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with temps in  
the mid-70s

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Volume 35 No. 8

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

February 20, 2025

# Mid City West canvasses city for homeless count

■ Volunteers report seeing fewer unhoused people

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Approximately 60 people walked and drove around the Miracle Mile, Beverly Grove and Beverly-Fairfax districts on Feb. 18 tallying the number of people they saw who were unhoused and unsheltered on

the streets as part of the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority conducts the annual homeless count throughout the county, working with volunteers from different communities who

See Homeless page 25



photo by Edwin Folven

Volunteers gathered in the parking lot at Television City before heading out to count unhoused people in the community.

# Residents weigh in on Wilshire tower project

■ 'The Eastern' gets mixed response from community

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Residents are responding to the proposal of a 34-story tower on the southwest corner of Wilshire and San Vicente boulevards.

The site at 8300 Wilshire Blvd. 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 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 tower – dubbed "The Eastern" by its developers Millennium Partners – would be the

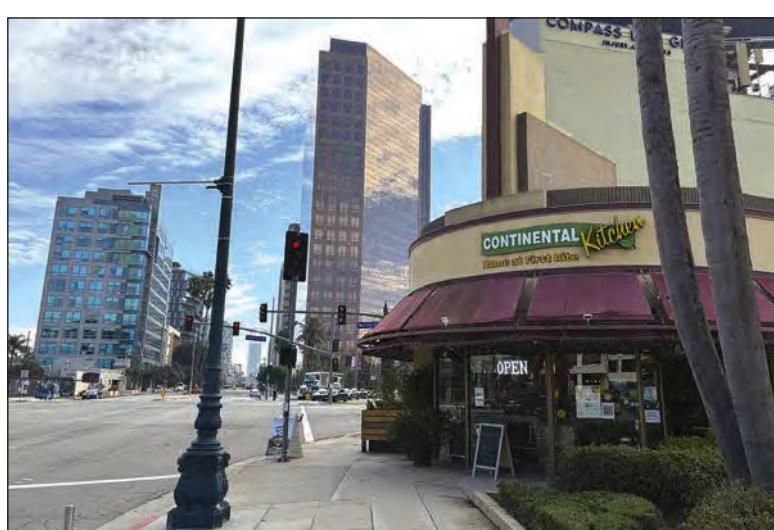
tallest in the surrounding neighborhood and the tallest in the entire city of Beverly Hills. It would contain 249 residential units, 22 of which would be reserved for very low and moderate income tenants. Additionally, a parking structure with three underground and four above-ground levels would contain 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.

Amy Amsterdam, a resident of Schumacher Drive in Los Angeles on the same block as the development, said she hopes the project won't come to fruition. Current plans call for the demolition of the mini-mall currently at the site – which is home to several local businesses and a restaurant.

"That mini-mall is crucial to our neighborhood. We have a pharmacy there, and the printer and even the store – all the services there are so crucial and used by our neighborhood, and we need them," she said.

While the project would contain 10,574 square feet of ground-floor retail space, according to

See Project page 26



The project would replace a mini-mall at the corner, and would be 10 stories taller than a 24-story building to the east in Los Angeles.

# BHUSD in turmoil amid controversies

■ District accused of censorship, retaliation and racism

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Unified School District is facing a list of lawsuits, accusations and controversies. The Beverly Hills High School is embroiled in controversy over the administrative leave and investigation of Romeo Carey, who has taught journalism at the school for more than 20 years. Black students, parents, teachers and one administrator have accused the district of ignoring rampant racism and discrimination. The current athletic director has been accused of racism and sexual harassment. Meanwhile, the district denied the enrollment of more than 100 displaced Palisades Charter High School students, after allowing the enrollment of 47 students. A state senator is now asking the district to resume enrollment.

Carey was placed on paid administrative leave on Dec. 1, according to a letter sent to Carey



photo by Edwin Folven

The school district is embroiled in many controversies – including accusations of censorship, retaliation and racism at Beverly Hills High School.

by the BHUSD, which was obtained by the Beverly Press.

The letter, signed by assistant superintendent of personnel services Matt Horvath, states that Carey was placed on leave "pending the findings of the district's investigation of the incidents at Beverly Hills High School." However, it does not clarify what

"incidents" it is referring to.

Carey is the executive producer of KBEV, the school district's student-run broadcasting service, which was founded in 1969. KBEV provides live streams and archived recordings of the district's board meetings and events, as well as news segments updating

See BHUSD page 26



photo by Edwin Folven

The abandoned Melrose Triangle project site filled with water last year, sparking community concern.

# WeHo demands swamp gets filled

■ Melrose Triangle pit will be filled in after project stalls indefinitely

BY RANCE COLLINS

The corner of Melrose Avenue, Santa Monica Boulevard and Almont Drive boulevards has been a source of consternation for West Hollywood community

members for several years. A mixed-used development was approved for the area in October 2014, but that was just the beginning of a winding tale that includes litigation, design modifications, endless outreach and jailtime. Residents took particular issue when, after excavation for a parking garage, the project stalled and a large pit became a

See WeHo page 25

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## CALENDAR

**Japan Foundation art & music**

The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles is holding "In the Tune of Art: 15-String Bass & Trumpet" on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m. JFLA presents Kai Kurosawa performing on an innovative 15-string electric bass that he invented, in collaboration with trumpet player Dan Rosenboom. The performance accompanies the exhibition "Ethereal: Interpretations of the Ryūgūjō Myth." Admission is free but registration is required. 5700 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 100. [jflac.org](http://jflac.org).

**LA Phil**

Join the LA Phil for "Gustavo Conducts Mahler's Journey" from Thursday, Feb. 20, through Sunday, Feb. 23, at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. LA Phil Music and Artistic Director Gustavo Dudamel leads the orchestra in a performance of Mahler's Blumine, Symphony No. 10: Adagio, and musical poems from Des Knaben Wunderhorn. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Dec. 20-22; 2 p.m., Dec. 23. Tickets start at \$40. 111 S. Grand Ave. [laphil.com](http://laphil.com).

**Broxton Plaza celebration**

The public is invited to a grand open-

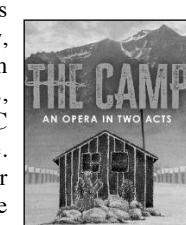
ing celebration for Broxton Plaza in Westwood Village, the largest pedestrian plaza in the city of L.A., on Saturday, Feb. 22, from noon-5 p.m. The all-ages event includes free boba for the first 100 attendees, free roller skating and rentals with the Skate Hunnies, live music, children's activities and giveaways from Metro Bike Share and Waymo. Two beer gardens will be open for guests 21 and over. Part of the Los Angeles Department of Transportation's People St. program, Broxton Avenue between Kinross and Weyburn avenues has been closed to vehicle traffic to create an area for outdoor dining, music, events and activities. Admission is free. [eventbrite.com/e/grand-opening-event-broxton-plaza-tickets-1223854484709?aff=odddtcreator](http://eventbrite.com/e/grand-opening-event-broxton-plaza-tickets-1223854484709?aff=odddtcreator).

**'The Princess and the Frog'**

Theatre West presents "The Princess and the Frog" from Saturday, Feb. 22, through Saturday, June 7. The musical is based on the classic fairy tale, not the Disney version, with book by Lloyd J. Schwartz and Hope Juber, and music by Hope and Laurence Juber. It is directed and choreographed by David P. Johnson. Showtimes are on Saturday at 1 p.m. 3333 Cahuenga Blvd. West. [theatrewest.org](http://theatrewest.org).

**'The Camp'**

"The Camp," a production presented in partnership with the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, makes its world premiere with four performances from Saturday, Feb. 22, through Sunday, March 2, at the JACCC Aratani Theatre. During World War II, 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry — two-thirds of whom were American citizens — were unjustly incarcerated in internment camps in the United States. Created by librettist Lionelle Hamanaka, a descendant of camp survivors, and composer Daniel Kessner, "The Camp" tells the moving story of the Shimono family, who were forcibly removed from their suburban home in Southern California. Tickets start at \$20. Showtimes are at 7:30 p.m. 244 S. San Pedro St., downtown. [jacc.org/events/the-camp-an-opera-in-two-acts](http://jacc.org/events/the-camp-an-opera-in-two-acts).

