevard will be closed between El Camino Drive and Crescent Drive from March 17 to April 7. South Reeves Drive between Wilshire Boulevard and the alley immediately south will be closed for six weeks beginning either February or March. According to a city staff report, 16-foot sound barriers will be installed on South Reeves Drive, and access to alleys and the Rolex building driveway will be maintained.

According to the staff report, the city met with the Southwest Beverly Hills Homeowners Association, the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce and surrounding businesses including Two Rodeo Drive and the Maybourne Beverly Hills to receive feedback on the closure schedule. The report stated that most stakeholders favored a three-week closure as opposed to 13 weekend closures of Wilshire Boulevard.

Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian said the city should ensure that

residents are notified with the proper detour routes during the closure, which include Olympic Boulevard, Santa Monica Boulevard and Burton Way.

"The cut-through traffic is also significant. People are going to be frustrated, they're going to be looking for an alternate route. They're going to be using Waze and Google Maps, etcetera, to get home," Nazarian said. "Whatever we can do to mitigate that and ensure that the proper paths that are being designated are shared with our residents, that would be great."

Mayor Lester Friedman criticized Metro's road closure notices for Beverly Hills residents and buildings. He pointed toward Metro's paper fliers usually left on doorways within the city and said he did not find them to be adequate, given that each building often contains many tenants, particularly with businesses in the area near Wilshire Boulevard.

"When we have this significant road closure there has to be actual handing it to each office, each resident, not just putting it on a sign post. It just doesn't work that way," Friedman said.

City Manager Nancy Hunt-Coffey will finalize an official agreement with Metro.

The City Council also denied a request from Metro to allow work on Presidents Day on Feb. 17, the Academy Awards on March 2, Mother's Day on May 11 and Father's Day on June 15.

Metro provides updates on subway construction via advertising, including in the Beverly Press.

Fire victims get help finding resources for recovery

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass announced that a new online tool is available at lacity.gov to help Angelenos affected by the recent wildfires. Bass and the Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles launched the L.A. Disaster Relief Navigator, which gives users tailored resources and plans for recovery.

"Angelenos are continuing to navigate grief and shock. My commitment is to do everything we can to get people the help they need as conveniently as possible," Bass said. "The Disaster Recovery

Centers have already helped more than 5,000 families get help in person, and now the L.A. Disaster Relief Navigator will help Angelenos get help wherever they are. Thank you to Better Angels and Imagine LA for partnering with the Mayor's Fund and my office to make this resource a reality, and to the Annenberg Foundation and the R&S Kayne Foundation for their generous support and partnership."

The L.A. Disaster Relief Navigator is available at lacity.gov and wildfires.betterangels.la.

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**CIRCULATION
VERIFICATION
COUNCIL**

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

Harris visits Palisades relief center, sidesteps questions on potential run for governor

BY RANCE COLLINS

Former Vice President Kamala Harris toured a wildfire evacuation relief center in Westwood on Feb. 6. The Westwood Recreation Center, with operations facilitated by the American Red Cross, has been a touch point for evacuees of the Palisades fire. There, dormitories and even the racquetball courts are serving as shelter for families, and the center is also being used to distribute food, water and other resources for those affected. As of Feb. 12, approximately 45 people were still sheltering at the facility.

"So many of the survivors of these crises feel alone and just need to have a safe place to go, where they are treated with dignity and a sense of community," Harris said. "They [need to] have a place to go where a perfect stranger sees them as a neighbor, sees them as someone who is worthy of their attention and their care and their love. And so that is happening at this facility."

Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, welcomed Harris, heralding the former presidential candidate's efforts in disaster relief.

"I cannot thank our vice president enough for her leadership, for her heart and compassion," Horvath said. "She has been consistently checking in and wanted to personally visit."

Harris praised Horvath's leader-

ship during the crisis.

"I've seen your work up close in terms of how you respond to your constituents with a sense of urgency and a deep commitment to their well-being. And we are lucky to have you serving here in Los Angeles," Harris said.

"I am here and would be here regardless of the office I hold, because it is the right thing to do, which is to show up in your community and thank the folks who are on the ground doing the hard work."

-Former Vice President
Kamala Harris

The American Red Cross program manager Mary Simkins said that the Westwood center will remain open as long as it is necessary.

"The timeline for Red Cross emergency congregate sheltering is determined by the needs of the individuals and families we serve," Simkins said. "Red Cross Shelter Resident Transition specialists continue to work side by side with

households in emergency shelters to identify the next step in their recovery. We are seeing a steady decrease in the shelter population as residents move into more stable housing solutions. We expect this trend to continue as we work with our partners to help each household find their next step."

Simkins added that she had witnessed the spirit of Los Angeles through her work at the facility.

"[It] is seen every day in neighbors helping neighbors recover following January's devastating wildfires," she said. "As the American Red Cross walks alongside the disaster impacted communities in Los Angeles, we continue to serve our mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies."

Harris said that she would be involved no matter what title she held.

"I am here and would be here regardless of the office I hold, because it is the right thing to do, which is to show up in your community and thank the folks who are on the ground doing the hard work," she said.

Upon returning to California on Jan. 20, Harris' first stops were a relief center and fire station in Altadena. She lives with her husband, former Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff, in Brentwood. Their home was under evacuation orders during the Palisades fire, but the



photo by Rance Collins

Kamala Harris toured the Westwood Recreation Center relief site on Feb. 6

structure was spared.

Harris touched on climate change and the need to adapt to the frequency with which natural disasters have occurred.

"Here in California ... we no longer talk about wildfire season. Any month of the year we are likely to see these wildfires occur and the damage that they cause, which means we must also look forward in a way that we are building up resources and priorities around not only responding after an extreme weather occurrence, but what we can do to build up resilience and adaptation to these extreme weather events," she said.

There has been much speculation as to what Harris's next steps might be in her political career. However, she is not prepared to give a definite answer on whether or not she will

run for governor or another office again.

"I have been home for two weeks and three days," she chuckled. "My plans are to be in touch with my community, to be in touch with the leaders and figure out what I can do to support them and, most importantly, to lift up the folks who are surviving this extraordinary crisis, and do what I can do to offer any assistance."

Prior to visiting the evacuation center, Harris also toured the Pacific Palisades to assess the damage.

"I would encourage everyone, when you run into a Red Cross volunteer, when you run into a firefighter, when you run into a local elected leader, thank them, because they're doing incredible work. They're working around the clock," she said.

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Lt. Fanny Lapkin from the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station said the department is investigating the fake signs.

Fake ICE signs removed from streets in WeHo

■ LASD investigates signs in city's Rainbow District

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The effects of President Donald Trump's efforts to curb both illegal and legal immigration are beginning to reverberate in Southern California. While the president's promise of "mass deportations" has yet to take shape in Los Angeles, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents have begun detaining non-citizens across Los Angeles County. Large protests opposing Trump's policies have erupted in Downtown L.A. daily since Feb. 2. On Feb. 7, fake ICE

notices were spotted duct-taped to trees in West Hollywood.

West Hollywood code enforcement staff quickly removed paper signs bearing the Department of Homeland Security seal, an ICE tip line and the words "U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement" after they were reported to the city. The posting of signs on trees is prohibited without "proper authorization," according to West Hollywood municipal code. Mayor Chelsea Byers said the signs were found along Santa Monica Boulevard and Melrose Avenue near San Vicente Boulevard.

"This is a high-trafficked area in the city. It's a highly walkable part of town. There's a lot of folks

See **Authorities** page 22

Transformer forces 'delay of game' at The Abbey

BY RANCE COLLINS

Game day did not go as planned at The Abbey Food & Bar. On Sunday, Feb. 9, around 3 p.m. both The Abbey and The Chapel at the Abbey closed due to a power outage.

"We had to cancel our annual Super Bowl party, which is one of our signature events, just before kickoff and couldn't open for our normal Sunday Funday at The Chapel or our nighttime promotions, Soul Sundays or Sunday School," The Abbey said in a statement to the Beverly Press.

A Southern California Edison transformer went down, and The Abbey said that it took SCE almost 24 hours to respond to the issue, affecting what is one of the most lucrative business days for the club.

SCE confirmed that "two customers" were affected by the outage, which occurred between 1-2 p.m.

"It looks like we had some damage with a transformer," a SCE spokesperson said. "There was an issue with the fuse there. So, our crews did respond to those repairs to the transformers, and we have been able to restore power to those two customers



The power outage forced The Abbey and The Chapel at the Abbey to close on Feb. 9.

affected."

The Abbey, however, indicated concern with how long it took the power company to respond.

"After almost 24 hours, SCE finally showed up and was able to make the repair within minutes. We opened in time for Happy Hour on Monday," The Abbey's statement read. "Hopefully, SCE gets better response times when their equipment fails. We lost a full day business on one of our busiest days of the year because of their slow response."

Man's music video makes a major mess

■ Police arrest suspect at Carthay Circle short-term rental

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Officers from the Los Angeles Police Department's Wilshire Division arrested a 29-year-old man on Jan. 29 on gun, narcotics and vandalism charges after he caused major damage to a short-term rental home in which he was staying in the Carthay Circle community.

The home in the 6400 block of Hayes Drive was equipped with security cameras and the property owner was alerted by the rental company that someone was vandalizing the property, said Lt. Mark Ro, with the Wilshire Division. Police were also called, and Officers Carlos Castellon and Alicia Moreno arrived to find the interior and exterior of the house covered in graffiti, Ro added.

Four people were inside the house – two men and two women – and one of the men told police he rented the property. The man – who police identified as Duncan Valade, of Los Angeles – also told officers he was filming in the house and admitted to spray-painting the graffiti as a prop, Ro added.



photo courtesy of the LAPD
The suspect damaged the interior and exterior of the residence.



photo courtesy of the LAPD

Officers documented graffiti at the short-term rental. A male suspect was arrested on gun, narcotics and vandalism charges.

"He was making some type of music video and wanted to dress up the place. But he just destroyed the place," Ro said. "He admitted to making the video and spray-painting the graffiti. While officers were there, they also saw a handgun and narcotics, cocaine mainly, in plain view. [The suspect] said they had been left by someone else. They identified him on the video as the person spray-painting the graffiti. He was arrested for possession of a controlled substance while armed, which is a felony. He was also arrested for vandalism."

Ro said Valade told officers he planned to re-paint the property. However, neither the owner nor the rental company granted permission. Ro said investigators determined the firearm is a ghost gun – an illegal gun that has no serial number. He said a large amount of narcotics were located during a search of the residence including cocaine, methamphetamine and marijuana.

The three other people in the house were released, Ro added, as officers had no further basis to hold them. He said the investigation is ongoing and the case is in the process of being forwarded to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office for consideration of formal charges.

Ro added that police often experience problems with short-term rentals involving loud parties and disturbances, but the Jan. 29 incident was something new. He said the suspect may eventually be required to pay restitution by a judge, but in the meantime the property owner was left with a huge mess and it is uncertain who would be left to cover cleanup costs.

"It shows how these short-term rentals can be a problem. You sometimes don't know who is renting your home and you never know what can happen," Ro added.

Anyone with information is urged to call the LAPD's Wilshire Division at (213)473-0476.

Volunteers sought for Feb. 18-20 homeless count

■ Deployment sites open throughout community

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles County Homeless Services Authority is holding the 2025 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count during the overnight hours on Feb. 18-20.

On Feb. 18, the count will take place in the Metro Los Angeles area including the Beverly-Fairfax community and the Miracle Mile, as well as the San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys. The homeless count will take place in the San Gabriel Valley and East Los Angeles on Feb. 19, followed by West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, West Los Angeles, South Los Angeles, the South Bay and Harbor areas and the Antelope Valley on Feb. 20. LAHSA is seeking volunteers at deployment sites throughout the county.

"2024 was a year of profound change at LAHSA, and the homeless count results provided us with



photo courtesy of LAHSA

People are encouraged to sign up to count people in their communities during the 2025 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count.

insightful information about the progress we made and the improvements we still need to make," LAHSA CEO Dr. Va Lecia Adams Kellum said. "We need our friends and neighbors to come out and help us count again so we can continue to make impactful progress ending homelessness."

The homeless count is conducted

annually by thousands of volunteers across a 4,000-square-mile area. Traveling in small groups, volunteers tally the number of unsheltered individuals, tents, vehicles and makeshift shelters they see in assigned census tracts.

Volunteers will meet at 134 deployment sites throughout the

See **Volunteers** page 22



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Community condemns CHLA's pause of trans youth care

■ Current patients will not be affected

BY RANCE COLLINS

Children's Hospital Los Angeles announced on Feb. 6 that it would pause gender affirming care, sparking condemnation from the LGBTQ+ community and local leaders.

Protesters gathered outside of the hospital, located at 4650 W. Sunset Blvd., soon after the announcement, hoisting signs with slogans such as, "Trans young people will always exist." The move comes after President Donald Trump signed an executive order that restricts gender affirming care for people under the age of 19.

"At this time, CHLA is pausing the initiation of hormonal therapies for all gender affirming care patients under the age of 19 and maintaining the existing pause on gender-affirming surgeries on minors," a statement from CHLA read. "Current patients already receiving treatment will continue with their course of care. We continue to carefully evaluate the executive order to fully understand its implications. The physical and mental health, safety and well-being of all of our patients remains our highest priority. CHLA will continue to support our patients and their families with access to mental health and social support services, ensuring our patients continue to have access to high-quality care and the best possible health outcomes."

As of Feb. 12, while some care may be paused, the transgender care, health and development pages remain active on CHLA's official website.

Los Angeles LGBT Center CEO Joe Hollendorner called for immediate reversal of CHLA's decision, arguing that "young people deserve and are entitled to medically necessary care."

"The Trump administration's relentless, calculated assault on transgender rights is nothing short of an all-out war on the dignity, safety and existence of our [trans, gender-nonconforming, intersex and non-binary] community," Hollendorner said. "From gutting protections to waging legal battles aimed at dismantling access to gender-affirming care, these efforts are not just cruel – they are designed to

strip trans people, especially trans youth, of their fundamental rights and humanity. We refuse to stand and watch while this administration weaponizes policy and fear to try to erase an entire community."

Los Angeles City Councilman Hugo Soto-Martinez, 13th District, called the decision both irresponsible and "likely unlawful."

"Attorney General Rob Bonta has already written to CHLA to tell them that their actions could violate state law," Soto-Martinez said. "CHLA is renowned for its world-class care and unwavering commitment to children's health. Families from across the country turn to CHLA in their most vulnerable moments, trusting in its expertise and compassionate staff. For trans youth, CHLA has been a refuge – a place where they can receive the care they need without fear or discrimination. Cutting federal funding, as Trump has threatened, would be catastrophic for CHLA. Millions of low-income families on medical care would have nowhere to go to get treatment for their children. But the answer isn't to give in. We need to fight."

Soto-Martinez urged the medical facility to take a stand against the policies.

"In Los Angeles, we won't abandon our most vulnerable communities when they need us most," he said. "Instead of caving to Trump's threats, we must come together, mobilize resources and ensure every child continues to receive the care they need."

A spokesperson for Cedars-Sinai Medical Center said the hospital is "studying the impact of the executive orders from Washington" and "did not yet have direction on any potential changes in our policies." Cedars-Sinai operates a pediatric and adolescent gender wellness clinic, which helps children and parents navigate options for gender dysphoria, including offering information and resources regarding medical transition.

Jeanean Russell, who with her 13-year-old trans son launched the social media initiative Protect Trans Kids, expressed disappointment in CHLA's announcement.

"As of now this doesn't affect the ongoing care of existing patients, which we are grateful for, but it's sad for all the people who were excited to begin their journey – and this could lead them down a dark and dangerous path they don't

Cedars-Sinai touts high survival rates for blood, bone marrow transplants

For the fifth year in a row, Cedars-Sinai cancer patients receiving donor stem cell transplants to treat blood and bone marrow cancer such as acute leukemia experienced better one-year survival rates than those treated at most other U.S. transplant centers.

The Blood and Marrow Transplant Program in the Division of Hematology and Cellular Therapy at Cedars-Sinai Cancer was one of just 12 among 172 adult transplant programs where patient survival one year after transplant exceeded expectations, according to 2024 rankings from the Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research. The survival rate at Cedars-Sinai was 90%, which far exceeded the expected survival outcome of 68%-83%.

One important change, Paquette said, was routine use of the chemotherapy drug cyclophosphamide after each transplant. This helps prevent graft-versus-host disease, which causes the patient's immune system to attack the recipient's organs.

These refinements have included an adjustment to the therapies used to prepare a patient for transplantation, which is called a conditioning regimen. The therapies in the conditioning regimen kill the cancer cells in the patient's body, make room in the patient's bone marrow for the transplanted stem cells to grow, and help prevent the patient's immune system from attacking the new cells.

For information, visit cedars-sinai.org.

deserve," Russell said.

Hollendorner described the city and state's importance during the uncertain moment for the trans people.

"Our community must come together, stand with our providers, and defend the trans individuals whose lives and autonomy are under attack," he said. "California has long been a beacon of hope for LGBTQ+ rights, and we refuse to let it become a battleground for hate. Instead, we must be a sanctuary – where every person has access to the care they deserve. The fight is here. The time is now. Let's stand united."



Children's Hospital Los Angeles is complying with President Donald Trump's ban on gender affirming care for those under 19. Park Labrea News/Beverly Press file photo

Beverly Hills TEMPLE of the ARTS



in conjunction with the
MENSCH FOUNDATION

honors Holocaust survivors, including our
Temple member and benefactor, David Wiener.

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shall be bestowed upon



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Shabbat dinner in honor
of the survivors as we pay
tribute to them on Friday
evening, February 21

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Plots lobby at Temple of the Arts

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David Wiener
Holocaust Survivor

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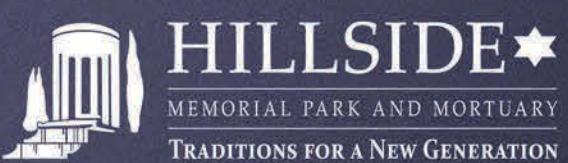
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Frieze lands at Santa Monica Airport

■ Art fair returns to L.A. Feb. 20-23

BY Tabor Brewster

Artists and galleries from Los Angeles, California, the United States and the world will come together for Frieze Los Angeles, an annual art fair from Feb. 20-23 at the Santa Monica Airport. As L.A. begins to rebuild after fires in January devastated local communities, the event will benefit local artists impacted by the destruction.

"Each year Frieze Los Angeles celebrates the city's extraordinary artistic scene," said Christine Messineo, director of Americas for Frieze. "In these trying times, we reaffirm our commitment to Frieze's vital role as a platform for creative recovery and renewal. By working alongside artists and institutions, Frieze helps to ensure that Los Angeles continues to thrive as a global center for contemporary art. We have worked to shape this year's fair as a platform for groups including Summaeverythang Community Center, The Black Trustee Alliance and AMBOS, and are working with our valued partners to facilitate acquisition funds that will directly benefit local artists."

Frieze Los Angeles will donate 10% of ticket sales to the L.A. Arts

Community Fire Relief Fund, a coalition of arts organizations and philanthropists led by the J. Paul Getty Trust that provides relief to artists whose residences or studios have been impacted by the Eaton and Palisades fires.

Frieze held a press conference at the Getty on Feb. 11 to announce details on the fair's programming.

The event will feature works by local and international artists curated by more than 100 galleries including Jeffrey Deitch, Gladstone and Gagosian, which has a Beverly Hills location at 456 N. Camden Drive.

Gagosian will present "Nomadic Folly," (2001) a large-scale installation of handmade carpets, fabrics, pillows and other locally-sourced textiles by Los Angeles artist Chris Burden (1946-2015).

"It's inspired by a nomad's tent and the work envelopes visitors in rich textiles and architecture," Messineo said. "[Attendees] are invited to come into the tent during the course of the fair and sit and relax."

Frieze will also partner with Art Production Fund, a nonprofit that commissions public art projects, to create "Inside Out," an exhibition of eight artists – most of whom are

from Los Angeles – that is available to view for free outside the ticketed event area.

"This free public exhibition features projects that explore the theme of perspective, celebrating the beauty of different points of view and examining how personal histories intertwine and shape our understanding of Los Angeles with its layered cultural landscape," Art Production Fund Executive Director Casey Fremont said.

The exhibition will feature interactive works, including an egg hunt where visitors can search for golden eggs hidden throughout the grounds, each of which contains a miniature sculpture created by Claire Chambliss.

"Playful yet thought-provoking, Chambliss's work challenges traditional modes of art acquisition, offering the public free objects that hold value, memory and inspire communal exploration while using play to spark conversation," Fremont said.

Additional programming at Frieze includes the announcement of the 2025 Deutsche Bank Frieze Los Angeles Film Award, a \$10,000 prize given to an emerging filmmaker in the Los Angeles region.

"The film award has always been an initiative we're immensely proud of, reflecting our commitment to nurturing emerging talent," Messineo said. "This year's cohort has created short films exploring the theme of 'togetherness,' a con-



photo courtesy of Gagosian

At this year's Frieze, Gagosian will present "Nomadic Folly," a 2001 work by Los Angeles artist Chris Burden.

cept that feels especially poignant in the context of the rebuilding of the city. Now, more than ever, it's crucial that we come together to support the creative community, celebrate their work and provide opportunities for Los Angeles'

young talent."

The event will take place Feb. 20-23 at the Santa Monica Airport, located at 3027 Airport Ave. For hours and tickets, visit frieze.com/fairs/frieze-los-angeles/visitor-information.



photo courtesy of Steven Geiger

Rabbi David Baron and cantors Ilyssia Pierce and Nathan Lam participated in the Mensch Awards ceremony in 2023.

'Noises Off' turns on the laughs at the Geffen

BY RANCE COLLINS

If you hear the faint hum of laughter wafting through the night skies this February, it's likely permeating from the Geffen Playhouse. The venue has gifted Los Angeles with the latest revival of "Noises Off," the oft-produced 1982 farce, written by Michael Frayn, about a play (within the play) that goes terribly, terribly wrong.

The 1992 film version, directed by Peter Bogdanovich and featuring a stacked all-star cast that includes Michael Caine, Carol Burnett, John Ritter, Christopher Reeve and Nicollette Sheridan, is a favorite of mine. However, I had never had the opportunity to see the play on stage – something all of my actor friends told me was a must.

They were right. The movie truncates the show, essentially cutting the third act and changing the ending to allow for a more film-friendly runtime. The play "Noises Off" locks you in for three acts and two intermissions, totaling two-and-a-half hours. If that sounds like a lot ... it is. And I wouldn't want a second less.

In the Geffen's version, helmed by Anna D. Shapiro, Rick Holmes plays the director, Lloyd Dallas, who starts the performance seated in the audience as he watches the dress rehearsal of his latest production, "Nothing On." The performance is constantly interrupted, as actors drop lines, forget props (particularly a plate of sardines ... a word you've never heard repeated more than it is in this show) and implore Dallas to give them character motivation. As the first act unfolds, we learn the cast and crew's intimate personal dramas, which (of course) cause even greater drama. Or, in this case, hilarity.

The first act also gives the audience its best shot at understanding the plot of "Nothing On," which is



photo by Jeff Lorch

a sexual romp involving several people attempting to steal away a few hours at a cottage in rural England. Of course, nothing goes as planned for anyone involved. Were this play ever presented without any stumbles ... it would probably be pretty funny. But "Nothing On" is just the backdrop for "Noises Off."

The second act is where "Noises Off" really gets cooking. It starts with the entire set rotating, so that the audience now sees backstage at "Nothing On." And nothing is on time at this performance. With the show officially open and on the road, some of the cast is missing and everyone is mad at someone for something. When everyone is finally accounted for and the first lines are uttered, all hell breaks loose. As the actors struggle to make their cues, everything else plays out silently behind-the-scenes. Axes are thrown. Sardines are spilled. A cactus appears at the worst possible moment.

The third act, if possible, is somehow even funnier. The set rotates again and we see the play one last time, now close to the end

of its run. I won't spoil what happens in this act, but – you can rest assured – nothing goes as planned.

"Noises Off" is so deceptively inventive and intricate. It asks a lot of its actors (the actual ones), with the timing vital for every line and subtle movement. Thankfully, the Geffen has assembled a roster of pros. Holmes leads the proceedings ably, while literally every other actor (and actor character) manages to make an impression.

I was particularly impressed with Ora Jones as Dotty Otley (the part Carol Burnett plays in the film). She has to pull off two different, subtle variants of British accents – and she drops from one to the other with ease. I was shocked to find she was born in Columbus, Ohio. During the performance I saw, Jones got the audience involved when a prop inadvertently dropped into the front row – all without breaking.

Audrey Francis plays Belinda Blair, the busybody of the company, and I have to give her a round of applause. Her attention to – well, everything and everyone – is vital for the audience to retain interest.

Mensch Awards at Saban Theatre honor Holocaust survivors

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Mensch Awards return to Beverly Hills Temple of the Arts' Saban Theatre on Feb. 21, with a special program in the newly remodeled Plost Lobby. The Shabbat dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. and honors Holocaust survivor and philanthropist David Wiener, Holocaust educator David Meyerhof and Holocaust survivor and sculptor Gabrielle Karin.

Additional honorees include Holocaust survivor Joe Alexander, the late Nobel laureate Otto Meyerhof, physics professor Walter Meyerhof and songwriter Leonard Cohen.

The awards ceremony is organized annually by Steven Geiger, founder and director of the Mensch International

Foundation. Mensch is a Yiddish word meaning "good man" or a "person of high integrity and honor," a description that fits the honorees, Geiger said. The event provides an opportunity to thank the recipients for their contributions to the community and society and to recognize their achievements.

"We want to hear from them and we want to honor them," Geiger said. "It's important that people hear their stories. These people are going to schools to speak to young people about the Holocaust. [They are] not just sitting back at home and watching television as they get older, they're very active."

Wiener, 98, is a businessman, philanthropist and temple member and supporter. His wife

See Mensch page 9

Conte Ave., until March 9. Go now. Run, trip, stumble, fall but don't simply walk. Do not miss this chance to laugh. For information and tickets, visit geffenplayhouse.org.

And if you'd like to compare it to the film version, the New Beverly Cinema, located at 7185 Beverly Blvd., is screening it as a double feature with Bogdanovich's "What's Up Doc" (1972) Feb. 14-16. "Noises Off" starts at 8:05 p.m. each night, while "What's Up Doc" plays at 6 p.m.

For information, visit thenewbev.com.

Hollywood church hosts LGBTQ+ Valentine's Day marriage ceremonies

BY RANCE COLLINS

The Los Angeles Queer Interfaith Clergy Council is using Valentine's Day to send a strong message. The group is coming together at the Hollywood United Methodist Church campus on Feb. 14 between noon-3 p.m. to celebrate LGBTQ+ couples with free marriage ceremonies.

HUMC senior pastor Rev. Hannah Adair Bonner said it was important to show that queer people "won't be going back into the shadows" during "uncertain" times.

"We are seeking to offer LGBTQIA+ couples of various faiths the opportunity to establish their relationships with stability and security, all while surrounded by a loving community of supporters," Bonner said.

Couples will have the opportunity to marry at the historic HUMC sanctuary. Additionally, accommodations will be made for those of other faiths.

"There will be a space for generally spiritual weddings, as well as space for Christian wedding ceremonies in the sanctuary and Jewish weddings in another space on our property," Bonner said.

She added that while LGBTQ+ couples who are seeking to get married or renew their vows will be prioritized, anyone "who wants to celebrate that love" is welcome to join and spend time at the ceremony.

"Couples can send an email or ideally use our online form to register so that we know what to expect. If they want their marriage to be made legal, they can seek to obtain a license in advance – or if they just want their marriage to be blessed in a sacred place they are welcome to do that as well," she said.

HUMC congregant Adam Light will be marrying his longtime partner Billy Malpede during the service.

"We met over eight years ago in the sanctuary of Hollywood United Methodist during the passing of the peace," Light said. "[Choir director] John West and the choir were performing one of Billy's choral pieces in the service, and [I] was attending because [my] mom had been pushing [me] for over a year to find a good church in Hollywood. Ever since then, we have been blessed to be involved in the HUMC music program, with the choir and congregation becoming an anchor of our love-filled life adventure. When

Rev. Hannah announced there would be multiple weddings on Valentine's Day in a fun casual atmosphere, we decided it was time to take the plunge. How wonderful to get hitched in the very room where we met, surrounded with so much love."

MCC United Church of Christ in the Valley senior pastor Dr. Pat Longlois and Rev. Kevin Wright, who serves as an advisor to the progressive organization Invested Faith, will also be in attendance, along with local rabbis and other religious leaders.

"We want to bring a message of hope and deep love to the LGBTQIA+ community, especially to those who are wondering if it is safe for them to be visible in this current political climate," Bonner said. "We will not voluntarily give up the rights we have won, nor the space in the world that our elders have fought to carve out for us. We want people to feel seen and loved and valued, even if it is just seeing their reality reflected in this celebration. We also want couples who have a desire to make their relationships feel more stable and established and secure to have the opportunity to do so."

Same-day marriage licenses, as well as civil ceremonies, will be available on Feb. 14 at the Norwalk Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder headquarters, as well as the Beverly Hills, East Los Angeles and Van Nuys branches, from 8:30 a.m.-



photo by Emily Redenbach

Hollywood United Methodist Church has long allowed same-sex ceremonies to be held in its sanctuary.

4:30 p.m. A public marriage license is \$91, while a confidential license is

\$85. The fee for a ceremony at the locations is \$35.

Mensch

From page 8

Sheryl Fleischer said he is honored to be selected as a Mensch Award recipient.

"He loves being a mensch," Fleischer added. "Not too many people have experienced life as he has. He's proud of it."

Karin is dedicated to educating young people about the Holocaust and has participated in programs at schools, Holocaust Museum L.A. and the Museum of Tolerance as well as synagogues and youth camps. She strives to help students understand the history of the Holocaust so it does not happen again.

Holocaust educator David Meyerhof is a retired middle school teacher who taught 35 years in the Los Angeles Unified School District. He is also author of "Look Beyond," a collection of poetry.

Rabbi David Baron, of Beverly Hills Temple of the Arts, said he is

looking forward to the Mensch Awards and paying tribute to the Holocaust survivors and educators. Baron is a previous recipient of the Mensch Award and has hosted the ceremony at the temple for several years.

"The word 'mensch' means man, but it really means a consummate human being and somebody who exemplifies, by their life, the values of decency and goodness. In the case of our guests, they exemplify those qualities," Baron said. "We are honored as a temple of the arts to join the Mensch Foundation in honoring these outstanding people."

Baron also reflected on receiving a Mensch Award.

"It was very touching. To be honored for being a decent human being is so important, and that's why it was so meaningful to me," he added. "It wasn't about a book that you wrote and it wasn't about a specific building or structure that you helped create. It was about who you are as a person, and I think we have

to honor that and those people."

Geiger stressed the importance of Holocaust education and the attendees' service to humankind.

"I would like people to understand the importance of not only

remembering these people that we are honoring, but to help us in reaching our educational goals, so the recent increase in antisemitism will be reversed," Geiger added.

Admission to the Mensch Awards

is \$75; reservations are required. The Saban Theatre is located at 8440 Wilshire Blvd., in Beverly Hills. For information and reservations, email geigersa@gmail.com or visit bhtota.org.