**'Bat Boy: The Musical'**

Open Fist Theatre Company presents "Bat Boy: The Musical," an award-winning rock-horror musical running Saturday, Feb. 22, through Sunday, April 6. Based on a book by Keythe Farley and Brian Flemming and featuring music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe, "Bat Boy: The Musical" was inspired by a 1992 story in the supermarket tabloid Weekly World News about a half boy-half bat found in a cave in West Virginia. In the new play, Bat Boy (Ben Raanan) has been newly rediscovered living in a cave-like theater in Atwater Village. Pay-what-you-can (starting at \$10) previews take place



on Feb. 22, 23 and Feb. 28. Tickets start at \$26 for all other performances. 3269 Casitas Ave. (323)882-6912, [openfist.org](http://openfist.org).

**L.A. Black History Month Festival**

Join the Los Angeles Black History Month Festival on Sunday, Feb. 23, from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Pan Pacific Park. The event is co-hosted by L.A. City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, and Open Arms Food Pantry and Resource Center and will feature keynote speakers, community leaders and engaging activities that celebrate Black history, culture and resilience. The event includes youth poets Ayanna and Acacia Greenidge, musical groups Funkalicious and Gemini Soul, and a vegan food demo by Synovia Jones, founder of Nobes PB Foods. 7600 Beverly Blvd. [lablackhistorymonthfestival.com](http://lablackhistorymonthfestival.com).

**Holocaust book**

Author Alex Kor will discuss his book "A Blessing Not a Burden" on Sunday, Feb. 23, at 3 p.m. at Holocaust Museum L.A. Kor's parents were imprisoned in Nazi concentration camps. His father escaped with the assistance of U.S. troops after four years, and his mother, a twin, was subjected to horrific medical experiments until she was liberated. Eventually, they each immigrated to the U.S., which came with new challenges and discrimination. "A Blessing Not a Burden" follows Kor's family legacy. Admission is free but reservations are requested. 100 The Grove Drive. [holocaustmuseumla.org](http://holocaustmuseumla.org).

**Beverly Hills author Elaine Franklin**

Meet Beverly Hills resident Elaine Franklin, author of "Once Upon a Time in Beverly Hills," on Sunday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. at Temple Beth Emet of Burbank. Franklin will discuss her fiction novel that follows three best friends on their adventures through the glamour and pitfalls of society and showbiz. The event is free and refreshments will be served. 600 N. Buena Vista St. (818)843-4787.

**Contracting webinar**

L.A. County is holding a virtual small business contracting webinar on Thursday, Feb. 27, from 3-4:30 p.m. The free workshop is part of the Los Angeles Regional Contractor Development and Bonding Program. It will offer information about marketing and best practices for promoting a business to government agencies, as well as commercial and residential clients. Admission is free but reservations are required. (213)258-3000. [eventbrite.com/e/marketing-tips-for-contractors-tickets-1221457445099?aff=odddtcreator](http://eventbrite.com/e/marketing-tips-for-contractors-tickets-1221457445099?aff=odddtcreator).

**Indie rock show**

Aster Baby and the Wild Rabbits presents an indie rock show on Friday, Feb. 28, from 9-10 p.m. at Molly Malone's. Aster Baby and the Wild Rabbits create music that blends the spiritual and material worlds, drawing comparisons to Portishead, PJ Harvey and Florence and the Machine. Tickets are \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door. 575 S. Fairfax Ave. [tinyurl.com/asterbaby](http://tinyurl.com/asterbaby).



photo by Tabor Brewster

The restrooms will be open daily between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. in Will Rogers Memorial Park in Beverly Hills.

**Smart restrooms available in Will Rogers Memorial Park**

Throne Labs is bringing innovation to public amenities by providing temporary public restrooms at Will Rogers Memorial Park during the ongoing facility renovations.

Two tech-enabled Throne bathrooms serve park visitors, offering a clean, safe and family-friendly restroom experience.

The Thrones feature running water sinks, flushing toilets, baby changing stations and climate control. What sets them apart is their smart technology — each use receives a real-time cleanliness rating that helps Throne's operations team maintain consistently excellent conditions. This data-driven approach has proven successful across diverse communities, from affluent parks in Fairfax, Va., to busy L.A. Metro stations where Thrones maintain a user satisfac-

tion rate of over 4 out of 5 stars.

"The experience is designed to excite users," CEO of Throne Labs Fletcher Wilson said. "From the uplifting music to the clean, modern interior, we've created a bathroom experience that makes people feel special — which in turn makes them more likely to take care of the shared resource."

The Thrones will be available at Will Rogers Memorial Park daily from 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Community members can access the bathrooms with their smartphones via text message or through the Throne Bathroom Network App, which provides real-time availability and cleanliness ratings.

For information, visit [thronelabs.co](http://thronelabs.co). Will Rogers Memorial Park is located at 800-876 N. Canon Drive.

**Roads close in Beverly Hills for Vanity Fair Oscars party**

Vanity Fair will return to Beverly Hills to host its Academy Awards after party on the 400 block of North Crescent Drive, adjacent to City Hall, on the evening of Sunday, March 2.

As crews begin work to assemble the tent on North Crescent Drive between North Santa Monica Boulevard and South Santa Monica Boulevard, the 400 block of the street will be closed until Friday, March 7, reopening by 10 p.m.

All businesses on North Crescent Drive are accessible during the closure. Motorists are urged to use alternates routes. Access remains open to local parking garages.

Additionally, from 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 2, to 2 a.m. on Monday, March 3, roads surround-

ing the North Crescent closure will be impacted. North Cañon Drive between North and South Santa Monica Boulevard will be closed. Eastbound lanes on South Santa Monica Boulevard starting at Civic Center will be impacted, with lanes closed from Rexford Drive to North Cañon Drive. Detours will be in place routing traffic north and south on Rexford Drive. North Santa Monica Boulevard eastbound lane closures will be in place from Rodeo Drive to Rexford Drive.

For information and to view the closure map, visit [beverlyhills.org/vanityfair](http://beverlyhills.org/vanityfair) or call the city's special event line at (310)285-2408 from Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., and (310)550-4680 on March 2 from 5 p.m.-midnight.

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photo by Edwin Folven

Authorities warned that it is illegal and dangerous to climb the Hollywood Sign.

## Trespasser who climbed Hollywood Sign arrested

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A man in his 20s was arrested on Feb. 15 after climbing to the top of the letter "D" on the Hollywood Sign and unfurling a flag for a social media promotion.

The incident occurred around 2:55 p.m. The Hollywood Sign, which is closed to the public, is monitored by the Los Angeles Police Department via closed circuit cameras. Police officers and

park rangers also staff a communication facility located atop Mount Lee, a short distance above the landmark sign.

Authorities saw the man climb up to the sign and up the letter "D," and initially thought it was someone in distress planning to jump from the sign, LAPD spokeswoman Norma Eisenman said. The LAPD's mental evaluation team was summoned, she added. Footage from media

See Suspect page 25

## Block a bus-only lane, get a \$293 citation

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Motorists who park in the bus-only lanes on Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue during morning and afternoon rush-hour periods face a \$293 citation.

The Los Angeles County Transportation Authority and Los Angeles Department of Transportation are working together to ensure the bus-only lanes stay clear when traffic is most congested, and are using advanced technology. Buses on Metro Lines 720 servicing Wilshire Boulevard and Line 212 on La Brea Avenue have been equipped with cameras that take video and photographs when they come across a vehicle blocking bus-only lanes. The images are sent to the LADOT, which officers review and issue a citation if warranted. Drivers found to be in violation will receive citations in the mail.

"Without enforcement, a single parked car in a bus lane can delay dozens or even hundreds of riders. So, this is not just about issuing tickets, it's about making sure our Metro buses run on schedule and get our riders to their destinations on time," Metro Board chair and L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th District, said.

"Every Metro bus carries someone's mother, grandfather or child, all of whom are trying to get to their destination so they can spend time with those most important to them," Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins said. "Our bus riders deserve to have a reliable, safe and on-time



photo by Edwin Folven

Drivers frequently park in the bus-only lanes and block traffic during rush-hour periods on La Brea Avenue. They now face citations.

ride. That's why we've partnered with LADOT to install bus lanes on Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue – to give all our riders a better, faster and more consistent ride."

The bus-only lanes were implemented on Wilshire Boulevard in segments from 2013-15, and on La Brea Avenue in 2023. The curbside lanes are marked as "bus-only" and signs are posted warning motorists that they are prohibited from driving, stopping and parking in the lanes from 7-9 a.m. and 4-7 p.m. on weekdays. Motorists can enter bus-only lanes to make turns, but are otherwise prohibited from using them during weekday rush-hour periods.

Prior to issuing citations, which started on Feb. 17, Metro imple-

mented a 60-day period during which motorists were mailed warnings. LADOT spokesman Colin Sweeney reiterated that the goal of the bus-only lanes is to improve public transit times and now any vehicle blocking the lanes is subject to a ticket.

The buses have two cameras mounted behind the windshield, each serving a different function. One camera uses a computer to detect vehicles on the roadway and within bus-only lane traffic lines. When a bus approaches a vehicle blocking the lane, a second camera records the license plate number and takes an image. The citations include details of the violation including time, location, images and video.

See Citations page 25

## Burglary at Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban's home under investigation

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles Police Department is investigating a break-in on Feb. 14 at the home of actress Nicole Kidman and country music star Keith Urban in a gated community in the Beverly Ridge Estates area, north of Beverly Hills and west of Coldwater Canyon Drive.

LAPD spokesman David Cuellar said no one was home at the time of the break in. A security guard called police around 8 p.m. after seeing a glass door had been smashed at the residence in the 9500 block of Lime Orchid Road. Cuellar said officers found the home had been "ransacked." No suspects were located inside the residence or on the property.

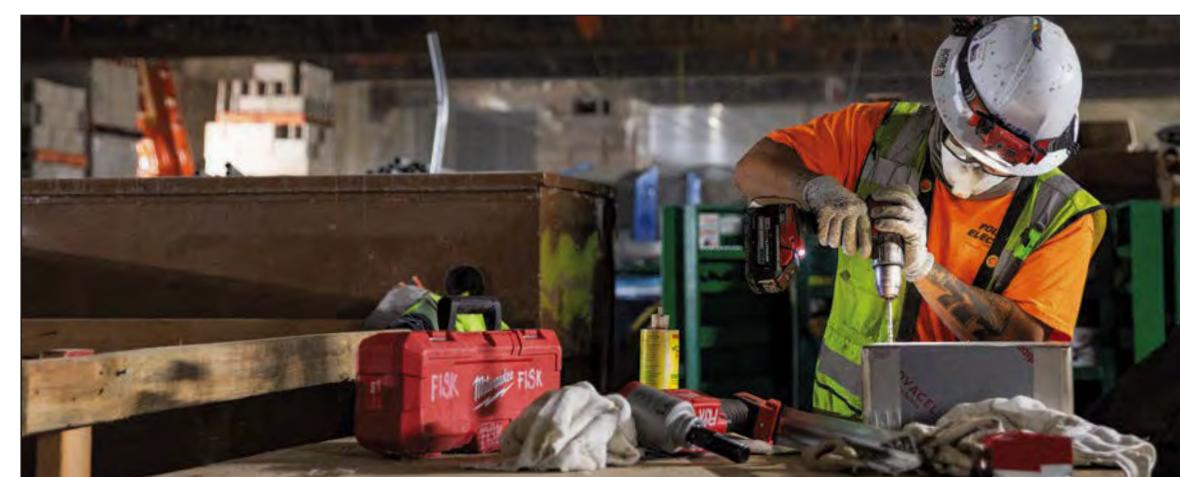
"It is still unknown if anything was taken," Cuellar said.

Kidman and Urban became the latest celebrities whose homes have been targeted by burglars in exclu-

sive neighborhoods in the Hollywood Hills and Santa Monica Mountains. Authorities believe multiple crews are committing the burglaries. Cuellar said it is unclear if the burglary on Lime Orchid Road is connected with any other crimes.

LAPD officers followed three burglary suspects from the Beverly Crest area south into the city of Beverly Hills around 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 14 and later arrested the men after they were involved in a collision. Cuellar said he had no information about those suspects being connected with the burglary at Kidman and Urban's home. Beverly Hills Police Department Lt. Kevin Orth said he had no further information about the arrests on Feb. 14 or the burglary, adding that both cases are being handled by the LAPD.

Anyone with information about the burglaries is urged to call the LAPD's West Los Angeles Division at (310)444-0701.



### D LINE SUBWAY EXTENSION PROJECT

Section 2 – Beverly Hills

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### February Updates

Piling activities taking place on Wilshire Bl from 9am to 4pm.

There are curb lane closures between Crescent Dr and Beverly Dr. Station construction continues underground.

## Burglary suspects arrested after pursuit, crash in Beverly Hills

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Three men were arrested on Feb. 14 after leading officers from the Los Angeles Police Department on a pursuit that ended in Beverly Hills.

Officers with a special LAPD unit investigating burglaries at homes in the Hollywood Hills and Santa Monica Mountains followed a vehicle after a burglary allegedly occurred in the Beverly Crest neighborhood, according to media reports. The suspects drove south into the city of Beverly Hills around 7 p.m., BHPD Lt. Kevin Orth

said. A short time later, the suspects' car struck another vehicle on Rodeo Drive near Dayton Way and the men got out and fled on foot. Officers located the suspects nearby and the LAPD took the suspects into custody on burglary charges.

The LAPD did not provide any further information about the incident. Orth said no one was injured in the traffic collision. The suspects, who were in their 20s, were not identified. The area near Rodeo Drive, Dayton Way and Wilshire Boulevard was closed around 7 p.m. as the LAPD and BHPD investigated the incident.



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D LINE EXT COBH 2

# BH commission approves rooftop restaurant

■ Building on Cañon Drive overlooks Beverly Gardens Park

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Planning Commission on Feb. 13 conditionally approved a rooftop dining use permit for a future restaurant located at 499 N. Canon Drive. Under the conditions of the permit, the restaurant will be prohibited from playing music – whether live or recorded.

The restaurant space will sit atop an existing four-story building adjacent to Beverly Gardens Park and the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. The existing building currently contains four stories of commercial space and a two-level parking structure. It is bordered by North Santa Monica Boulevard to the north, North Canon Drive to the east and South Santa Monica Boulevard to the south.

The open-air dining area will total 2,765 square feet, with a 182-square-foot bar area and a 270-square-foot kitchen. The restaurant space will have 128 seats, a new elevator tower alongside an existing staircase, a new planter box surrounding the perimeter and a nine-foot-tall trellis structure with a retractable canvas cover. An existing penthouse structure will be converted into restrooms.

The building is owned by Shawn Far, who is also the appli-

cant for the project. Far is the owner of Vertigo USA – a women's clothing brand, Casa Vertigo – an event space in Downtown Los Angeles and the Fine Arts Theatre in Beverly Hills. The planned rooftop space was designed by Hamid Gabbay, a Beverly Hills architect and former chair of the Planning Commission.

"The view from this rooftop is absolutely exceptional," Gabbay said. "You can really see the Hollywood Hills and downtown [Beverly Hills]."

**"I have no problem with a rooftop venue as long as there's no noise, particularly any noise after 10 p.m. when the residents want to sleep."**

-Park Way resident Alan Berro

In a public comment, one nearby resident expressed concerns over possible noise emanating from the planned restaurant.

"I have no problem with a rooftop venue as long as there's no noise, particularly any noise after 10 p.m. when the residents want to sleep," said Alan Berro, who lives on Park Way, which is immediately north of Beverly Gardens Park. "The sound does carry quite far from the fourth floor. We learned

that in the prior experience with the building across the street."

Members of the Planning Commission echoed Berro's concerns and questioned the applicant on noise reduction, given that the applicant had initially requested that the restaurant be permitted to stay open until 10 p.m. on weekdays and 11 p.m. on Saturdays. Plans also called for music to be played in the dining area through a speaker system and occasional live entertainment with up to two performers.