Notable Quotes

"My mother says I didn't open my eyes for eight days after I was born, but when I did, the first thing I saw was an engagement ring. I was hooked."

Elizabeth Taylor (1932-2011)

On this Valentine's eve, we remember Taylor. Certainly no one believed in love more than the double Oscar-winning actress and humanitarian who famously married eight times to seven different men, including twice to Richard Burton.

Source: brainyquote.com

All Saints' Beverly Hills
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Any Valentine's ideas I could steal?

I am the poet laureate of barefoot beach bars and country cabins high up in the clouds.

I spend most days trying to make sense of an era when a heavy sigh has become a form of punctuation, ending most sentences. As in, "Where are they living now? Sigh." Or, "Home insurance is going up how much? Sigh."

Lately, I wake up needing a nap. But it's February, a typically snoozy month.

FYI, some kids were screaming while I was in the grocery store yesterday — pure birdsong, if you're in the mood for it — with Mom screaming over them to behave or else. I smiled and thought, "How wonderful. The sounds of life. Sigh."

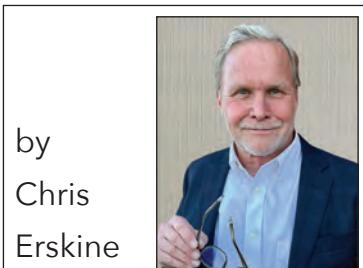
In my day, parents didn't have to raise their voices. A mom or dad disciplined screamy children with a dirty look. Not saying that's better. Just quieter. And more artful, certainly. Wouldn't mind a bit more of that.

Yet, here's a truism in an increasingly false world: You always know just how other people should handle their kids. It's your own kids that you can't figure out.

So, on we go, hoping to harmonize our jagged lives.

Obviously, I am a man with some unpopular opinions and shapeless, cabbage-colored dreams.

You don't know what it's like to



by
Chris
Erskine

be me till you find yourself standing in the fruit aisle, picking out apples — not based on color or crispness — but on what they're various personalities might have been.

Yeah, I'm fun that way. I've become my own paradise.

The other day, I picked out a nice loaf of sourdough, then spotted a better deal over on the \$3 bargain rack, which was the \$1 rack a year ago. I could find nothing wrong with the \$3 loaf, it still had good color. As when you visit a sick friend, and with nothing else to add, mutter: "Hey, your color's pretty good."

At that point, you're just looking for any positive.

Eventually, after a three-minute consultation with myself, I passed on the half-priced loaf. It was just the symbolism of it, I think, though I looked over a minute later to see another dad happily tossing the discount loaf in his basket. "Smart guy," I thought. "Good color in that bread."

Know who could spot a bargain? My old man. He would drive past 12 gas stations, burning half a tank, just to save 47 cents.

He line-itemed every restaurant check, complaining if they charged him for the roquefort rather than the French.

Most moments, my dad was a wonderful man. In restaurants, he adopted the soul of a burned-out IRS agent.

He was hell on servers, my father. "You're bringing the chicken? We're only half-done with our soup?" he'd bark, as if it were a personal affront, as if the server had let squirrels loose under the table.

More than anything, Dad loved a good gas war. Back in the day, one station owner tried to undercut the other guy across the road. You don't have to take a lot of college econ to know that's the essence of a healthy economy.

No one cuts prices anymore. More commonly, it seems businesses race with one another to push prices up and up and up.

That seems kind of doomed.

Not sure what my late father would think about all these tariffs, except that he was morally opposed to any price hike for any reason.

He also never paid his parking violations till Mom noticed they'd issued some sort of warrant for his arrest. Apparently, Dad thought of himself as the Paul Revere of parking tickets. He thought of them as taxes and needed to make a point.

Look, in my experience, economies blossom, and when they blossom too much, they collapse and begin to blossom all over again. They are democracy's apple trees.

Meanwhile, any Valentine's ideas I could steal? Do you paint? Are

you a florist — see tulip photo? I'd pay a little extra for the hummingbirds.



photo courtesy of Chris Erskine

If you find one of these in your garden, I'll pay you for it.

when one coyote is injured, the mate will often bring it food to survive.

So now, when I see this gimpy coyote, I no longer see a wounded animal whose time is limited. I see a survivor that lives on loyalty and love.

Really, that's the best bread of all.

Email the columnist at Letters@ChrisErskineLA.com



photo by Chris Erskine

Gifts are good this week. Love and loyalty can be even better.

The Grove 'Shares the Love' with first responders

Throughout February, spread the love at The Grove with exclusive in-store offers at participating shops and an exciting activation on Feb. 14.

The #LoveLettersToLA Event on Feb. 14 invites guests to "Share the Love" by customizing a Valentine's Gram for first responders, complemented by live string music performances. Participating visitors will then receive a Valentine's Day Crumbl Cookie Gram and are encouraged to share and tag their gram using #LoveLettersToLA.

Additionally, David Yurman's timeless assortment of jewelry is meant to be loved and cherished, and is now available at The Grove.

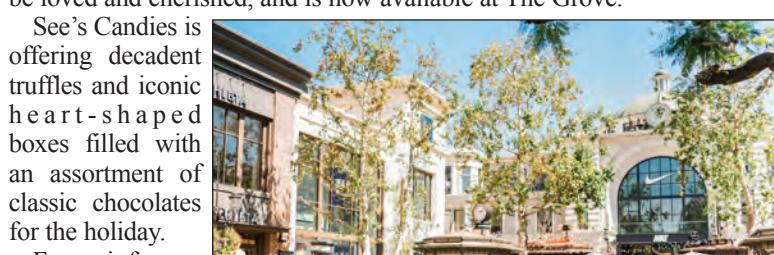


photo courtesy of Caruso

CicLAvia rolls out 2025 schedule, starting Feb. 23

In its 15th year, CicLAvia is bringing Los Angeles together with more open streets, more miles of smiles and more active recreation spaces. CicLAvia announces its 2025 schedule of car-free open streets events, including some new routes and two CicLAmis.

In addition to the 4-7 miles of CicLAvia's traditional open streets events, there will be two 1-2 mile CicLAmis — compact, pedestrian-oriented neighborhood routes designed to inspire participants to slow down and enjoy the streets in a more leisurely fashion. Expect activities like self-guided walking tours, scavenger hunts, street games, local business engagements and art and cultural activities for all ages at every CicLAvia Sunday.

Events this year include Feb. 23's West Adams Meets University Park; Koreatown Meets Hollywood on April 6; Pico Union on May 18; Historic South L.A. Meets Watts on June 22; Culver City Meets Venice on Aug. 17; San Pedro on Sept. 14; Heart of L.A. on Oct. 12; and Melrose Avenue on Dec. 7.

"For 15 years, LADOT's partnership with CicLAvia has unlocked the potential of our streets and turned them into neighborhood celebrations," said LADOT General Manager Laura Rubio-Cornejo.



map courtesy of CicLAvia
The route for the Feb. 23 event runs along Jefferson Ave. through West Adams and University Park.



photo courtesy of CicLAvia

People-powered vehicles connect Angelenos at CicLAvia.

"We look forward to hitting the streets from West Adams to University Park with another great event that allows Angelenos and visitors to walk, bike and roll

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Letters to the Editor

Column about scratched Porsche misses mark

Re "The \$700 scratch that united a neighborhood," Jan. 2 issue

I find it bewildering and incredibly tone deaf that this article was published. A restaurant chef's \$145,000 car gets a minor scratch and her husband gleefully takes it upon himself to find the culprit who caused it.

Just when you think the article can't get any worse, it does. The incident is treated as if it is a high crime. The very fact that the whole neighborhood galvanizes behind him to find the perpetrator only underscores the term "First World Problems." Krikorian's Frank Capra-esque style gets increasingly sickening and you start to realize that this writer is seriously invested in his "only in Hancock Park" story. He joyfully assigns "Universal Good Person Points" to the various wealthy folks who join him in regarding the incident as serious as he does, [and] the stop everything [approach] to isolate at what time it could have happened. Let's meet them: "Shahnaz, who drives a Maserati SUV," a prominent and helpful lawyer, a former LAPD police

officer and robbery detective, and Valvoline employees who spend hours upon hours looking at surveillance tape.

We're talking about a small scratch on a well-to-do woman's vehicle. But apparently, it's all hands on deck. This is a story designed for the white upper class audience that dines at his wife's restaurant. But wait, there's more. Let's knock on the door of a Jewish family, with Moshe "surprisingly, kind and pleasant." They get a pizza for fessing up that their daughter caused the grave damage. And so the story is tied up in a neat little bow and we see that yes, there are still people living in a bubble and with nothing better to do then help their wife save \$1,000 on a minor scratch for a car that probably shouldn't have been parked in a narrow alley in the first place.

In all seriousness, does this story warrant three-quarters of a page, and how is it really newsworthy or relevant to the world we living in now? If I lived somewhere south of Wilshire, would the LAPD and some detectives help me find out who scratched my Toyota Camry?

Bertrand Pellegrin
Los Angeles

Editor's note: This story was a tongue-in-cheek account of how "something" brought a neighborhood together. Neighbors who didn't know each other became a community. Your letter implies the space was wasted – it obviously wasn't wasted on you, since you read the entire piece. And finally, the writer is not married to the chef – she is his girlfriend. Thanks for your letter and we urge you to get to know your neighbors as well.

Crossing can be hazardous for pedestrians in WeHo

There's a lot of talk about pedestrian safety, which confuses me because I've had two instances where West Hollywood sheriffs didn't stop at a stop sign, didn't wait for me to cross the street and didn't use their blinker. Two times in one walk. First, the sheriff didn't stop at a stop sign and then they didn't yield to me when I tried to cross in the crosswalk.

Now what kind of example does

that set? I think they should take more care in the way they obey the traffic rules. Because if they don't, why should we?

Denise McCanles
West Hollywood

blamed for cutting these programs.

Philip Ginter
Sunland

Have an Opinion? Sound Off!

The Beverly Press encourages our readers to submit Letters to the Editor via e-mail at: editor@beverlypress.com. Postings on our website at beverlypress.com may also be considered as Letters to the Editor.

In your letter, please include your full name, mailing address, daytime phone number, and e-mail address. This information is seen only by the editor and is not used for any commercial purpose. Letters that do not contain contact information cannot be published. Letters become the property of the Park Labrea News/Beverly Press, and may be republished in any format.

Letters may be edited for length.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at its meeting to be held on **Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard**, in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, will hold a public hearing to consider:

AN APPEAL OF STAFF'S OCTOBER 3, 2024 INCOMPLETE DETERMINATION, PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 65943(c), PERTAINING TO THE REVIEW OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PROPOSED 15-STORY RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AT 140 SOUTH CAMDEN DRIVE.

The proposed project is a new 15-story, 194' tall, residential building at 140 South Camden Drive. The proposal consists of 27 dwelling units inclusive of six (6) units allocated for lower income households. A four-level subterranean parking structure would include 44 automated parking spaces. The project site is located within the City's R-4X2, Multiple Residential Zone. The applicant has filed applications to initiate the review of the proposal as a "Builder's Remedy" project, which relies on the provisions of the Housing Accountability Act (HAA), codified in Government Code §65589.5, and the related filing of a preliminary application pursuant to Government Code §65941.1.

This project is currently under review by the City and no action regarding a decision on the project has occurred. The applicant (Wilshire Camden LLC) has filed an appeal of City staff's determination, that the project application is incomplete and related determinations as detailed in the City's letter issued on October 3, 2024.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15378(b)(5)), administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, including determinations of application completeness, are not considered projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project is currently under review and the City has not performed an environmental analysis of the project, as project details may change in response to the City's comments during project review. Environmental review of the project will be performed and publicly available prior to any decision on the project being issued.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING Please be advised that pre-entry metal detector screening requirements are now in place at City Hall. Members of the public are requested to plan visits accordingly. Members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending in-person or telephonically, and may view the meeting through live webcast or BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable. City Council meetings are broadcast on local Beverly Hills television and on other media platforms. Anyone who participates at the meeting and/or enters the City Council Chamber is subject to having their image displayed. These recordings will remain publicly accessible in perpetuity.

Public Comment Participation:

Oral Comment/Listen only: (310) 288-2288

Email: cityclerk@beverlyhills.org

Video (during public comment only): <http://beverlyhills.org/comment>

To Watch Video Live: <http://beverlyhills.org/live> or

On-Demand: <http://beverlyhills.org/citycouncilmeetings>

In-Person: Submit a Speaker Card to the City Clerk at the meeting

How to Submit Public Comment (Email/Video):

It is recommended that public written comments be submitted to the City Clerk's office by 12:00 p.m. on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the City Council/Parking Authority. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item Number or Topic in the subject line of the email. The City Clerk will read only the first three minutes (approximately 350 words) of a written comment. In the event of a large number of written comments on one item, written comments may be summarized by the City Clerk's Office. The entire written comment shall be archived in full as part of the record.

If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record. Public comment via video conference will be no longer than three (3) minutes per each individual comment, subject to City Council discretion based on the anticipated length in the meeting. In-person speaker cards may be submitted to the City Clerk directly during the meeting.

Any interested person may participate in the meeting and be heard or present written comments to the City Council. According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the Council's action 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 written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing.

In Person Participation:

All interested persons are invited to attend and speak on this matter in person. Please see the above information on the location and time of this meeting.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact **Judy Gutierrez, Senior Planner** in the Planning Division at (310) 285-1192, or by email at jgutierrez@beverlyhills.org. Please also contact us to add your email to the interested parties list for this proposal, so that important updates and notifications may be sent to you.

HUMA AHMED
City Clerk



Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please call (310) 285-2400 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY). Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services. City Hall, including the Council Chamber and Room 280A, is wheelchair accessible. The City Hall Council Chamber and Room 280A are also equipped with audio equipment for the hearing impaired.

RESTAURANT NEWS

Lawry's conjures 'Prime' romance

Treat your Valentine to a night of decadence at Lawry's The Prime Rib in Beverly Hills. Available Feb. 13-16, Lawry's is offering a \$79 per person prix fixe menu inclusive of: the famous original spinning bowl salad, made with crisp romaine and iceberg lettuce, baby spinach, shredded beets, chopped eggs, croutons and vintage dressing; a choice of roasted prime ribs of beef, Lawry cut, served with mashed Idaho potatoes, Yorkshire pudding and choice of creamed corn or creamed spinach, a roasted Chilean sea bass with mashed Idaho potatoes and soy-hazelnut brown butter, or an eight-ounce filet mignon with mashed Idaho potatoes and garlic confit or, for additionally \$12, prime New York strip with mashed Idaho potatoes and garlic confit; and a choice of dark chocolate fantasy cake, English trifles or vanilla crème brûlée.

For information, visit lawrysonline.com/lawrys-the-prime-rib-beverly-hills or call (310)652-2827. Lawry's The Prime Rib is located at 100 La Cienega Blvd.

[line.com/lawrys-the-prime-rib-beverly-hills](http://lawrysonline.com/lawrys-the-prime-rib-beverly-hills) or call (310)652-2827. Lawry's The Prime Rib is located at 100 La Cienega Blvd.

Make February sweet and help fund fire relief

This month, SweetBoy founder and Saltie Girl pastry chef, Ben Sidell, offers a festive Valentine's Day cookie tin with a portion of proceeds donated to the L.A. Food Bank Disaster Relief Fund. Packaged in a custom SweetBoy tin, the set will include two each (a dozen total) of the following flavors – red hot snickerdoodle, chocolate covered strawberry, brown butter rose, red velvet white chocolate, ruby, chocolate chip and pink sugar. The cookie tin is \$50 and is available for local pickup at Saltie Girl, located at 8615 W. Sunset Blvd. or shipping nationwide. For local pickup, visit sweetboy.com/catering.