A staff report on the project stated that a noise study was not conducted and the applicant did not reach out to neighbors to seek feedback on any aspect of the project, including noise. Residents within 500 feet of the building did, however, receive a legally-required notice from the city on the project. The commissioners added that they were not invited to conduct a site visit at the property.

"Although we were concerned about the noise level, we didn't believe that the noise could travel all the way through Santa Monica [Boulevard], the lily pond, Park Way and get to the neighbors to the north ... that's the reason we didn't go all the way to knock on somebody's door," Gabbay said.

Due to the concerns over noise, the commissioners initially said they could not vote to approve the project.

"I am very excited about the thought of a wonderful outdoor eating venue where there's a view



photo by Tabor Brewster

The building's rooftop restaurant will overlook Beverly Gardens Park, with a view of the Hollywood Sign and downtown Beverly Hills. However, music will be prohibited at all times.

... It's a unique location where you can see both the Hollywood sign as well as Santa Monica, etcetera. It's in a great location," Commissioner Myra Demeter said. "I would like to work with [the applicant] to make it the best project we can so that I would feel comfortable voting for it."

However, in response, Far said he would prohibit recorded music and live entertainment in a lease agreement with any potential restaurant operator to gain approval from the commission. If a restaurant operator wants to play music on the roof, he will return to the Planning Commission to seek approval for a permit amendment, Far said.

With the added condition that any and all music, live entertainment or amplified sound is prohibited in the outdoor dining area, the commission unanimously agreed to approve the project. Additionally, no speakers may be installed in the outdoor dining area under the agreement.

A restaurant operator has not yet entered a lease agreement to rent the future space. Far said he is currently having discussions with potential operators interested in the location.

"This is going to be one of the best restaurants in [the] city of Beverly Hills, or even [the] city of West Hollywood, Century City or anywhere," Far said.

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## State senator asks BHUSD to enroll Pali High students

■ Ben Allen says district will be reimbursed for added cost

BY TABOR BREWSTER

California State Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) is asking the Beverly Hills Unified School District to enroll more displaced students from Palisades Charter High School after the district suspended enrollment.

"I'm not telling anyone what to do, but I highly encourage all of the school districts in the area – including BHUSD – to take in area students that were displaced," Allen said in an interview with the Beverly Press. Allen represents California Senate District 24, which includes the Pacific Palisades, Malibu, Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, Santa Monica and West L.A.

"I understand that the discussion around the school board table was that they were concerned – I totally understand why – that they would be left holding the bag financially for the cost of all the extra students," he said. "I just wanted to make it very clear that from the very highest levels of state government, there is a commitment to ensure that school districts – including basic aid districts like Beverly Hills and Santa Monica-Malibu – that take in students from the fires are going to be made whole."

As a basic aid district, the BHUSD receives almost all of its funding from local property tax revenue. However, Allen said that the

state is committed to "drawing up a formula" to ensure that basic aid districts which take on additional costs by enrolling displaced students receive compensation that state-funded districts would be paid.

"I don't want there to be any financial barrier to their willingness to take in students who have been displaced," Allen said.

According to school administrators, approximately 40% of Pali High's campus was damaged during the fire on Jan. 7. The fire damage to the school and surrounding community – which resulted in the complete loss of at least one campus building – forced the school to move all of its classes online for the remainder of the semester.

On Jan. 14, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order allowing students whose schools were impacted by the fires to enroll in other school districts. Following Newsom's order, the BHUSD received 151 requests from students from Pacific Palisades schools to enroll in the BHUSD, according to BHUSD assistant superintendent for student services Laura Collins-Williams.

The Beverly Hills district initially enrolled 47 students from Pali High, before pausing and eventually suspending enrollment. On Feb. 3, the BHUSD Board of Education determined that further enrollment would require the district to hire new staff. To avoid a strain on the budget, the district decided it would not enroll the remaining 104 students, and only enroll students whose homes were destroyed or

deemed uninhabitable to comply with Newsom's executive order.

Since the district suspended enrollment, parents of Pali High students attended BHUSD Board meetings to plead with the district to accept their children. At the most recent meeting on Feb. 11, however, two Pali High students said they no longer wanted to attend school within the district. They criticized the district for suspending enrollment.

"I've lived in the Palisades my entire life. I watched as my community, my town, everything I grew up with burned to the ground. When the fires forced Pali High to go virtual, it felt like we were losing even more," a Pali High junior said. "Then Beverly Hills School District claimed that they were opening their doors to us. We believed you."

She added that the Pali High students spent hours in district offices filling out paperwork, and that the administrators reassured them that the school was under-enrolled. She said the students then received an email without warning telling them that enrollment was paused.

The student also alleged that a group of parents attempted to prevent Pali High students from enrolling.

"While we were waiting [to hear back], the Beverly Hills parents were calling us 'ghetto,' and telling each other that we didn't belong here. They had to do everything in their power to keep us out, going as far as making campaigns and spreading the news to each other," she said during the meeting. "I'm not here to ask for your acceptance

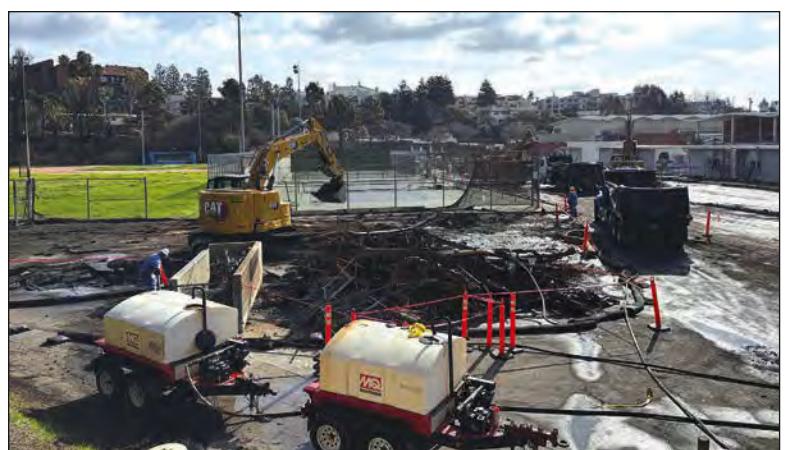


photo by Tabor Brewster

Approximately 40% of Palisades Charter High School's campus facilities were damaged in the Palisades fire, according to school administrators. Crews are currently clearing fire debris, including at least one building that completely burned down.

to this school. I'm here so that the parents of Beverly Hills know that the things you guys have been saying about us – we have been hearing. We do not even want to get an education in a school that kicks others when they are already down."

Allen said that the allegations made by the students would be "very unfortunate" if true, and would not be representative of the Beverly Hills community. He said he is proud to represent Beverly Hills, and knows it to be a welcoming and open community through working with local leaders from the city government, the school district and residents for many years.

"The financial concerns are going to be addressed, so there's just no reason not to help out these students in a time of need. I've spent many hours in the fire zone meeting with the people who have been impacted. It's a terrible tragedy that these folks have gone

through. I think that all of us as Angelenos need to step up and help these young people," Allen said. "Santa Monica-Malibu School District – which is another basic aid district – has already taken in 400-500 students. And they did so without all the clarity that we're providing. They just wanted to do the right thing and I hope that Beverly Hills would do the same."

Allen said his office has been in contact with the BHUSD, but it is not clear if the district has resumed enrollment or made any changes to its policy. He said on Feb. 18 that the latest he heard was that the district had not resumed enrollment.

Since the fire, Pali High – which is an independent charter school within the Los Angeles Unified School District – has been actively searching for a temporary location to host in-person classes. LAUSD Board of Education member Nick

See page 7

## Vanity Fair Street Closures: Access to Local Businesses Maintained



### Easy routes to N. Crescent Drive

#### FROM NORTH:

- → South on N. Cañon Drive, left on Dayton Way, left or right on Crescent Drive
- → South on Rexford Drive, right on Clifton Way, left or right on Crescent Drive

#### FROM SOUTH:

- → Westbound on Wilshire Blvd., right on Crescent Drive
- → Eastbound on Wilshire Blvd., left on Dayton Way

### Parking Available

#### Self Park (1-hour free)

10 – 333 N. Crescent Drive  
12 – 9361 Dayton Way

#### Pay as You Go Parking

18 – 450 N. Crescent Drive  
Garage entrance is accessible via S. Santa Monica Blvd.  
Garage will be closed on March 2 for the event.

#### Self Park (2-hours free)

1 – 345 N. Beverly Drive  
5 – 450 N. Rexford Drive  
6 – 438 N. Beverly Drive &  
– 439 N. Cañon Drive  
7 – 241 N. Cañon Drive &  
– 242 N. Beverly Drive

400 block of N. Crescent Drive will be CLOSED between N. and S. Santa Monica Blvd. from 10 p.m. Monday, February 17, 2025, until 10 p.m. Friday, March 7, 2025.

More info at [BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/VANITYFAIR](http://BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/VANITYFAIR)

## LAUSD launches cell phone ban

### ■ Implementation varies on campuses

BY RANCE COLLINS

On Feb. 18, the ban of student cell phone use in the Los Angeles County Unified School District went into effect. The ban was levied by LAUSD on June 18, 2024, with a start date set for spring 2025. Some schools within the district already had policies in effect, and the guidelines are loose enough to give individual campuses freedom on implementation.

Fairfax High School, Los Angeles High School, John Burroughs Middle School and Hancock Park Elementary School all simply require phones to be turned off and stowed away – each already had these policies in place prior to Feb. 18. Hollywood High School has a magnetic pouch for its students to store their phones. Both Fairfax and Los Angeles High School plan to reevaluate their policies to potentially use pouches or, as Third Street Elementary School does, use a hanging wall pocket for students' phones.

"There is signage up at the school about it, the parents have been notified it's in effect. I'm happy about it," said Jennifer Rojas, a parent of two students attending Third Street Elementary School in Hancock Park. "I have a fifth grader and second grader and neither has a phone. To us, they are too little. I think maybe two kids in my son's [fifth grade] class have phones, so it hasn't been a prevalent issue yet at our school. But give it a couple years when they are older, and we'll see how I feel."

LAUSD board member Nick Melvoine, 4th District, who authored the new ordinance, said that he has "not seen any major disturbances or defiance" from students thus far, noting that that the feedback had been mostly positive.

"The most compelling concern has always been the emergency piece," Melvoine said, repeating the question that many parents had postured about how they might contact their children during an emergency. He argued students are actually more safe without phones getting in the way.

"I get it, especially in light of immigration raids and fires ... and my answer has been consistent. In a situation like that, it's less safe when every kid is texting their parents different things. 'Come get me. Don't come get me. This is what's going on.' This is when the school needs to implement [its] emergency protocols and communicate with one voice. But that is hard for folks who are used to being in constant communication to know," he said.

From page 6

Melvoine – who represents the Pacific Palisades in District 4 – said on Feb. 19 that the district and school expect to announce a temporary campus "by the end of the week."

"That [announcement] hopefully will at least give confidence to those families of Pali, that we have a plan," Melvoine said in an interview with the Beverly Press. "Kids who are looking for other options in the short term should definitely be allowed to avail themselves of those options – whether that's Beverly Hills or Santa Monica or other L.A. Unified schools."

Melvoine added that he heard from one parent who said that, since the cell phone ban, their child's anxiety has actually improved, since the child no longer can text their parent every hour.

"They have to build some of that resilience, and that's also part of the impetus for bringing this," he said. "I mean, they're pouches and locked in their backpack, or they're in their backpack turned off, or they're in a classroom. There's not a world where they are not physically in the same room, unless it's been confiscated for violating policy. They do have physical access or proximity to their phones."

Christina Carrera is the student programs manager of Greenway Arts Alliance, which is affiliated and shares campus space with Fairfax High School. She said that she helped supervise students on Feb. 18 and did not hear any complaints – in fact, she said, they said they liked the new rule.

"[They said], 'It doesn't really affect us, because we get our phones back for lunch or before school or passing period.' They still feel like they have their phone, it's just locked up during the actual class period," Carrera said. "They don't care."

"I have a daughter who's at [Los Angeles County High School for the Arts]," Greenway Arts Alliance co-founder Pierson Blaetz said. "They've had the practice for a while of having to hand in their phone during class time. I think it's a very good idea, and I think it's fine that periods of the day, throughout the day, that they don't use the phone, and I don't see a whole lot of pushback from my daughter either. I think this current group of students has a much better sense of the effect [that] being on the phone too much has. It's in their consciousness."

Carrera added that, through Greenway's work with Fairfax High School, they feel confident in the school's emergency alert practices.

"Even if the kid doesn't have their phone or whatever, parents are still alerted if anything's going on," she said.

"I am very supportive of restrictive cell phone policies," State Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) said. Prior to his election to State Senate, Allen was a Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education member. "I would encourage all of the school districts in my district and elsewhere to adopt restrictive policies ... You look at the data, [and] it is undeniable that the presence of cell phones in classrooms reduces the amount of retention that the students have. Kids are less focused. They learn less. They're more distractable. So as an education experience, the data

He added that he understands the financial concerns of the BHUSD.

"I also get that there is a ceiling for Beverly Hills before they have to hire more teachers or get more space and that they don't have the funding for that, and that's reasonable. From Pali High's perspective, they'd like to keep those kids because they want to reopen soon in person," Melvoine said. "Even though I think the state has been pretty honest and open about reimbursing school districts like Santa Monica and Beverly Hills, I think some of those concerns are valid."

The BHUSD did not respond to multiple requests for comment by press time.

is clear that it's to every kid's advantage for us to restrict cell phone use in class."

Hollywood High principal Sam Dovlatian said students told him that not having their cell phones has allowed them to focus more on their work.

"I asked what they do during lunch without a cell phone, they said, 'We talk with our friends more.' And I do see the change in behavior in the quad. More students are engaged in conversations," Dovlatian said. "We need to support

them by creating more opportunities for discussions, conversations and social-emotional growth."

Melvoine said that the school board is watching data closely in the initial weeks of implementation – particularly how individual schools' policies are working, how many infractions are being noted and whether there's an uptick in students' trips to the bathrooms and other potential attempts to steal away a look at their phones.

"It's definitely a cultural shift for the district," Melvoine said.



photo by Edwin Folven

Students at Fairfax High School are now required to have their phones turned off and stowed away.

## CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

### LOCATIONS:

**8687 Melrose Avenue,  
West Hollywood, California;  
and 750 N. San Vicente Boulevard,  
West Hollywood, California**

### REQUEST:

**The City Council** will hold a public hearing to consider a request to amend the Pacific Design Center (PDC) Specific Plan to, among other changes, allow previously required vacant space to be occupied by new tenants (provided sufficient parking exists), eliminate minimum square footage requirements for certain spaces, and revise the PDC's parking rates and allowable uses to conform with the Municipal Code. No expansion, addition, or physical changes to the existing buildings are proposed.

### PERMIT(S):

Specific Plan Amendment, and any other required permits.

### APPLICANT(S):

Latham & Watkins, Cullen Tyndall

### TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:

**Monday, March 3, 2025  
at 6:00 p.m.**

West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room –  
Council Chambers  
625 N. San Vicente Boulevard  
West Hollywood, CA 90069

### ZONES:

PDCSP (Pacific Design Center Specific Plan)

### ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:

Addendum to Pacific Design Center Final Environmental Impact Report

**Complete digital agenda packets** will be available on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at [www.weho.org](http://www.weho.org)

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

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

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

For further information regarding this item, contact Adrian Gallo, Associate Planner at (323) 848-6304, or via email at: [agallo@weho.org](mailto:agallo@weho.org)

**Melissa Crowder,  
City Clerk**

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

## L.A. County launches household relief grant for fire victims

Families impacted by the Eaton and Palisades fires will now have access to critical financial assistance through the L.A. County Household Relief Grant Program. Los Angeles County launched the program on Feb. 14 to provide swift financial relief to households as they wait for long-term state and federal aid.

"As fire-impacted residents begin to recover and plan for the future, they need nimble and timely assistance," L.A. County Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger, 5th District, said. "This grant provides an important source of support to close the gap for residents to cover some of their housing and living expenses. I'm committed to connecting our communities with every resource available to help them stabilize and rebuild their

lives."

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors established the L.A. County Relief Fund to provide essential financial assistance to affected residents through a motion co-authored by Supervisors Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, and Barger.