Romance over a 'Proper' meal

For an elegant \$120 four-course dining experience, including ricotta gnocchi and lobster and braised beef short rib, visit Caldo Verde for a Valentine's Day to remember. Or enjoy Cara Cara's rooftop offerings the perfect, sweeping backdrop for an intimate evening celebrating love. The restaurant has a three-course dinner boasting fresh, seasonal dishes for \$120 per person. Both Cara Cara and Caldo Verde are located inside the Proper Hotel, 1100 S. Broadway. For information, visit properhotel.com.

Dahlia serves up pastries for the holiday

The Delphi Hotel's Dahlia is offering a romantic escape in

ing-store-v2/sweetboy-los-angeles/menu/order-settings. For shipping, visit sweetboy.com/store/product/sweetboy-valentines-tin.



photo courtesy of Hotel Casa del Mar

The Macallan Whiskey Flight is only \$60 from 3-9 p.m. on Fridays at Terrazza & The Lobby Lounge.

Savor a whiskey flight at Casa del Mar

Terrazza & The Lobby Lounge at Hotel Casa del Mar is now offering The Macallan Whiskey Flight for \$60 on Fridays from 3-9 p.m. Enjoy a half ounce of each single malt whiskey while taking in the picturesque Pacific coast views. Selections include the Macallan Sherry Oak 12-year paired with raclette and rye toast,

the Macallan Sherry Oak 18-year paired with a savory date tartlet and the Macallan Time Space Mastery paired with Compartes chocolate truffle.

For information, visit hotelsadelmar.com/dining/terrazza. Hotel Casa de Mar is located at 1910 Ocean Way, Santa Monica.



Meatloaf or Filet Mignon?



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get the meatloaf!
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the intimate lounge with freshly brewed teas, bubbly and decadent pastries for \$70 per person on Valentine's Day afternoon. Enjoy the offerings between 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Feb. 14. For information, visit thedelphihotel.com. The Delphi is located at 550 Flower St.

camole, jalapeño crema and fresh herbs.

And every day has happy hour from 2-6 p.m., including \$9 house wines, \$7 beers, \$12-14 classic cocktails and shareable snacks like avocado hummus, shishito peppers and truffle fries.

The Beverly Bar is located at 434 Camden Drive. For information, visit beverlybar.com.

Beverly Bar offers daily specials

The Beverly Hills local-loved Beverly Bar has launched some fun daily specials for those who need an excuse to dine out.

On Sunday, for just \$35 enjoy a pasta entrée and a glass of cabernet or sauvignon blanc. Choose from spicy rigatoni, creamy truffle fettuccini, chicken or eggplant parm with marinara pasta, plus all bottles of wine are 50% off.

Monday has \$12 martinis, with eight different varieties from espresso to lychee to dirty.

On Tuesday, take a sip of a tequila cocktail, priced \$12-14, plus \$14 chips and guac or queso, and \$19 Taco trio plates, available with shrimp, salmon, steak or chicken, loaded with fajita veggies, gua-

See page 15

Sushi by Scratch activates the senses on V-Day

What was once fully booked at Sushi by Scratch Restaurants for Valentine's Day is now giving fans of the tasting-menu omakase inspired concept to still have the chance to book with the newly released Bliss Valentine's Day Immersive Experience. On Feb. 14, Sushi by Scratch Restaurants: Los Angeles invites guests to a dining journey that elevates its already premium signature omakase experience into a multi-sensory experience, complete with luxurious

The Gallery expands 'Horizons'

The Gallery, the groundbreaking new dining and entertainment destination created by immersive entertainment visionaries Daren Ulmer and Chuck Fawcett, will officially open its doors this month at 330 W. Olympic Blvd. in Downtown Los Angeles. Spanning nearly 8,000 square feet, the facility will feature two flagship experiences: Horizon, a sophisticated bar and restaurant offering an extensive menu of wines, artfully crafted cocktails and seasonal dishes, and The Gallery Theater, which will debut its inaugural signature dining show, "Elementa," a culinary and visual exploration of nature's essential forces. Horizon opened on Feb. 6, while Elementa is set to premiere at The Gallery Theater on Friday, Feb. 28.

Horizon will offer an extensive selection of wines, spirits, beers and non-alcoholic beverages alongside a seasonal menu of snacks, sharables, and entrées crafted by chef Phillip Martin.



photo courtesy of The Gallery

The Horizon is a sophisticated bar and restaurant inside the new culinary and entertainment destination The Gallery.

Designed to evoke modern-lux comfort, Horizon's approachable yet sophisticated atmosphere makes it the perfect spot to unwind with friends, enjoy a celebratory toast or savor a well-crafted meal. The venue's one-of-a-kind bar, a centerpiece of style and innovation, features a dynamic and ever-changing 3D cityscape brought to life with dramatic lighting and media vignettes for guests to explore and discover.

In celebration of its opening, Horizon will feature a special Valentine's Day weekend menu

from Feb. 14-16. Available for \$65 per person, the indulgent three-course menu features a choice of a crisp little gem Caesar or hearty winter chopped kale salad to start, followed by an entrée selection of tender steak au poivre or perfectly seared pacific king salmon. To finish on a sweet note, guests can choose between decadent white chocolate bread pudding or refreshing coconut tapioca with passion fruit and mango.

For information, hours and reservations, visit thegallerydining.com.

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- Porterhouse
- T-Bone
- Bone-in New York
- Bone-in Ribeye

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Jenna Dewan to host LA Art Show

The LA Art Show has announced actress, dancer and producer Jenna Dewan as the host for the 2025 LA Art Show opening night premiere party in celebration of its 30th anniversary. The VIP event for Los Angeles' largest and longest-running art fair commences the city's 2025 art season at the Los Angeles Convention Center on Wednesday, Feb. 19, from 6 p.m.-10 p.m. Tickets are available for purchase at laartshow.com, with 15% of the purchase price for every ticket sold supporting the American Heart Association's Life is Why Campaign, the LA Art Show's charity beneficiary.

In response to the devastating wildfires in Los Angeles, the LA

Art Show will be donating to the California Community Foundation's Wildlife Recovery Fund, with the option to support fundraising efforts when purchasing tickets or through LA Art Show's donation link, which can be accessed by visiting pledge.to/california-community-foundation-7324. The LA Art Show will also grant firefighters and their families free entry to the fair from Feb. 20-23 to thank them for their tireless efforts.

"I'm proud to host the 2025 LA Art Show Opening Night Premiere Party and help celebrate 30 remarkable years of the show's indelible contribution to Los Angeles' arts and culture," Dewan said. "The

people of our magical city are hurting and I am especially honored to be supporting an event that is raising much needed funds for two essential philanthropic organizations - The American Heart Association and The California Community Foundation's Wildfire Recovery Fund."

Under the guidance of producer and director Kassandra Voyagis, who has been with the show for 20 years, the 2025 LA Art Show will commemorate its 30-year milestone with exhibits from galleries and museums across the globe.

Ticket holders for the LA Art Show opening night premiere party will receive VIP access to an advanced preview of the show's expansive cultural programming, with exhibits from international galleries, museums

and nonprofits. Sponsored by U.S. Hybrid and Athletes for Life, the evening features entertainment and cuisine and beverages from local restaurants and brands. Renowned artist and L.A. native Robert Vargas will create a live mural during the event titled "HEROES" to honor and benefit the first responders who have served the city during the recent fires. "HEROES" will pay homage to those who protect our community and serve as a symbol of hope and perseverance, reflecting Los Angeles' unwavering spirit in overcoming adversity.

Visit laartshow.com to learn more and purchase tickets. The LA Art Show will be held at the Los Angeles Convention Center's South Hall, located at 1201 S. Figueroa St.



photo courtesy of LA Art Show
Jenna Dewan currently stars in ABC's "The Rookie."

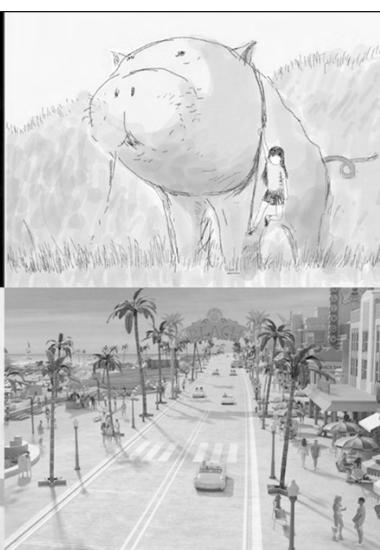
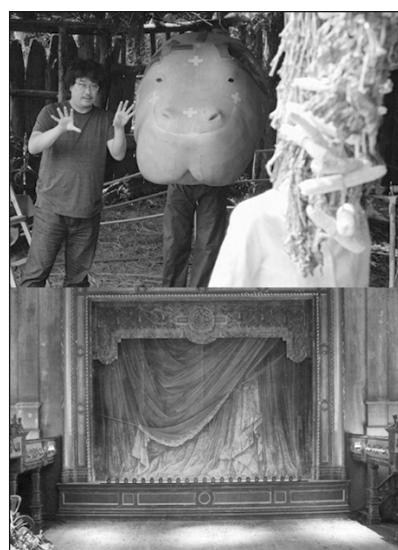
Academy Museum announces two new exhibits

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures has announced new exhibitions for the spring 2025 season.

These include "Director's

Inspiration: Bong Joon Ho," the first-ever museum exhibition dedicated to the Oscar-winning director, tracing his creative development through his films and the films that

most influenced him; and "Barbie to Anna Karenina: The Cinematic Worlds of Sarah Greenwood and Katie Spencer," an exploration of the Oscar-nominated production



photos courtesy of the Academy Museum

The work of director Bong Joon Ho and production designers Sarah Greenwood and Katie Spencer will be the subject of new installations this spring.

design team, who collaborated to visually design the story, directorial vision and characters of films such as "Barbie" (2023), "Anna Karenina" (2012) and "Beauty and the Beast" (2017).

"These exhibitions showcase how the Academy Museum collaborates with world-renowned filmmakers to bring insight and deepened understanding to their creative processes," said Amy Homma, Academy Museum director and president. "I am so excited for the public to celebrate and explore the imaginations and brilliance of Bong Joon Ho, Sarah Greenwood and Katie Spencer. These exhibitions will showcase the incredible diversity of voices, stories and cultures that have shaped the movie industry and the global film community."

"Through unprecedented access to materials from his personal archive, 'Director's Inspiration: Bong Joon Ho' invites visitors to explore his creative process through production materials and the films that most inspire him," said

Michelle Puetz, exhibitions curator. "Barbie to Anna Karenina: The Cinematic Worlds of Sarah Greenwood and Katie Spencer" provides a firsthand look into the duo's artistic vision and uniquely collaborative creative process - showcasing how they bring cinematic worlds to life, from concept to reality."

"Director's Inspiration" will open on March 23. "Barbie to Anna Karenina" will open on May 23.

For information, visit academy-museum.org. The Academy Museum is located at 6067 Wilshire Blvd.

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.

WeHo features Art in Odd Places

The city of West Hollywood invites the community to join Ed Woodham, a global visual and Art in Odd Places performance art festival founder, and Deborah Oliver, a Los Angeles curator, educator and artist, to learn about the upcoming Art in Odd Places West Hollywood in July 2025. The information session will take place on Saturday, Feb. 15 from 1-4 p.m. at the West Hollywood Library Community Meeting

Room, located at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. RSVP at bit.ly/WEHOAiOP.

Artists and community members who attend this session will receive details about the scope and theme of the AiOP West Hollywood festival and how to create a feasible temporary visual and performance art project for a public space. Woodham and Oliver will walk attendees through the festival application process and offer suggestions on how to move a traditional studio practice into the public sphere.

For 20 years, Art in Odd Places has presented visual and performance art in unexpected public spaces in New York City, nationally and internationally. AiOP reminds people that public spaces function as the epicenter for diverse social interactions and the unfettered exchange of ideas.

Woodham is an independent Southern queer conceptual artist, curator, producer and educator entangled in a mélange of New York City, national and international activities across media and culture for more than 45 years. Woodham employs humor, irony, subtle detournement and a striking visual style to encourage greater consideration of - and provoke deeper critical engagement with - the urban environment.

Oliver is an educator, independent curator, producer and interdisciplinary artist. Her practice is focused on performance art and its history, practice, curatorial applications, community exchange and dialogue. She is the founder and curator of Irrational Exhibits, a durational performance, installation, and media exhibition established in 2001 at Track 16 Gallery. Oliver is a faculty member at the University of California Irvine Department of Art and co-founded with Ulysses Jenkins The Art of Performance at UCI, an annual performance event for the student community.

For information, visit weho.org/arts.

iLe takes to the Bram Goldsmith stage

From her roots as the powerhouse vocalist of Calle 13 to her Grammy-winning solo career, iLe brings a mesmerizing blend of traditional Latin rhythms and cutting-edge electronic sounds to the Bram Goldsmith Theater at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts on Friday, Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Her debut album, "iLevitabile," was hailed as an instant classic and won the Grammy in the Best Latin Rock, Urban or Alternative Album in 2017, while "Almadura" pushed boundaries, fusing ancestral beats with modern digital landscapes. With her latest release, "Nacarile," iLe delves even deeper into her creative well, collaborating with luminaries like Mon Laferte and Ivy Queen.

The Wallis is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd. For tickets,

call (310)746-4000 weekdays between 10 a.m.-6 p.m. or visit thewallis.org.



photo courtesy of the artist and The Wallis
iLe won a Grammy for her debut album "iLevitabile."

Descanso Gardens captures America's road trip experience

Descanso Gardens is switching tracks with a new exhibition on the Descanso Railroad display of miniature trains. Visitors will bid farewell to Applied Imagination's "Train Stations of America" exhibition as it makes way for "Roadside Attractions," an imaginative tribute to America's most memorable roadside landmarks. The new pieces will be installed over Valentine's Day weekend, with the railroad's landscape being refreshed the following week.

Crafted by Applied Imagination, "Roadside Attractions" brings a collection of iconic American landmarks past and present to life in remarkable detail. From colossal food-shaped buildings to oversized roadside oddities, each piece is constructed from natural materials such as twigs, leaves, seedpods and acorns, fusing art and nature.

From page 13
enhancements for an unforgettable celebration.

Priced at \$499 per person, the evening will begin with a welcome cocktail and an elegant canapé service before guests settle in for an extended premium omakase, featuring caviar additions and imported truffle for an extra touch of decadence. A curated sake pairing accompanies each hand-prepared course, and a glass of sparkling sake provides the perfect toast to the night.

With only eight seats per seating, this intimate dining experience is designed for those seeking a truly exclusive Valentine's celebration.

Seatings for the specialty Bliss are available at 6 p.m. at Sushi by Scratch Restaurants: Los Angeles, located at 16101 Ventura Blvd., Encino. For details and reservations, visit exploretrock.com/sushibar.

Ladyhawk serves love a la carte

Ladyhawk will be serving a delightful a la carte menu of specials for Valentine's Day, including scallops with creamy corn, orange segments, fresno chili and micro cilantro; cauliflower with tarator, shallots, fresno, fennel and cashews; and pistachio panna cotta with coconut milk, agar agar, pistachio butter and orange blossom. Ladyhawk's classic dinner and beverage menu will also be available for guests and reservations can be made via resy.com/cities/los-angeles-ca/venues/lady-hawk. Ladyhawk is located at 623 N. La Peer Drive.

Sprinkle a touch of SALT on the holiday

Savor a luxurious three-course dinner at SALT at Marina del Rey Hotel, showcasing dishes such as shigoku oysters, grilled pork chop and roast beef tenderloin. Begin the evening with a complimentary welcome cocktail to awaken your palate and elevate the experience further with expertly curated optional wine pairings. The price is \$75 per person and is available Friday, Feb. 14 and Saturday, Feb. 15 from 4-9 p.m. Reservations can be made at opentable.com/r/salt-restaurant-and-bar-marina-del-rey. SALT at Marina del Rey Hotel is located at 13534 Bali Way.