"Too many families directly impacted by the wildfires are now choosing between keeping a roof over their head and putting food on their table – a decision no one should have to make," Horvath said. "The L.A. County Household Relief Grant provides immediate financial relief, so those directly impacted can focus on healing and rebuilding. This grant program is one more way L.A. County is supporting the people who need our help most, so no one is alone as



photo by Tabor Brewster

The funds will be available to households impacted by the fires as they await long-term state and federal aid.

## Council approves Yaroslavsky motions supporting domestic violence victims

The Los Angeles City Council approved two motions on Feb. 14 by Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District – one marking the largest expansion of domestic violence services in the city's history and another strengthening enforcement against abusers by removing firearms from prohibited individuals and improving restraining order enforcement.

The historic investment in survivor services builds on Yaroslavsky's work to identify funding gaps and secure resources to expand support for survivors. The funding, which she secured in last year's budget, expands shelter capacity and housing support, and fills the gap left by federal cuts to the Victims of Crime Act.

The second motion directs the Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office and partners to formalize the Domestic Violence Restraining Order Enforcement Task Force to increase the removal of firearms from prohib-

ited individuals and improve enforcement of restraining orders.

"Survivors deserve more than words, they deserve action," Yaroslavsky said. "Los Angeles is making the largest investment in domestic violence services in our city's history and taking real steps to keep guns out of the hands of abusers. Coordinating enforcement of restraining orders and removing firearms from dangerous individuals will save lives. I'm proud to have championed this funding and these policies to ensure survivors have both the support they need and the protections they deserve."

"Firearms and domestic violence pose a deadly nexus, as an abusive partner's access to firearms makes it five times more likely that a domestic violence victim will be killed," Los Angeles City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto said. "The success of these laws depends on a whole-of-government approach to implementation. I applaud the City Council for taking this critical step

and Councilmembers Yaroslavsky and [Monica] Rodriguez for their leadership on these issues. My office looks forward to working with our partners on the DVRO Enforcement Task Force to support survivors, hold abusers accountable and keep our communities safe."

Last year, the LAPD received 43,927 domestic violence-related calls, and 15,851 survivors reached out to hotlines for help. The city has only 567 domestic violence shelter beds for people fleeing abuse. At the same time, domestic and intimate partner violence remains a major cause of homelessness in Los Angeles, with more than 41% of unsheltered people in L.A. having experienced abuse. The crisis disproportionately affects female-identifying individuals, for whom domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness nationwide.

Anyone seeking help can call the 24-hour Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Support Services hotline at (800)978-3600.

## Elton John Oscar party temporarily closes parts of WeHo streets

Through Thursday, March 6, there will be a temporary closure of certain sections of West Hollywood Park, located at 647 N. San Vicente Blvd. – including the dog parks and basketball courts – to accommodate the annual Elton John AIDS Foundation Academy

Awards Viewing Party and fundraiser.

Intermittent lane closures will occur on southbound N. San Vicente Blvd. and Pacific Design Drive Feb. 21, 22, 24, 28 and March 3-4. A full street closure will occur from March 2 at 11:30 a.m. to

March 3 at 5 a.m.

The small dog park and basketball courts will be closed until March 5. The large dog park will be closed from Feb. 28-March 3. The five-story parking structure will be closed March 2 and reopen on March 3 at 5 a.m.

## CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

### LOCATIONS:

**8945 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, California**

### REQUEST:

**The Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing regarding a request to change the use of a 1,147-square-foot, single-story commercial tenant space from a restaurant with alcohol service to a nightclub (also with full alcohol service) and live entertainment (including a live DJ and go-go dancers) until 2:00 a.m. daily. The tenant space will not be expanded.

### PERMIT(S):

Conditional Use Permit, Development Permit, and any other required permits.

### APPLICANT(S):

Louie Cano on behalf of "The Wild"

### TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:

**Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.**  
West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers  
625 N. San Vicente Boulevard  
West Hollywood, CA 90069

### ZONES:

CC1 (Commercial, Community 1)

### ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:

Categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Regulations pursuant to CEQA Section §15301 (Existing Facilities)

**Complete digital agenda packets** will be available on Thursday, February 27, 2025, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at [www.weho.org](http://www.weho.org)

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

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

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

For further information regarding this item, contact Laurie Yelton, Associate Planner at (323) 848-6890, or via email at: [lyelton@weho.org](mailto:lyelton@weho.org)

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

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

## Kaling puts her legacy on Hollywood Boulevard

BY RANCE COLLINS

On Feb. 19, actress, writer and producer Mindy Kaling received her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 6533 Hollywood Blvd.

"I'm so happy. I love recognition," Kaling said.

She explained that, in Hindu culture, it is customary to be cremated.

"I'm obsessed with legacy. So, sometimes I get disappointed that I won't have a grave. But this is so much better than a grave," she said.

Kaling's family immigrated to the United States from Bengal in 1979, just before her birth.

She was raised in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and though named Vera at birth, she was dubbed Mindy after one of her mother's favorite shows, "Mork & Mindy." She herself became a fan of comedy television, including shows like "Cheers" and "Saturday Night Live."

"In spite of how challenging the days were, we'd all sit together at night and watch a sitcom," she recalled. "It was more than entertainment for us. It was our way of relaxing. We could put down our defenses from hard days and just be together ... I think it's so remarkable how many connections that you can make by sharing laughs. And from the earliest age I thought, 'I want to do that. I need to do that.'"

While a student at Dartmouth College, she began her showbusiness career in New York City, interning at "Late Night with Conan O'Brien." After graduation, she moved to the city full time, doing standup and eventually getting a play produced off-Broadway called "Matt & Ben," in which she played – of course – Ben Affleck.

On the basis of a spec script, "The Office" producer Greg Daniels hired Kaling in 2005, which brought her to Los Angeles. There, she'd be not only a writer, but a supporting character and, later, an executive producer. In recent years, Kaling has become one of the most in-demand comedic actresses and writers in Hollywood, with her own hit television series, "The Mindy Project," as well as roles in films like "Inside Out," "Ocean's 8" and "A Wrinkle In Time," and series like "Velma." She also created the series "Never Have I Ever" for Netflix and "The Sex Lives of College Girls" for Max. She received a Tony Award in 2012 for producing the musical "A Strange Loop." Kaling has won two Screen Actors Guild Awards and been nominated for six Emmy Awards. She is also the author of several memoirs.

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Nithya Raman, 4th District, expressed pride in Kaling's achievements at the Walk of Fame ceremony.

"It is thanks to her work and incredible success that my daughter Kaveri – a proud Tamil American – will never have to wonder as I did when I was young, whether she was worthy of being the star of her own rom-com," Raman said. "I've watched in awe and with pride as you have made your mark on the global stage. When I heard that you would be making a physical mark on the city of Los Angeles, as the only South Asian to be representing this city, I knew I had to be there to congratulate you personally."

Her "The Office" co-star and co-writer B.J. Novak also paid tribute to Kaling, who rattled off her accomplishments then noted that some people might know her from

"just being famous."

"We are here at the Walk of Fame," Novak said. "Fame is a unique job. It exists only in the minds of others. I'm not talking about the job that made a person famous, I'm talking about the job of fame itself, which is to be a character in other people's minds."

Novak went on to say that Kaling understands the job of fame intuitively, and that she excels at it, in addition to being a great artist, friend, mentor, daughter and mother.

"Mindy is also in her spare time, I assure you, very superficial," he cracked. "She likes red carpet

drama. She wants to know what really happened on the junket. She is actually kind of interested in who wore it better and has some opinions. She understands what fame means to people because she's a normal person, and it means something to her. She knows it can be fun and interesting. She knows it can be inspiring ... It's a job she handles beautifully. She always makes the extra effort to show people her real personality."

"I am so grateful to the fans of my work, and to the audiences that got me here, who believe in me enough to think that I actually was a star," Kaling said.



photo courtesy of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce

Mindy Kaling thanked her fans for believing her to be a star.

## City of West Hollywood Celebrates



# FORTY of PROGRESS YEARS



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West Hollywood  
40

## Here's to baseball, bebop and breakfast burritos

*Random thoughts while appreciating the healing powers of a cold beer and a drippy burger:*

- Life is a team sport.
- Hope is the best nest egg.
- As Anthony Bourdain urged, "Eat at a local restaurant tonight. Get the cream sauce. Have a cold pint at 4 o'clock in a mostly empty bar..."

- In short: Live a little.
- I like running in the rain.
- I like driving in the snow.
- FYI, making soup warms you twice – chopping it and slurping it.
- "Lead us not into temptation. Just tell us where it is; we'll find it."

—Sam Levenson.

- FYI, history belonged to the generals; the future belongs to the engineers.

- In order of importance to humanity: Engineers, columnists, shortstops, Irish tenors, bartenders, teachers.

- That's my list anyway. What's yours?

- To the person who invented zero: Thanks for nothin'.

- To the person who invented infinity: I can't say enough.

- Underrated parental pleasure: a backseat full of noisy kids, going anywhere (Mammoth, the movies, In-N-Out).

- Most problems are math problems.

- And bebop is the highest form of math.

- RIP, Bill Shupper, a great Dodger fan and an even better man.

by  
Chris  
Erskine



- As they said of the late Bob Uecker: "He's been traded to Heaven."

- Despite all its problems, I have never loved L.A. more.

- I liked Californians before the fires; I love them now.

- Greatest development in my lifetime: the breakfast burrito.

- Second-best development: seat warmers.

- Third-best development: This Luka Doncic trade.

- Trivia time: How many languages does Doncic speak?

- The Chicago Bears don't need a new offensive line; they need a moat.

- And the Angels don't need a coach, they need an exorcist.

- Baseball, beware: Money ruins everything.

- Know what's worse? No money.

- Go Dodgers!

- Go Angels!

- Go Cubs!

- Remember when USC was a football school?

- Fight on!!!

- But be sure to breathe. And

spoil yourself a little.

- The Trojans really should've rehired Pete Carroll.

- "His granite jaw is straight out of Hollywood .... His skin — pale, soft, and papery — is full of fine wrinkles; it seems much older than the rest of him. His nose runs a zigzag pattern down the middle of his face, breaking first to the right and then to the left, a pass route the Trojan playbook calls Z-quick." — from Mike Sager's profile of Carroll while at USC.

- I miss magazine writing like that.

- FYI, only about 140 days till NFL training camp.

- Zaniest off-season hire: Chip Kelly joining Carroll with the Las Vegas Raiders.

- Major admiration for anyone who took fire victims into their home.

- Lose your place? Need a beer, a burger? Let's grab a cold pint in a mostly empty bar...

- Text me: (213) 572-7485.

- "Hope means hoping when things are hopeless, or it is no virtue at all." — G.K. Chesterton

- No one ever suffered from too much perseverance.

- Nick Saban is the Lorne Michaels of college football.

- SNL's Mt. Rushmore: John Belushi, Gilda Radner, Bill Murray, Eddie Murphy.

- There's something divine in the eyes of a rescue pet.

- "Astronomers searching for signs of intelligent life always aim their telescopes away from Earth." — Ben Bass

- Trivia answer: Luka Doncic speaks four languages — Slovenian, Serbian, English, Spanish.

- Trivia II: How many languages



photo by Chris Erskine

Nothing is as healing as a good burger with a friend.

did Kobe Bryant speak?

- Best soups: Clam chowder, gumbo, beef stroganoff.

- Yes, in our family, stroganoff is considered a soup.

- And Bloody Marys are a vegetable.

- Praying Altadena will leave room for used bookstores. Plus: bike shops, jazz joints, parks and ma-and-pa diners.

- Bricks are easy; essence is hard.

- Props to Kathryn Barger for her hard work and leadership.

- FYI, the IRS has extended the tax deadline for fire victims to Oct. 15.

- Better yet, waive them altogether?

- Order your Mardi Gras king cakes here: Gambinos.com

- Live a little, remember?

- Prediction: Descanso Gardens' exciting new restaurant will finally bloom in April.

- "Bill Gates is the John McEnroe of the tech world." — Steve Poole in *The Guardian*

- Trivia II answer: Kobe spoke English and Italian, and some Spanish and Mandarin.

- Superstar sit-com creator Bill Lawrence — "Shrinking," "Ted Lasso" — should run a network.

- "I would like to see us overcome our tribal divisions and begin to think and act as if we were one family. That would be real globalization." — Arthur C. Clarke

- Fat chance, brother. But amen to that.

Breathe. Laugh. Live.

*Are you able to throw \$20 toward relief for fire victims? If so, please go to [lcpcparented.org/give](http://lcpcparented.org/give). Click on the Erskine Compassion Fund, which supports families and honors my late wife and son. Any amount helps. Thank you.*

## TRAFFIC ADVISORY PURPLE (D LINE) EXTENSION TRANSIT PROJECT- SECTION 2

Wilshire/Rodeo Station – Deck Removal 3-Week Closures of Wilshire Blvd. between El Camino Dr. and Crescent Dr.  
MARCH 17, 2025 TO APRIL 7, 2025



Between March 17, 2025 and April 7, 2025, Wilshire Blvd. between El Camino Dr. and Crescent Dr., including the Wilshire/Beverly intersection, will be **CLOSED** to all traffic for the Metro Purple (D Line) construction. This closure will complete deck removal and roadway restoration.

WORK HOURS: 24/7

FOR ANY QUESTIONS, please contact the 24/7 Metro Hotline at (213) 922-6934.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [beverlyhills.org/purpleline](http://beverlyhills.org/purpleline)



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## Foundation ensures firefighters stay fed during emergencies

The First-In Fire Foundation delivered the first Firehouse Emergency Preparedness Pantry to LAFD Fire Station 58 on Feb. 14, in celebration of Valentine's Day.

The donation followed a year of research, development, creation and city approval of the fire station pantry program. The pantries include mobile Yeti coolers stocked with food and supplies that firefighters can take with them during emergencies. The First-In Fire Foundation was founded in 2008 by Lyn and Marc

Cohen.

"Firefighter well-being and morale are of paramount importance to First-In Fire Foundation, especially in these extreme times of multiple horrendously destructive raging wildfires," said Marc Cohen, chairman of the foundation's board. "Local grassroots community support means everything to the fire companies."

"No matter what the disaster or emergency, firefighters have to eat well to serve well," Lyn Cohen said. "These top-quality indestructible Yeti coolers transport nutrition

right to the front lines of the fire-fight."

The donation was made possible by support from Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District. LAFD Fire Station 58 is located at 1556 S. Robertson Blvd.

"[The] generosity of the snacks and Yeti coolers means the world to our firefighters," LAFD Deputy Chief Stephen Gutierrez said. "Support like yours keeps them going daily so they have fuel to serve our community."

The First-In Fire Foundation is planning to distribute additional Firehouse Emergency Preparedness Pantries in the near future. For information and to support the program, call (310)270-5604, or visit [firstinfirefoundation.org](http://firstinfirefoundation.org).



photo courtesy of the First-In Fire Foundation

The donation ceremony included firefighters Joseph Monsour and Tristen Bantog, back row; Assistant Chief Carlos Calvillo, Battalion 18 Chief Glenn Beham, firefighter Chad Curry, First-In Fire Foundation founders Lyn MacEwen Cohen and Marc Cohen, 5th Council District senior deputy Cairo Rodriguez, Capt. Devin Whitsell and Deputy Chief Stephen Gutierrez, middle row; and 5th Council District Director George Hakopants and firefighters Robert Lindsay and Jesse Gonzales, front row.

## Hundreds wed on Valentine's Day

Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/Court Clerk Dean C. Logan announced love was in the air this Valentine's Day as 286 couples were married across the county.

An impressive 113 couples took advantage of the RR/CC's same-day marriage license and civil ceremony services at Norwalk HQ, while 173 couples were married at the RR/CC field offices located throughout Los Angeles County.

"Valentine's Day is a beautiful reminder of love and commitment,

and our department is honored to be a part of such a special moment in people's lives," Logan said. "Helping couples begin their journey together is a privilege we cherish, and we take pride in making the process as seamless and memorable as possible."