"These incredible miniatures are packed with creativity and personality," Descanso Gardens CEO Julianne Rooke said. "Applied Imagination's ability to capture the spirit of these classic landmarks in such lifelike detail never ceases to amaze us. We can't wait for visitors – both locals and those from across the country – to see these nostalgic icons up close."

Among the highlights are miniature versions of the Jimmy Carter Peanut Statue in Plains, Georgia – a giant peanut with a signature toothy grin built in 1976 to support the future president's campaign; the Brown Derby in Los Angeles – once one of L.A.'s most famous restaurants; the Longaberger Basket Building in Newark, Ohio – a towering homage to America's basket-weaving legacy shaped like the company's best-selling basket;

and the Peachoid in Gaffney, South Carolina – A 135-foot-tall water tower resembling a ripe peach. Also included are Dinosaur Land in White Post, Virginia – a roadside dinosaur park that has charmed visitors for over 50 years; Randy's Donuts in Inglewood – featuring an iconic oversized doughnut that greets travelers near LAX; and the Big Duck in Flanders, New York – a Long Island favorite and icon of roadside architecture.

The exhibition will have more than 20 handcrafted pieces surrounding model trains that run continuously throughout the day. The Descanso Railroad is free with admission to Descanso Gardens, located at 1418 Descanso Drive in La Cañada Flintridge. For information, call (818)949-4200, or visit descansogardens.org.



photo courtesy of Descanso Gardens

The "Roadside Attractions" exhibition, part of the Descanso Railroad, highlights attractions along the country's roads, including Randy's Donuts in Inglewood.

Juicy Lucy Burgers now on sale at Gelson's

Barney's Beanery has announced the retail launch of their frozen Juicy Lucy Burgers in 26 Gelson's locations. The brand will also be expanding within L.A. to Jons Marketplace later this winter. Juicy Lucy Inc. makes their delicious burgers, a beloved staple on the Barney's menu, with 100% Angus Beef and real cheese. The patties are available in two varieties, three cheese and jalapeño cheese. For information, visit juicylucyburgers.com.

ers.com.
Barney's Beanery in West Hollywood is located at 8447 Santa Monica Blvd.

Peninsula has collection of love-themed experiences

The hotel has put together a thoughtful selection of romance-based offerings including a Valentine's Day Cake Decorating class with the property's celebrated pastry chef and Food Network star James Rosselle, a

romantic four-course dinner for two at The Belvedere and a Valentine's Day-themed Afternoon Tea. Additionally, guests staying at the property can upgrade their experiences with enhancements through the Eat. Stay. Love Romance Package. The Peninsula Beverly Hills will also have an on-site flower cart on Feb. 14 with in-house florist Modern Floristry for those interested in purchasing floral arrangements.

For information, visit peninsula.com/en/beverly-hills/5-star-luxury-hotel-beverly-hills or call (310)551-2888. The Peninsula Beverly Hills is located at 9882

Santa Monica Blvd.

Valentine's goes for a new high at the Artist Tree

The Artist Tree West Hollywood dispensary and lounge will be offering special Valentine's Day canna cocktails this month through Feb. 16. The Valentine's canna cocktails include Love Potion #420, Love on the Rocks, Hazy Hearts and Cherry in Love. For information, visit theartisttree.com. The Artist Tree is located at 8625 Santa Monica Blvd.

*I knew it was love when
I wiped the mustard from
your lips the night we met.
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on Valentine's Day.*

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New recording facility to be added to UCLA School of Music

Through a special pledge by Mike Curb, California's former lieutenant and acting governor, and music industry veteran, The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music will begin construction on a new student recording facility in the Evelyn and Mo Ostin Music Center in 2025. The generous gift builds upon a philanthropic partnership between the Mike Curb Foundation and the school of music which traces back more than a decade.

"I am very pleased to extend my commitment to create a creative lab space that will serve as a training ground for young music professionals to hone their skills and master their craft at The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music," Curb said. "We are proud to be joining

our support with philanthropists and music industry pioneers Herb Alpert, Mo Ostin and Berry Gordy."

The Mike Curb Foundation made its first gift to The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music in 2012, then providing funding for the creation of a computer music lab in the Ostin Music Center. The new funds provide for a complete renovation of that space, allowing the creation of the Mike Curb Student Recording Facility, as well as two new mixing/editing rooms and faculty studios.

"Mike Curb has a passion for educational philanthropy," said Eileen Stempel, inaugural dean of The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music. "We are thrilled that he has

provided our students with professional-level facilities to foster their development. This will be a significant enhancement for our music industry program."

The gift from the Mike Curb Foundation follows the Foundation's mission and history of supporting education and culture. Since its inception over twenty years ago, the Mike Curb Foundation has provided more than \$200 million in grants and gifts to support education, culture and arts, historic preservation, programs to alleviate homelessness and other community projects and services. It is committed to a charitable program that reinforces Curb's desire to give back to the community and inspire others to do the same.

For information, visit mikecurbfoundation.com. The Evelyn and Mo Ostin Music Center is located at 445 Charles E. Young Drive East.

BHHS senior to attend Brown University

Beverly Hills High School announced that senior Sophia Diamond will be attending Brown University this fall. A passionate advocate for sustainability and a dedicated scholar, Diamond will be pursuing environmental science at the prestigious Ivy League institution.

Diamond joined BHHS as a sophomore from Chicago and quickly made her mark, excelling in AP chemistry and physics while demonstrating a strong commitment to environmental advocacy. As president of the Plastic Free Club, she led initiatives to promote sustainability on campus, working to reduce plastic waste and encourage eco-friendly practices among

her peers.

Beyond academics, Diamond has played a pivotal role in BHHS's theatre program, serving as a stage manager. Her ability to balance leadership, academics and extracurricular involvement has made her an inspiration to the school community.

"Sophia is a true leader, both in and out of the classroom," BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy said. "Her dedication to science and sustainability, along with her drive to create meaningful change, sets her apart. We have no doubt that she will continue to make an impact at Brown and beyond."

For information, visit bhusd.org.



Beverly Hills High School senior Sophia Diamond will study environmental science at the Ivy League school in Providence, Rhode Island.

In celebration of 100 years, Beverly Vista Middle School introduced the Centennial Citizen Award, recognizing students who exemplify the school's core values: "Build Resilience, Value Learning, Make Connections and Show Integrity."

The first recipient, Samuel Kaminski, was honored for his courage and integrity when he stood up for a fellow student. His willingness to take action and promote kindness embodies the principles that define BVMS.

"Our Centennial Citizen Award celebrates students who lead with character," principal Rich Waters said. "Samuel's bravery and compassion set an example for our entire community."

BVMS will continue this tradition, recognizing students who make a positive impact and uphold the values that shape the school.

For information, visit bhusd.org.

for his work with the Los Angeles premiere of Stephen Sondheim's "Assassins." As musical director for the William Inge Theater Festival, he has created revues for composers such as Bock and Harnick, Comden and Green and Kander and Ebb. Baker has also published 20 arrangements for solo harp.

The concert, set in the intimate and historic space of All Saints' Beverly Hills, promises an evening of musical beauty, artistry and emotion blending 17th-century baroque, 19th century romanticism and timeless sacred music.

Tickets, which are available at the door, are \$20 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students. All Saints' Beverly Hills is located at 504 N. Camden Drive. For information, call (310)275-0123, or visit allsaintsbh.org.

provided our students with professional-level facilities to foster their development. This will be a significant enhancement for our music industry program."

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For information, visit mikecurbfoundation.com. The Evelyn and Mo Ostin Music Center is located at 445 Charles E. Young Drive East.



photo courtesy of BHUSD
Performing arts students showcased the programs available at Beverly Vista Middle School.

Beverly Vista puts the spotlight on community at open house

Beverly Vista Middle School welcomed families and future students to its open house on Tuesday, Feb. 4. The event provided an in-depth look at the innovation, dedication and strong sense of community that define BVMS, reaffirming why it was recognized as a distinguished School to Watch by the California League of Middle Schools.

The evening began with Best in Show, where incoming sixth-grade students and their families explored various academic and extracurricular programs through interactive information tables. Departments such as STEM, math, science, social studies, English, world languages, athletics, performing arts and visual arts showcased the diverse opportunities available at BVMS. Families engaged with educators and gained valuable insight into the

school's commitment to fostering student growth.

Following a brief transition, BVMS Connections allowed current students to lead their families on guided classroom visits, offering a firsthand look at their daily learning experiences. The portion of the evening highlighted the strong relationships between students, teachers and the broader BVMS community.

"BVMS is more than just a school – it's a place where students thrive academically, socially and emotionally," principal Rich Waters said. "Our open house was an incredible opportunity for families to witness firsthand the passion, innovation and excellence that make our school a 'School to Watch' and a truly special place to learn."

For information, visit bhusd.org.

LAUSD stays on upward academic trend in recent assessments

New data released by the Education Recovery Scorecard shows that Los Angeles Unified School District students are outperforming peers statewide in similar school districts, consistent with reports on the LAUSD from the National Assessment of Educational Progress and Smarter Balanced Assessment. The results indicate the district's post-COVID academic recovery strategies are achieving positive results, administrators said.

"Everyone in the Los Angeles Unified community has worked tirelessly since the pandemic to get our students back on track," LAUSD Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho said. "The initiatives, programs, interventions and strategies we have implemented to address learning loss are working. We are fully aware there is more work to do and we will not cease momentum until every student reaches their full potential. But these results are a clear reflection of our work and it is truly a bright spot after years of adversity."

Compared to other districts across the country, the LAUSD demonstrated greater improvement between 2019-24. It was particularly evident in math, in which the district exceeded pre-pandemic levels of achievement. Data shows that compared to other California districts with similar percentages of students receiving free and reduced-price lunches, LAUSD experienced one of the highest rates of academic recovery. The district

is also improving at a faster rate in math.

"Everyone in the Los Angeles Unified community has worked tirelessly since the pandemic to get our students back on track."

LAUSD Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho

Beverly Vista Middle School honors inaugural Centennial Citizen Award



Beverly Vista Middle School student Samuel Kaminski was awarded for standing up for a classmate.

Enjoy music by celebrated classical composers at All Saints' BH

All Saints' Beverly Hills presents "The Art of Song," a captivating evening of vocal and instrumental music on Sunday, Feb. 16, at 5 p.m.

The performance features soprano Camille King and pianist and harpsichordist Paul Baker in a beautiful and varied program of works by celebrated composers such as Byron Adams' "Trois Poèmes de Ronsard," as well as music by Pietro Marc'Antonio Cesti, Michel Lambert, Johann Sebastian Bach, César Franck and Franz Schubert. King brings her powerful voice to the evocative pieces, supported by Baker's exquisite skill on harpsi-

chord and piano.

King's extensive opera career includes leading roles with Rome Opera, Innsbruck Opera and San Francisco Opera. She has also performed as a soloist with the Los Angeles Master Chorale, Virginia Symphony and Santa Barbara Symphony.

Baker, a prize-winning harpist, pianist and arranger, has made significant contributions to musical performance and arrangements. He has performed and presented workshops at music conferences across the U.S. and was honored as Los Angeles' Music Director of the Year

for his work with the Los Angeles premiere of Stephen Sondheim's "Assassins." As musical director for the William Inge Theater Festival, he has created revues for composers such as Bock and Harnick, Comden and Green and Kander and Ebb. Baker has also published 20 arrangements for solo harp.

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As part of the 2022-26 Strategic Plan, the LAUSD has implemented strategies to address academic recovery. They include optional winter and spring academies that provide additional instruction to identify areas of improvement, expanded tutoring services to assist students during and after school, robust summer school programs and an influx of counselors and mental health support. The academies also provide multiple opportunities for intervention and credit recovery in reading, mathematics, and other subjects.

The district plans to continue developing and offering opportunities for students of color, families of low socioeconomic status and students with disabilities. For information, visit lausd.net.

L.A. County Department of Arts and Culture awards nearly \$5 million in rescue funds

The Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture has awarded nearly \$5 million in additional American Rescue Plan Act funding to the arts sector, focused on support for the Reopening Culture, Tourism and Marketing category of its Creative Recovery L.A. grant program. While the new funding was awarded before the wildfires, the department hopes it will better position grantee organizations, and the communities they serve, to recover from the fires and build back stronger.

In 2023, the department created Creative Recovery L.A. to distribute ARPA funds to the arts sector, which was still suffering from COVID-19 closures, low attendance and financial hardship. CRLA's innovative program design included five grant cate-

gories so that arts nonprofits could apply for funds that addressed their particular organizational needs while boosting the recovery of both the arts sector and communities hardest hit by COVID across L.A. County. The grant categories were Arts Relief and Recovery; Creative Works and Jobs for Artists; Reopening Culture, Tourism and Marketing; Creative Career Pathways for Youth; and Arts for Justice-Involved Youth. In total, 668 organizations were awarded \$26.5 million in the first round. Grantees were given three years to spend the funds, with the aim of supporting longer-term sustainability for the sector as it continues to recover from the pandemic.

In 2024, the department received an additional allocation of \$4.9 mil-

lion in ARPA funds, which it distributed to 484 CRLA Reopening Culture, Tourism and Marketing grantees to support activities that promote arts programming to diverse communities, bring back audiences and engage new ones, and build infrastructure for marketing and promotional initiatives.

With the additional funding now distributed, the department has delivered a historic \$31.4 million in ARPA federal funds to support the relief and recovery of the local arts community. "Arts and culture are vital to the wellbeing of our communities, boosting mental health, economic opportunities and youth development," said L.A. County Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger, 5th District. "These grant programs have a tremendous impact, supporting



photo courtesy of Art Share L.A.

The funding supports the arts community in the wake of the long-lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the arts.

grassroots organizations, mid-sized groups and major cultural institutions alike. They reach millions of residents and visitors annually, including our most vulnerable populations, while providing stable careers for artists and arts workers.

Investing in this kind of broad, inclusive support is essential to rebuilding Los Angeles County's creative economy and arts infrastructure."

For information, visit lacountarts.org.

View western masterworks at The Autry

The Autry Museum of the American West presents "Romance Reimagined" running through April 13 in the Marilyn and Calvin Gross Gallery.

"Romance Reimagined" is a retrospective exhibition with western masterworks, major works and miniatures from the Autry's collec-

tion. Curated by Amy Scott, the exhibition features works by artists Howard Terpning, Tammy Garcia, Tony Abeyta, Ed Mell, Thomas Blackshear, George Carlson, Mian Situ and Logan Hagege. It also includes new work created by more than 70 artists specifically for the Autry's miniatures and small works

auction curated by Beau Alexander, from the Maxwell Alexander Gallery. The small works sale is scheduled during the exclusive opening celebration on Saturday, March 8.

The Autry Museum of the American West is located at 4700 Western Heritage Way. For information, visit theautry.org/romancereimagined.

Cybill gets 'Lucky' at Hollywood's Catalina

If luck be a lady, that lady is the lovely Cybill Shepherd. Looks that made her a model. Talent that made her a name. Charm that made her a superstar. And a love of music she's had since she was a little girl that gave her a voice. This April, she's bringing that voice to Catalina Bar & Grill.

Before she won hearts on both the small and silver screens, Shepherd was just a southern belle born in Tennessee singing in the church choir. Her Memphis roots gave her the gift of blues, pop and jazz, and her voice will wrap you up in warmth, love and a smile.

Join the Catalina Jazz Club, where Shepherd will graciously share the soundtrack of her life, the

magic of Memphis music and how she came to be queen of the Lucky Club.

The music is directed by pianist Sunnie Paxson with her all-star band including Freddy Ramos (guitar), Mark Towns (bass), Dave Tull (drums, vocals), Frank Fontaine (sax), Sandra Adams (vocals), and Susan Sidney Massengale (vocals). Larry G Goldman serves as the tech director.

Tickets are selling out fast, so reserve now at ticketweb.com/search?q=cybill+shepherd+Catalina&loc=hollywood-ca. Shows are scheduled for April 18-19 at 8:30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Catalina Bar & Grill is located at 6725 W. Sunset Blvd.



photo courtesy of Cybill Shepherd
Actress and singer Cybill Shepherd won Golden Globes for her performances on "Moonlighting" and her self-titled sitcom.

10 Reasons Why I Don't Want An Estate Plan

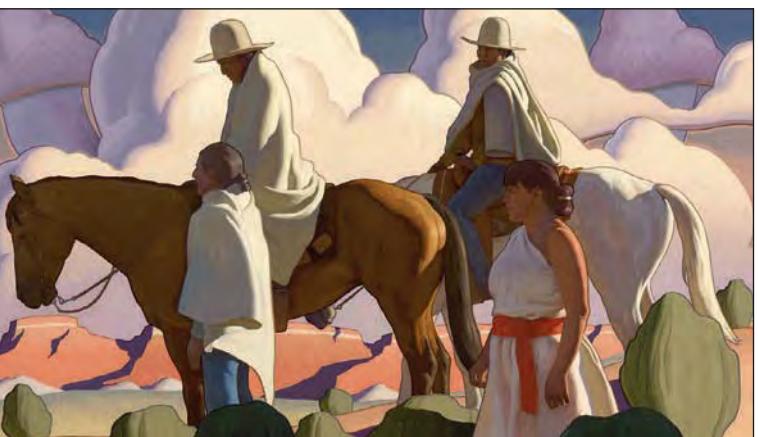
1. I want large sums of my hard-earned money to go to a law firm.
2. I want the government to decide who gets my life savings.
3. What for? My house is only worth a half-million dollars.
4. I really don't care who raises our children.
5. I want a total stranger to go through all of my personal papers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

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

KRAMER LAW GROUP

Stephen W. Kramer

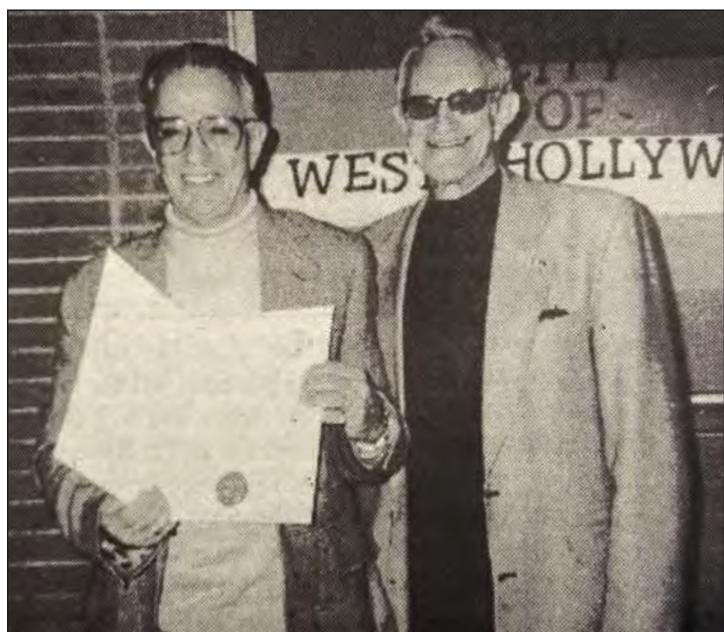
5757 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 535 • Los Angeles, CA 90036 • (323)964-7100
www.thekramerlawgroup.com



Logan Maxwell Hagege's "Time and Space" is included in the new exhibition.

VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

WeHo honors longtime resident, dancer and acting teacher



Dancer, actor and longtime West Hollywood resident John Angelo was honored by the city in this photograph in the Feb. 14, 2002, issue of the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News. West Hollywood Mayor Pro Tem Sal Guarriello, right, presented a proclamation to Angelo for years of service to the community. Angelo taught professional theater arts workshops in the city for decades and produced programs on West Hollywood Public Access. He came to the city in 1952 when he was under contract with MGM and had an extensive career as a dancer on Broadway and in films, appearing in "Summer Stock," "Singing in the Rain," "West Side Story" and "Tropic Zone," as well as "The Frank Sinatra Show." The West Hollywood City Council declared John Angelo Day on June 24, 2012, in recognition of his 90th birthday. Angelo died at the age of 98 on Dec. 16, 2020.



Getty presents 'María Magdalena Campos-Pons: Behold'

The J. Paul Getty Museum presents "María Magdalena Campos-Pons: Behold," on view Feb. 18 through May 4, an exhibition drawn from the artist's family story that examines global histories of enslavement, indentured labor, motherhood and migration. With those legacies as her backdrop, Campos-Pons foregrounds connections – between people, and between people and their environments.

Organized collaboratively by the Brooklyn Museum and the J. Paul Getty Museum, "María Magdalena Campos-Pons: Behold" brings together more than 50 works, including large-scale photographic grids and immersive installations, videos, paintings and performance art documentation. While the artist's photographs and installations are held in many collections on the East Coast and in Europe, this marks the first multimedia sur-

vey of her work since 2007, and the first opportunity on the West Coast to experience the breadth of the artist's vision.

"Campos-Pons's vibrant works grapple with global histories of migration, relevant both to the Getty's commitment to the preservation of world cultures, and to efforts by the museum and our department of photographs to spotlight important contemporary voices and issues," Getty Museum director Timothy Potts said. "We are thrilled to be the exclusive West Coast venue for this exhibition of María Magdalena's inspirational and thought-provoking work."

Born in Matanzas, Cuba, in 1959, María Magdalena Campos-Pons draws from her personal and familial narratives, incorporating Yoruba-derived Santería symbolism to address interconnected historical and contemporary chal-

lenges. Her work reflects the experiences of her African and Chinese ancestors, as well as her life in Cuba, Italy, Boston and Nashville, where she currently resides and serves as the Cornelius Vanderbilt Endowed Chair Professor of Fine Arts at Vanderbilt University.

Among the featured works in the exhibition are "Umbilical Cord" (1991), a poignant artwork about the women in her family made while the artist was separated from them for more than a decade due to political tensions between the United States and Cuba, "Spoken Softly with Mama" (1998), an altar-like installation that honors the many generations in her family and in the African diaspora who labored as domestic workers, as well as powerful videos, performance footage, richly hued large-scale glass mobiles, intricate collages, and vibrant watercolors. Unique to the Getty's installation of the touring exhibition is "Elevata" (2002), an expansive photographic grid on loan from the Indianapolis Museum of Art, which will be featured in a section of the exhibition that deals with the "extreme weather" of



photo courtesy of Getty

The exhibition brings together more than 50 works of Cuban artists María Magdalena Campos-Pons.

racial oppression and climate catastrophe.

Campos-Pons is a 2023 recipient of the MacArthur Foundation "genius" award and in December 2024 was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by ARTnews

for her efforts to show "how the past is embedded in us, the people we hold dear, and the objects we collect."

The Getty Center is located at 1200 Getty Center Drive. For information, visit getty.edu.

Go beyond 'Samurai' at Japan House

Japan House Los Angeles has announced the opening of "Neo-Japonism: Samurai and Beyond: Exploring Tradition Through Technology," an exhibition commemorating the 100th anniversary of broadcasting in Japan started by three radio stations which later became the Japan Broadcasting Corporation, or NHK. On display Feb. 14-Sept. 1, visitors can explore the innovative artwork scanning technologies NHK utilizes to present interactive high-resolution 3D scans of Japan's cultural treasures. Building on the growing global popularity of samurai-era culture – as witnessed in FX's "Shōgun" and Sony's "Rise of the Ronin" video game – presentations will also

include techniques employed by NHK to bring Japanese culture to life from their renowned, year-long "Taiga" historical drama series – which often depict samurai, warlords and noblewomen from the pre-modern period.

To commemorate this milestone, NHK is producing special programs and developing exhibitions in conjunction with unique and cutting-edge visualization technologies they design and implement to promote a deeper understanding of Japanese culture. The exhibition also showcases NHK's interactive technological collaborations with Japan's important museums, allowing greater access to Japanese cultural treasures.

"The exhibition utilizes media arts to present a broad spectrum of historical Japanese works – from clay and ceramic, to woodblock printing and painting, to architecture – inviting visitors to fully explore Japanese cultural aesthetics that collectively contribute to neo-Japonism," said Yuko Kaifu, president, Japan House Los Angeles. "This intangible but consistent 'Japanese-ness' underpins Japan's historical cultural output and represents Japan's contribution to global culture and entertainment."

In recent years, NHK and its subsidiary NHK Enterprises used three-dimensional computer graphic technology to create high resolution 3D scans to build a library of Japanese cultural artifacts. Previously only accessible by visiting a museum where they would be displayed behind glass, the artifacts vividly come to life in this exhibition as 3DCG objects, allowing visitors to explore the objects as interactive video experiences – close up, viewed from typically inaccessible angles and augmented with audio and graphical annotations.

Admission to the exhibition is free. Walk-ins are welcome as space allows. The gallery is open weekdays from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and weekends from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Japan House is located at 6801 Hollywood Blvd. For information, visit japanhousela.com.

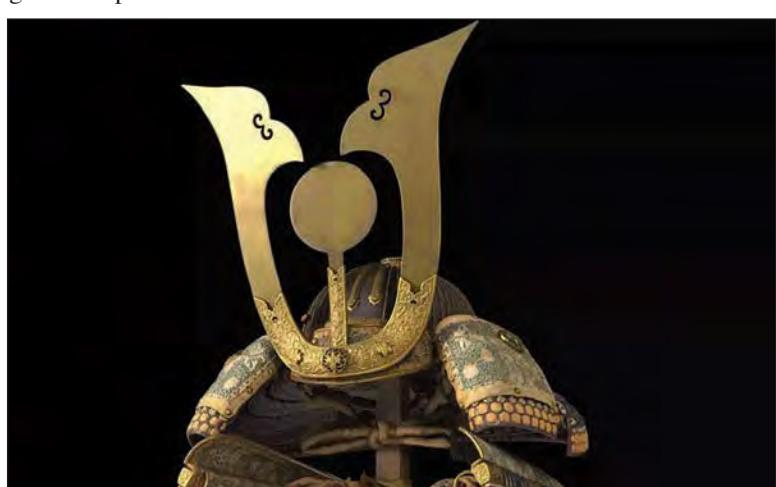


photo courtesy of the NHK/Tokyo National Museum

Kacchu Armor is included in the new "Samurai and Beyond" exhibition.

'Angels of Comedy' benefit raises funds for fire victims, honors first responders

Los Angeles Magazine presents "Angels of Comedy," a night of laughter and giving back on Thursday, Feb. 13, from 6-10 p.m. at Engine Co. No. 28, located in a building that housed one of the city's oldest fire stations.

The comedy benefit raises funds to support victims of the devastating wildfires. All proceeds will directly benefit the Pasadena Community Foundation.

Join an exhilarating lineup featuring many of L.A.'s funniest comedians and enjoy delicious firehouse chili (beef and vegan), cornbread, cocktails, beer and wine. Sharon Fredrickson hosts the show

with stand-up performances by Aida Rodriguez, Ashley Burgess, Carla Collins, Erik Rivera, Kim McVicar, Kwame Siegel, Renee Percy, Sandy Stec, Maxi Witruk and Peter S. Kim. The event also honors first responders and recognizes their heroism. Enter an exclusive raffle with once-in-a-lifetime prizes.

"After witnessing the devastation caused by these fires, I knew we needed to do more than just donate. Angels of Comedy is about coming together as a community to heal, laugh and rebuild," Fredrickson said.

The event begins with firehouse

chili and cocktails from 6-7:15 p.m., followed by opening remarks by Los Angeles Magazine publisher Chris Gialanella and Fredrickson. The "Angels of Comedy" show begins at 7:30 p.m.

"Los Angeles has always been a city of resilience," Gialanella said. "This event brings our community together through comedy and generosity to support those who need it most. Let's stay L.A. Strong."

The show is for guests 21 and older. Tickets are \$211.99. Engine Co. No. 28 is located at 644 S. Figueroa St., downtown. For information, visit lamag.com/events/angels.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS for the SEWER MAIN AND MANHOLE REPAIR AND REHABILITATION Within the City of BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA

City of Beverly Hills (City), California invites electronic bids for the **SEWER MAIN AND MANHOLE REPAIR AND REHABILITATION** within the City of Beverly Hills, California. The City will receive such bids electronically via Planetbids up to the hour of 2:00 p.m. (Pacific Time), on Monday, **March 3, 2025**, via Planetbids. Bid results will be sent to all bidders through Planetbids and award of the contract will be made during a subsequent meeting of the City Council.

An OPTIONAL pre-bid virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams to discuss the requirements of the Project will be held at 10:30 am on Monday, February 10, 2025.

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: 285 203 108 832
Passcode: LH3M9uZ7

Copies of the Specifications and Proposal Form may be inspected and downloaded from the City's Planetbids webpage: <https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/39493/bo/bo-detail/125595>

BIDDER'S QUESTIONS – Any questions regarding any error, omission, ambiguity or conflict in the Plans and Specifications and general clarifications, should be submitted to the **Project Manager through Planetbids** no later than Monday, February 17, 2025, at 2:00pm. Requests for clarification received after this date or sent/posed directly to the Project Manager will be disregarded.

ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE – The preliminary cost of **SEWER MAIN AND MANHOLE REPAIR AND REHABILITATION** for this work has been prepared and the said estimate is **\$7,000,000.00**.

CITY CONTACT – Any questions or requests for information can be directed to the project manager, Robert N Sahagun, at rnsahagun@beverlyhills.org.

PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION NUMBER – The Contractor is required to register with State of California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) and meet requirements to bid on public works contracts. A Public Works Contractor Registration No. shall be submitted with the bid. All subcontractors are also required to register with the DIR.

CONTRACTORS LICENSE – In compliance with Public Contract Code Section 3300, the City has determined that the Bidder must possess at least one of the following licenses: **"A, C-34, or C-42"**

THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY BID OR ALL THE BIDS AND TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY OR IRREGULARITY IN ANY BID, BUT IF THE BIDS ARE ACCEPTED, THE CONTRACT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT WILL BE LET TO THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER FOR THE PROJECT AS A WHOLE.

Oscars prep: Three noms between 'September 5' and 'Nickel Boys'

"September 5"

At the 1972 Munich Olympics, ABC Sports has a challenging job covering various athletic events. The biggest debate surrounded how or if the Holocaust or Nazi Germany should be interview topics. Then staffers hear gunshots. Slowly, they learn the Israeli team has been taken hostage by Black September. This news crew is in the dark, scrambling to learn what is going on amidst misinformation, unconfirmed claims and German attempts to censor live coverage.

Like a memorable feature story, "September 5" is a film with a clear angle: All events unfold from a singular location, ABC's control room and surrounding offices. When Peter Jennings (Benjamin Walker)

relays what he witnesses beyond the building's confines, we only hear him through a walkie or live broadcast.

The studio has enough going on. Creating a fake badge so an employee can transport footage from the Olympic Village, which is now restricted. Debating how much to show, considering terrorists could be watching the live coverage. Debating what to call the terrorists, for that matter. Lugging normally immovable gear to the roof for a better shot. And overworking the crew's only translator Marianne Gebhardt (Leenie Benesch) on site.

Unlike other films that might feel obliged to cover too much – cut to the front line, then the hostages, back to the newsroom, then the



photo courtesy of Paramount Pictures

"September 5" follows ABC's coverage of the 1972 terrorist attack at the Olympic Games in Munich, Germany.

El Capitan raises curtain on 'Captain America'

Marvel Studios' newest feature "Captain America: Brave New World" arrives at the El Capitan Theatre from Feb. 13 through March 1. Daily showtimes are at 9:45 a.m., 12:45 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:15 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$24 for adults and \$21 for children and seniors.

Special fan event screenings are

being held on Feb. 13 and Feb. 14 at 7:15 p.m. Attendees at the Feb. 13 fan event will receive a Captain America Funko POP!, Captain America Tote Bag, popcorn tin with popcorn, fountain drink and event credential and lanyard. Attendees at the Feb. 14 Fan Event will receive a Captain America Tote Bag, Captain America Sipper, pop-

corn, fountain drink and event credential and lanyard. Guests can also see costumes from the movie on display and take photographs with the Captain America and Red Hulk statue.

The El Capitan Theatre is located at 6838 Hollywood Blvd. For information, visit elcapitantheatre.com.

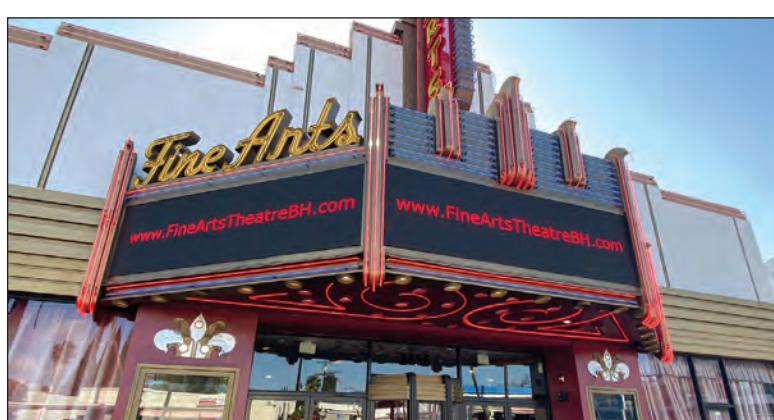
Fine Arts Theatre brings classic film series to Beverly Hills

The Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills will present a specialty classic film screening series with live entertainment before each film starting on Saturday, March 15, at 7:30 p.m. with "Singin' in the Rain."

Tickets are currently on sale for the series, which will run bi-monthly through Dec. 20. A highlight of the first program is a special appearance by actor George Takei, known for roles in the "Star Trek" series. Also, the Johnny Holiday Variety Show with the Honey Taps Dancers will perform greatest hits of the 1920s before the film on

March 15. "Singin' in the Rain" follows a silent film star who falls for a chorus girl just as he and his screen partner are trying to make the difficult transition to talking pictures in 1920s Hollywood. The cast includes Gene Kelly, who also co-directs, Donald O'Conner, Debbie Reynolds, Cyd Charisse and Rita Moreno.

The Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills is located at 8556 Wilshire Blvd. Early advance tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children. Tickets are available by visiting fineartstheatrebh.com, fandango.com and atomtickets.com.



The Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills' bi-monthly film series starts with "Singin' in the Rain" on March 15.

ON SCREEN

WITH
TIM POSADA

German police POV, etc. – this is a tight story that earned its nomination for original screenplay. It probably won't win, but a surprise victory would make complete sense.

In some ways, this is a thematic prequel to "Spotlight," another journalism flick that takes serious the legwork required to get the job done right. Reporters and legal teams should mince words, revise minute details to ensure claims are supported by evidence.

Throughout this chaotic event, we mostly follow control room head Geoffrey Mason (John Magaro) as he answers to ABC Sports president Roone Arledge (Peter Sarsgaard) and operations head Marvin Bader (Ben Chaplin).

"Nickel Boys"

Speaking of point of view, few films attempt this level of experimentation. Told from the first-person perspective of co-leads, "Nickel Boy," based on Colson Whitehead's novel, is equally experimental, devastating and grand, while it portrays a simple story.

For the first act, we see the world through young Elwood's (Ethan Herisse) eyes. He has a promising future, and is about to begin courses



"Nickel Boys" stars Ethan Herisse and Brandon Wilson in a film based on Colson Whitehead's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel.

at HBCU. Then he's arrested as an accomplice for hitching a ride from someone who stole a car. Rather than prison, he's sent to Nickel Academy, a reform school for underaged boys.

On paper, he can get out early with good behavior. But this is the Jim Crow era, and Black boys provide free labor, while white boys are treated far better. Once Elwood reaches the alleged academy, we then see things through Turner's (Brandon Wilson) eyes. For the remainder of the film, POV jumps between them both, occasionally peppering the film with historical footage to depict the timeframe, like the moon landing, or explore things in the past, like slave reenactments.

The Oscars don't like to reward experimental films. Apparently cin-

ematography should be invisible, so this one got no critical love here, though many other ceremonies nominated it, including the Critics Choice Awards. This is an approach to filmmaking that should be analyzed more. Right now, the primary place we see first-person narrative is video game cinematics. The experience here is quite different, presenting us with a harsh viewing experience that makes this PG-13 film more visceral.

Considering the competition in the adapted screenplay category, "Nickel Boys" doesn't really have a chance. It's a profound story, but the writing in others shines a bit more. As for its best pic chances – again, this one will likely lose to one of the other nine competitors. Regardless, it's a beautiful experience both maddening and surreal.



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Be among the first to see Marvel's feature film "Captain America: Brave New World."

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POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD's Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Feb. 2 and Feb. 8. 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

Feb. 2

At 12:41 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of S. Beverly.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of S. Cañon at 1:06 p.m.

At 6:58 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of S. McCarty.

Feb. 3

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Santa Monica and Cañon at 3:25 a.m.

At 9:47 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. Almont.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of S. Palm at 11:41 a.m.

At 2:13 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9500 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 2:35 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 500 block of N. Rexford.

Feb. 4

At 7:04 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of S. McCarty.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8900 block of Wilshire at 4:40 p.m.

At 7:05 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 300 block of N. Cañon.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly at 9:41 p.m.

At midnight, an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of S. Doheny.

Feb. 5

At 7:49 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of S. Camden.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9500 block of Wilshire at 2:45 p.m.

At 6:40 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly.

Feb. 6

At 6:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 700 block of N. Roxbury.

Feb. 7

At 7:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 700 block of N. Crescent.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 100 block of N. La

Cienega at 8:20 p.m.

Feb. 8

At 1:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1000 block of Woodland.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9700 block of Wilshire at 4:30 p.m.

At 11:23 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 100 block of S. Robertson.

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

Feb. 2

At 12:45 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9100 block of Sunset at 3:45 a.m.

At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 600 block of S. Kings.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 800 block of N. Huntley at 2:25 p.m.

At 9:30 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8200 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1200 block of N. Fairfax at 10 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Sunset and Sierra.

Feb. 3

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1200 block of N. Crescent Heights at 1:30 a.m.

At 6 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8800 block of Harratt.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7900 block of Norton at 4 p.m.

At 5:20 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 900 block of N. Palms.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8900 block of Melrose at 6:20 p.m.

At 8:40 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8200 block of Santa Monica.

Feb. 4

At 6:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7500 block of Norton.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8300 block of Sunset at 8 p.m.

Feb. 5

At 1:30 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 7700 block of Santa Monica.

Feb. 6

An unknown suspect burglarized a

vehicle parked in the 8300 block of Sunset at 12:10 a.m.

At 2:25 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8400 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9100 block of Sunset at 11:45 a.m.

At 3 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8600 block of West Knoll.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7800 block of Santa Monica at 7:30 p.m.

At 8:05 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7900 block of Santa Monica.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in

the 1000 block of Curson at 10:44 p.m.

Feb. 7

At 4:19 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7400 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8800 block of Fountain at 2 p.m.

At 4:25 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 500 block of Croft.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8600 block of Santa Monica at 4:45 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1000 block of N. Sierra Bonita.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of N. Robertson at 11:40 p.m.

At 11:55 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9100 block of Sunset.

Feb. 8

At 1:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8500 block of Santa Monica.

Los Angeles Police Department

The Los Angeles Police Department is currently experiencing technical difficulties in posting incidents on the crimemapping.com website and is working to provide updates as soon as possible.

County raises price gouging penalty to \$50,000

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on Feb. 11 unanimously approved an increase in the maximum civil penalty for price gouging to \$50,000 per violation. The increased penalty went into effect immediately countywide, and was approved in response to widespread reports of rental price gouging and overpricing of essential goods following the wildfires in January.

"When disaster strikes, no one should have to worry about being taken advantage of by price gouging," Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, said. "The board's action strengthens protections for renters and small business owners throughout the county, ensuring that the consequences for illegal price hikes match the harm they cause. We are making it clear, Los Angeles County will hold bad actors accountable and stand up for our communities in times of crisis."

"Rental housing prices have skyrocketed because opportunists are preying on wildfire survivors when they are most vulnerable," Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger, 5th District, said. "Price gouging is illegal and enforcement can be difficult, but I'm hopeful that increasing fines to the tune of \$50,000 will stop this criminal activity in its tracks. Partnering with online rental platforms and applications to increase users' awareness of price gouging laws will bring greater awareness and protect consumers. Accessible and affordable housing should not be a casualty of these wildfire disasters."

The board's resolution includes key provisions that ratify the local emergency declared on Jan. 7, enabling the county to access state and federal assistance, expedite resource procurement and enhance the response to the crisis. It temporarily increases the maximum civil penalty for violations of Chapter 8.09 of the County Code

from \$10,000 to \$50,000 per violation during the local emergency for the January 2025 windstorm and fires.

Last week, the board passed a motion reinforcing enforcement measures against rental price gouging and the overpricing of essential goods and services in impacted communities. The measures direct county departments to continue outreach efforts, ensuring residents and business owners are aware of rights and responsibilities under the strengthened consumer protection measures.

People who believe they are victims of price gouging, including renters facing excessive rent hikes, should report violations to the California Attorney General at oag.ca.gov/report, or call the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs at (800)593-8222. Information is also available and reports can be made by visiting stoppricegouging.dcba.lacounty.gov.

LAPD receives traffic grant to combat unsafe driving

The Los Angeles Police Department has been awarded a \$6.6 million grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety to support ongoing enforcement and education programs that reduce serious injuries and deaths on public roads.

"This funding will strengthen our commitment to public safety in our community," said Commander Craig Valenzuela, commanding officer of the LAPD's Traffic Division. "We will be able to increase our efforts in making our roads safer for everyone and focus on critical areas such as distracted driving, impaired driving and

speeding."

The grant will provide additional programs and resources for DUI checkpoints and patrols focused on impaired drivers, as well as high visibility distracted driving enforcement operations targeting violations of California's hands-free cell phone law. The grant will fund enforcement operations focused on dangerous driving behaviors that put cyclists and pedestrians at risk and enforcement operations focused on speeding, failure to yield, stop sign and red-light running, improper turning and lane changes.

Community presentations on traffic safety issues such as distracted

driving, impaired driving, speeding and bicycle and pedestrian safety will be held through the grant. The funds also support collaborative enforcement efforts with neighboring law enforcement agencies, officer training and recertification. Specifically, the funds will be used for training officers as drug recognition experts to better identify motorists driving while impaired by narcotics, marijuana and prescription drugs.

Funding for the program was provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



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Lawsuits filed over TV City project

From page 1

Fairfax and the Beverly Wilshire Homes Association, all of which opposed the project on the studio lot at Beverly Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue during the city entitlement process. Television City is owned and operated by Hackman Capital Partners, which plans to modernize the Television City studio lot, creating 1,686,000 square feet of sound stages and production space while retaining historic features of the facade along Beverly Boulevard. Opponents are asking for a court to set aside the development agreement, invalidate the environmental impact report and issue an order preventing the developer from proceeding with work.

The project underwent four years of public review prior to approval, during which an environmental impact report was created and the project was vetted by community groups, the city planning department and City Council. Opponents claimed throughout the process that the project is too large and will have an adverse effect on surrounding neighborhoods, causing traffic congestion and other impacts. The lawsuits claim the city violated the California Environmental Quality Act and did not properly assess the project's impacts, and that key elements of the project were not addressed during the review process.

A search of Los Angeles County Superior Court records confirmed the four plaintiffs filed petitions with the court, the first step in filing a lawsuit. The A.F. Gilmore Company filed on Feb. 6, The Grove and Save Beverly Fairfax filed on Feb. 7 and the Beverly Wilshire Homes Association filed on Feb. 10.

A representative of the A.F. Gilmore Company deferred to the petition that was filed and did not provide further comment. Representatives of Caruso, owner of The Grove, as well as the Beverly Wilshire Homes Association, did not respond to requests for comment about the lawsuits. Dale Kendall, president of Save Beverly Fairfax, said there are "lots of reasons" the neighborhood organization opposed the project but was hesitant to comment further about the lawsuit due to the ongoing legal proceedings.

"In our area, there are key impacts that we feel have not been addressed," Kendall said.

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, supported the Television City project after Hackman Capital Partners agreed to reduce the size and scope. Yaroslavsky's spokesman Leo Daube said the councilwoman has no comment due to the pending litigation. Calls to the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office regarding the lawsuits were not returned.

The A.F. Gilmore Company's lawsuit outlines its reasons for seeking relief from the court.

"The city has run roughshod over CEQA and other state and local laws to grant [a] developer a long-term blank check to change its plans, build whatever it wants and answer to almost nobody, regardless of the impact its efforts wreak upon surrounding landowners, streets and infrastructure and neighboring communities. [The] developer's Television City 2050 Project that the city has permitted is undefined, uncertain and – by [the] developer's own admission [is] 'hypothetical' and 'conceptual' rather than finite and definite, as required by CEQA," the petition read.

"Part of the city's role is to ensure that all stakeholders are informed and to facilitate their meaningful participation in the entitlement process," The Grove's petition read. "The city played that pivotal role in the development of The Grove in 2002, requiring coordination with the city, nearby property owners, residents and the broader community to address the concerns regarding the major construction project. This stands in stark contrast to the city's handling of the current process, where they have kept the community out of the loop for what will be a major community disruption."

The Grove's lawsuit also cites community opposition.

"In a stunning disregard of its duties under CEQA and other state and local laws, and in spite of strong public opposition including over 450 distinct opposition comments on the draft EIR and nine administrative appeals by [the] petitioner, resident groups and other adjacent property owners, on Jan. 7, 2025, the city approved the Television City 2050 project, [the] developer's undefined, speculative, commercial development project."

Hackman Capital Partners

stressed during the entitlement process that there is a dire need to create more studio space in Los Angeles and without expansion, more companies will move production out of the city and state. Hackman Capital Partners said the project will provide thousands of jobs in Los Angeles.

"These coordinated lawsuits are an unfortunate but predictable abuse of CEQA to stop the Television City studio plan. We've seen these same tactics throughout the hearing process," said Zach Sokoloff, vice president of asset management for Hackman Capital Partners, owner of Television City. "The TVC project is one of the most publicly reviewed projects in the history of Los Angeles. It has earned broad support from the Beverly/Fairfax community, small businesses and business groups, labor, historic preservationists, environmental advocates and the thousands of Angelenos whose livelihoods rely on media production. At every step of the city process, the TVC project was unanimously approved. Despite these continued efforts to block this investment into the entertainment industry, we remain steadfast in our commitment to keeping Hollywood in Hollywood. A modernized Television City will help make that possible."

The Television City project was supported by many groups in the community, including the Mid City West Neighborhood Council, Fairfax Business Association, Melrose Business Improvement District, Park La Brea Residents Association, Los Angeles Conservancy and Jewish Family Services.

"When this came before the council, we heard gaffers and set creators and people in the background of film and television production explain how the film industry is taking a hit. By expanding Television City, it would make it easier for productions to stay in L.A.," said Sara Griebe, chair of the Mid City West Neighborhood Council. "That is something the board is really serious about, allowing people to stay in their homes and work in their neighborhoods."

Timelines have not yet been established for when the lawsuits will move forward in Los Angeles County Superior Court.



photo by Edwin Folven

Property owners in the Eaton fire and Palisades fire burn zones can opt-in to a free program to have debris removed.

Program offers free debris removal in burn areas

From page 1

"We are in a state of readiness with those facilities. We have the capacity for the size of storm that we expect to come. We did that by working 24/7 for the last couple weeks, moving debris, trucking debris out of these areas," Pestrella added.

When the rain subsides, the Army Corps of Engineers will resume non-hazardous debris removal operations. The process is occurring at the same time as crews from the Environmental Protection Agency remove hazardous debris such as batteries and household chemicals from properties. Once the EPA clears a property, the Army Corps of Engineers can move in, said Col. Eric Swenson, field office commander for the Army Corps of

Engineers' Los Angeles Wildfires Recovery Program. Swenson added that people in areas near the burn zones will see an increase in truck traffic in the coming weeks as the debris removal process expands.

To file a Right of Entry form, visit recovery.lacounty.gov/debris-removal/roe. For information on cleanup operations, visit epa.gov/ca/2025-california-wildfires. Although those who do not opt-in to the free debris removal program have to pay for removal themselves, they can receive help from the county with building permits and planning services. For assistance in filing Right of Entry forms and other information for property owners, call (844)347-3332.

Taiwanese business community supports wildfire relief efforts

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles and the World Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce have jointly donated more than \$1 million to Los Angeles area fire departments' wildfire relief efforts.

In response to the fires in January that caused widespread destruction in the Pacific Palisades, Malibu and Altadena, Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs made a \$500,000 donation to the Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation on Jan. 16. The World Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce launched a fundraising campaign and collected more than \$500,000, which was donated to the Arcadia Fire Department Foundation, near the Eaton fire area.

TECO-LA hosted the Los Angeles Wildfire Relief Donation and Lunar New Year Reception at its Culture Center on Feb. 9. TECO-LA director general Amino Chi, representing the Taiwan government, and president Kenneth Wu, representing the World Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce, presented the joint donation of more than \$1 million to the fire departments.

Chief Chen Suen, of the Arcadia Fire Department, received the donation on behalf of Los Angeles area fire departments. He expressed gratitude for Taiwan's support and generosity. Chi extended a heartfelt appreciation to the brave firefighters who battled the wildfires and were on the front lines saving lives and communities. He noted that Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te and Vice President Hsiao Bi-khim immediately expressed condolences to the fire victims. He emphasized Taiwan's commitment to providing support.

Government officials attending the ceremony included U.S. Reps. Judy Chu (D-Pasadena) and Laura Friedman (D-Glendale), California Assemblymembers Mike Fong (D-Alhambra) and Tri Ta (R-Westminster), and Los Angeles County Supervisors Hilda Solis, 1st District, and Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District.

Southern California is home to one of the largest overseas Taiwanese communities, with many organizations actively contributing to wildfire relief efforts. For information, visit taiwanembassy.org/uslax_en/index.html.

L.A. council considers more support for immigrants

Los Angeles City Councilman Hugo Soto-Martínez, 13th District, introduced a package of legislation on Feb. 4 to strengthen labor and immigration protections across Los Angeles and reinforce the city's commitment to safeguarding immigrant communities.

With one-in-three Angelenos being immigrants and more than 1 million undocumented workers playing a vital role in the local economy, the proposals address threats of mass deportations, worksite raids and targeted enforcement actions, Soto-Martínez said. The legislative package includes a citywide public education effort to inform immigrants about their rights, nondiscrimination protections and L.A.'s Sanctuary City policies; an effort exploring policies to require businesses to report ICE enforcement actions to the city while ensuring

workers receive timely legal support when facing workplace raids and audits; and a directive to airport administrators to create designated spaces for nonprofit legal service providers to provide assistance to travelers impacted by potential federal immigration and travel bans. The package also includes a resolution urging the state of California to increase funding for deportation defense and calls for a report on how the city can support maintaining immigration legal services that have been frozen by the Trump administration.

"My own parents were undocumented, and they built a life here without the constant fear that a trip to work or taking me to school could tear our family apart. Every Angeleno deserves that same safety and dignity," Soto-Martínez said. "This legislation sends a clear mes-

sage. Los Angeles will not be complicit in Trump's dehumanizing agenda. We will fight back and protect our community."

Multiple organizations support the legislative package including CHIRLA, the Central American Resource Center-L.A.; the TransLatin@ Coalition and SEIU-United Service Workers West.

"Workers across Los Angeles are proud to support proposals that uphold our human rights because when confronted by the Trump administration's hatred and bigotry, we must organize and fight back," SEIU-United Service Workers West president David Huerta said. "We must use every legislative tool at our disposal."

The motions will be heard in the council's Civil Rights and Immigration Committee before coming to the full City Council for a vote.

Development planned at Wilshire/San Vicente

From page 1

Wilshire/La Cienega subway station, which is currently under construction as part of Metro's D Line extension project. According to Metro, the station is scheduled to open in late 2025.

The development would contain 249 residential units, 22 of which would be reserved for very low and moderate income tenants. Additionally, a parking structure with three underground and four above-ground levels would contain 473 parking spaces. The developers hope to make use of the state's density bonus law, which allows projects to exceed usual height and density requirements provided that the project contains affordable housing.

"We are putting high-rise housing where it belongs, and more critically, adding to the city's housing stock

without any loss of existing units. That is especially important given the pressure on the city of Beverly Hills to produce more housing units amid scrutiny from state officials that it demonstrate its intention to do so," Palumbo added.

The city is currently being sued by the developer of a proposed 19-story building with affordable housing at 125-129 S. Linden Drive. The lawsuit alleges that the city illegally blocked the development from moving forward, an assertion that has been supported by the state's Department of Housing and Community Development. The department notified the city of Beverly Hills that it violated state housing laws by blocking 10 developments that contain affordable

housing, including the project at 125-129 S. Linden Drive.

The tower on Linden Drive falls under the "builder's remedy" provision, a state law that, similar to the density bonus, allows private developers to bypass certain code restrictions – including height and density – provided that the building reserves at least 20% of units for low-income housing.

In addition to housing, the project at 8300 Wilshire Blvd. would contain 10,574 square feet of ground-floor retail space. According to Millennium Partners, "the plan is to lease the space to two world-class restaurants to meet the demand for dining in the area."

Continental Kitchen owner Madadian said will have to find a new location if the building is



rendering courtesy of Millennium Partners

The tower would be the tallest building in Beverly Hills, and it would be 10 stories taller than the 24-story building at the southeast corner of Wilshire and San Vicente boulevards, pictured left.

approved, and she is actively looking for a potential new space within the area. She expressed concern about losing regular customers, many of whom walk to the restaurant from

nearby offices.

"I'm already looking for places close by," Madadian said. "If I find a place, I'm not going to wait two years."

Beverly Hills council splits vice mayorship

From page 1

by the existing City Council. The mayor and vice mayor are decided based on the year they were elected to City Council and how many votes they received. During non-presidential election years, the city still holds its installation for the mayor and vice mayor in April, but it holds the installation for new council members in July.

In 2022, Beverly Hills voters passed measure TL by 81.51%, which limits City Council members to three terms. Due to the election schedule and Measure TL, it raises the possibility for a council member to be elected as mayor in April and term out or not be reelected in June.

For instance, although measure TL was passed in 2022, during the same election cycle, Councilman John Mirisch was elected to an unprecedented fourth term in office. In July 2026, Mirisch will term out of office, having completed his fourth four-year term. However, based on the current rotating schedule of mayor and vice mayor, Mirisch is scheduled to be installed as vice mayor in April

2025 and mayor in April 2026.

The City Council spent the meeting on Feb. 5 grappling with how to address the upcoming situation.

The council looked at each possibility for addressing the issue and ultimately decided to split the upcoming vice mayorship between John Mirisch and Craig Corman for six months each, after Mirisch expressed interest in becoming vice mayor, stating that it would not be fair for him not to serve another term as vice mayor given that he was elected to a fourth term.

"I would love to participate in the installation in April as more than a potted plant," Mirisch said.

Corman said the situation was not ideal, but agreed to the terms.

"I'm not going to stand in the way if that's what it takes to get an agreement out of this council," Corman said. "If that's what everyone wants, I'm going to live with it. But I will say this, there is a benefit to being vice mayor before you're mayor. There's meetings you get to go to, trips you get to go to."

Although the next vice mayorship will be split into two terms, the

City Council agreed to prohibit the same situation from recurring by not choosing a mayor who cannot serve a full one-year term, and not choosing a vice mayor who cannot serve as mayor. The council agreed to make Mirisch an exception, given that he was elected to a fourth term before they knew it would cause such issues.

"Moving forward, you're not vice mayor if you're not certain to be mayor under those conditions," Wells said.

The topic will return to the City Council in its meeting on Feb. 19, where it will finalize the decision.

If adopted, the new guidelines for mayor and vice mayor will be a change to the Beverly Hills City Council Policy and Operations Manual.

"It is intended and expected that the manual will be updated as often as there are changes or additions by the City Council," the manual states. "Therefore, it will be a 'living' document with ongoing updates and modifications."

The manual was last updated in 2009.

Authorities investigate fake ICE signs in WeHo

From page 4

who were going out ... They were found Friday night, in the evening time as people were out and about. It's also an area where we have a lot of workers," Byers said.

She added that the signs may have been placed to target members of the workforce in the Rainbow District, where many of the city's popular bars and restaurants are located. According to the Center for Migration Studies, approximately 1 million of the estimated 8.3 million workers without legal status in the

United States work in restaurants.

"West Hollywood has always been a welcoming, inclusive community. Now is a time more than ever where we need to be supporting each other," Byers said. "This sort of thing is not what West Hollywood is about. We do not want to spread fear. We do not want to tell on our neighbors or make anyone feel unsafe in our community."

In a West Hollywood Public Safety Commission meeting on Feb. 10, West Hollywood Sheriff's

Station Lt. Fanny Lapkin said the department is investigating the incident.

"We're working together with our businesses to try and collect any type of video to try and identify the individual [or] individuals that could have potentially put those up," Lapkin said. "It is under investigation, not in the sense of a criminal act, but just to identify who were the individuals that put those eight or nine signs that were within the city."

NHM announces spring and summer programming

The Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County announced its schedule of spring and summer programming for the Natural History Museum in Exposition Park and La Brea Tar Pits in Hancock Park. A wide range of exhibitions, hands-on activities, talks and performances are offered in-person and online.

Programming includes the interactive "Ocean Encounters," a three-

dimensional T. Rex film and SoCal Museums' "Free-for-All" day on March 2.

NHM Commons, the new wing and community hub in Exposition Park opened in November 2024, drawing a large number of visitors. Celebrating the intersection of science, nature and culture, the unique outside-inside experience features 75,000-square feet of new and

WeHo offers summer jobs

West Hollywood is recruiting employees for temporary positions this summer in the Recreation Services Division.

The city is seeking enthusiastic and motivated individuals to fill positions that support, deliver and coordinate recreation and aquatic programs, events and services at the West Hollywood Park Aquatic and Recreation Center and Plummer Park Community Center. Open positions include temporary recreation leader 1, temporary recreation aide (camp), temporary lifeguard and temporary aquatics aide.

Applications for temporary recreation leader 1 and temporary recreation aide (camp) are due by Friday, Feb. 21, at 5 p.m. Applications for temporary aquatics aide and tempo-

rary lifeguard will be accepted on an ongoing basis.

For information and to apply, please visit weho.org/jobs.

Answers From Page 23

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77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89
78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86					

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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

- Part of a jazz combo
- Lux. neighbor, abbr.
- Whirls
- Sea flier
- Super server
- Part of Nasdaq, abbr.
- EPA's concern, briefly
- Oenophile's selection
- 1945 Allied conference site
- "Shape of You" line
- Rendezvous
- Original manufactured item
- Pass
- Author Andersen
- Paulo
- Hermit, e.g.
- Throughway
- Org. for retirees
- "____ vain" 1972 song
- Beatles song
- Olympic track legend Zatopek
- Sweetheart
- Popular brand of stationery
- 18, 19, and 20 of a series
- Bern's river
- Kitchen gadgets
- Beast in the Bible
- Madison and Fifth
- Hues Corporation song lyrics line, "Don't ____"
- Pleasant way to walk
- Maker of holes

61. Home of the NCAA's Bruins

62. Sealy rival

63. Female equine

64. Calendar abbreviation

65. "You've got ____!"

66. Rate ____ (be perfect)

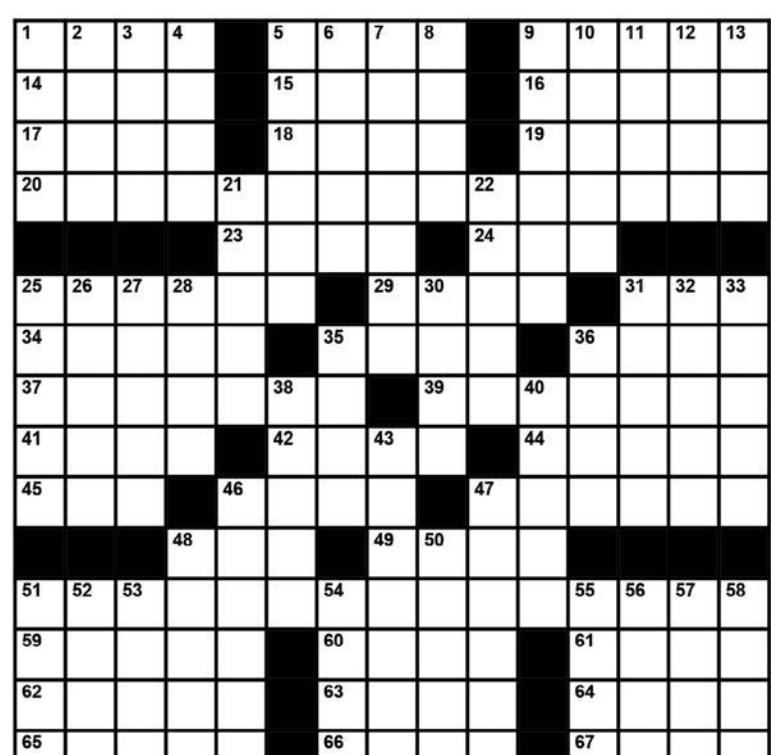
67. Relative of a gull

Down

- "____ there, done that"
- Big name in oil
- Falling flakes
- "To thine own ____ be true"
- Brewer's need
- The Sorbonne, e.g.
- South African nation
- Got bigger
- Agree
- Hymn
- Oasis
- Part of N.B.
- Large number
- Shaded in tone
- Paris newspaper, with "Le"
- More cunning
- Appears ominously
- Native Alaskan
- Programming language
- Sounds of contentment
- Fry quickly
- Enthusiasm
- Some tournaments
- Surf sound
- Open a bit
- Guns N' Roses guitarist
- Bakery need
- Ocean vessel
- Night light related
- Showy bird's mate
- Japanese dog
- "À ____ santé!"
- Parks that made history
- Lacking depth and width
- TLC part
- Austen character

- Ram
- Yearn
- Lose focus
- Tall story

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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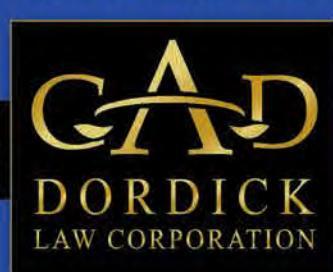
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