Express marriage licenses and civil ceremonies will remain available to couples year-round. To learn more about same-day marriage licenses and civil ceremonies, visit [lavote.gov](http://lavote.gov).



photo courtesy of Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder

Nearly 300 couples married through the L.A. County Registrar-Recorder's offices on Feb. 14.

## BH visits Miami to attract businesses

Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman, Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian, City Manager Nancy Hunt-Coffey and Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce CEO Todd Johnson visited Miami from Feb. 10-14 to lead a business attraction and retention mission, strengthening economic ties and exploring

opportunities to bring top-tier businesses to Beverly Hills.

By fostering connections with industry leaders and innovators, they are ensuring that Beverly Hills remains a premier destination for business, culture and luxury.

For information, visit [beverlyhills.org](http://beverlyhills.org).

## Notable Quotes

*"Though history will accurately acknowledge my presence in those proceedings, my contribution was no more important than being at the right place at the right time, one in that series of perfect accidents from which fate fashions her grand designs. History will pinpoint me as merely a minor element in an ongoing major event, a small if necessary energy."*

Sidney Poitier (1927-2022)

The legendary actor, director, activist and humanitarian was born on this day in 1927. Poitier was the first Black performer to win the Best Actor Oscar. His filmography includes such classics as "The Defiant Ones," "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" and "Lilies of the Field." Reflecting on his legacy, we'd argue that his life was, indeed, a major event.

\*source: "This Life" by Sidney Poitier

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Feb. 21st SHABBAT DINNER/SERVICE & MENSCH AWARDS HONORING HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR DAVID WIENER**

**March 14th PURIM BRUNCH & MEGILLAH READING**

**April 13th 2ND NIGHT PASSOVER SEDER AT 4 SEASONS HOTEL**

**HIGH HOLY DAYS Sept. 23-24 & Oct. 1-2**

## Lane closures for subway work coming in Beverly Hills

Work on the D Line subway extension is ongoing in late February, with crews working at multiple locations along Wilshire Boulevard in Wilshire Center, the Miracle Mile, Beverly Hills and Century City.

Through at least March, street restoration work is ongoing near Wilshire/Western. Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction between Oxford Avenue and St. Andrews Place, and left turns are prohibited from Wilshire Boulevard to Western Avenue and from eastbound Wilshire Boulevard to northbound St. Andrews Place.

Near the Wilshire/La Brea subway station, lanes may be closed through March along Wilshire Boulevard between Sycamore Avenue and Detroit Street, and on La Brea Avenue between Sixth and Eighth streets. The lane closures support street restoration in the area. Cross passage work between

the tunnels is also ongoing in the Miracle Mile, where a K-rail work zone is in place through March on Wilshire Boulevard between Courtyard Place and Masselin Avenue.

A K-rail work zone is located in the middle lanes of Wilshire Boulevard between Fairfax and Spaulding Avenue through March. Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction near the intersection. Crosswalks along Wilshire Boulevard will be maintained at Spaulding Avenue, Ogden Drive and Fairfax Avenue. A K-rail work zone is also in place in the center of the Wilshire/La Jolla intersection, where Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction.

At Wilshire/La Cienega, a K-rail work zone has been implemented along the north side of Wilshire Boulevard between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards. Two lanes in each direction are open on

Wilshire Boulevard between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards. Instrumentation and utility work, street maintenance, strut removal and concrete and material deliveries are ongoing at and around the Wilshire/La Cienega station.

As early as Feb. 24, a full closure of South Reeves Drive will be implemented from the Wilshire Boulevard crosswalk to an alley just south of Wilshire Boulevard. The closure supports the removal of the temporary decking system, station entrance structure construction and Reeves Drive street restoration. The work is expected to last six weeks.

Piling and potholing work is anticipated to begin as early as March near the Wilshire/Rodeo station. The Beverly Hills City Council approved a three-week full closure of Wilshire Boulevard.

Placement of structural concrete for the Century City/Constellation



photo by Edwin Folven

A full closure of Reeves Drive is planned south of Wilshire Boulevard for work on the Wilshire/Rodeo station.

and Century Park East. All driveways are accessible in the area.

For questions and concerns about the D Line Extension project, call the 24-hour project hotline at (213)922-6934, email the project team at purplelineext@metro.net, or visit metro.net.

## Webpage helps residents track debris removal in fire zones

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has launched an interactive Phase 2 Debris Removal Viewer on its website that provides property owners in burn zones with real-time updates on the status of debris removal in their neighborhoods.

The viewer is available at the top of the Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District Wildfire Debris Removal Mission webpage and allows property owners to track the progress of cleanup operations on their parcels. Using a color-coded system, the tool displays parcels submitted by Los Angeles County to the Army Corps of Engineers for Phase 2 debris removal, parcels assigned to contractors for active cleanup and parcels where the Army Corps of Engineers has

completed work.

“Transparency and timely information are critical as we work to safely and quickly remove wildfire debris,” said Col. Eric Swenson, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Los Angeles Wildfires Recovery Field Office.

“This new viewer gives residents a clear picture of where their property stands in the Phase 2 process, reinforcing our commitment to keeping the community informed every step of the way.”

The Army Corps of Engineers is executing Phase 2 debris removal under the direction of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and in coordination with the state of California and county of Los Angeles. The operation involves clearing ash, burned structures and foundations. Foundations are only

removed if requested by the property owner.

Debris removal is the first step to prepare lots, but the removal of debris does not mean a property is “build ready.” As operations ramp up, residents can expect increased truck traffic in affected neighborhoods and along debris removal routes. Officials encourage the public to plan accordingly and exercise patience as crews work to remove debris and mitigate health and safety risks.

Contractors for the Army Corps of Engineers are transporting secured material directly from properties to landfills that are permitted by CalRecycle. The Army Corps of Engineers has worked with the California Department of Transportation and affected municipalities to select haul routes that minimize impact for those who have reoccupied their homes and unaffected communities. The Army Corps of Engineers follows strict procedures to ensure public safety during private property debris

removal. When removing fire ash and debris, the material is placed in the bed of a dump truck inside a heavy-duty plastic liner that is tightly wrapped around the ash. A tarp is then lowered over the truck to ensure the ash stays contained during transit.

The Army Corps of Engineers also utilizes the “wet method” for debris removal, which involves applying water and mist to prevent ash from becoming airborne. The approach helps mitigate risks to the community, particularly for standing homes that have been reoccupied.

Property owners have until March 31 to opt-in to the debris removal program. Those who do not opt-in will be required to pay for private debris removal. The Army Corps of Engineers anticipates that all properties enrolled by March 31 will be cleared no later than January 2026, with a majority expected to be completed long before next January. Residents impacted by the wild-

fires are encouraged to submit Right-of-Entry forms to authorize debris removal at their properties. Forms can be submitted by visiting recovery.lacounty.gov or in person at a Disaster Recovery Center. For the new Phase 2 Debris Removal Viewer, visit recovery.lacounty.gov/debris-removal/phase-2.

### 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.

## Board of Supervisors enacts eviction protections for fire victims

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on Feb. 18 approved a motion introduced by Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, to enact limited eviction protections for workers and small business owners financially impacted by the January wildfires, with amendments. It applies countywide,

including all 88 cities and unincorporated areas.

“Tonight, our workers impacted by the fires don’t have to worry about losing their homes because of a disaster beyond their control,” Horvath said after the board approved the motion. “With today’s vote, we ensure that those directly impacted

by the fires have the eviction protections they need to stay housed as they recover. This is about standing up for our working families, our communities and our shared commitment to a just and equitable recovery. I am grateful to my colleagues for their input and their support.”

The motion provides temporary eviction protections for workers and small business owners who demonstrate financial hardship due to the fires and are actively seeking relief. The motion calls for \$10 million to

that provides immediate relief and support. We must not forget the needs of renters in our recovery efforts.”

**“The devastating wildfires have left thousands of families without homes, many of whom were already struggling to afford housing.”**

*Supervisor Lindsey Horvath,  
3rd District*

“The devastating wildfires have left thousands of families without homes, many of whom were already struggling to afford housing,” Horvath

added. “We must act swiftly to provide immediate relief and ensure impacted residents have access to stable, affordable housing. By prioritizing housing choice vouchers for families who lost their homes, L.A. County is taking an essential step toward recovery, ensuring that no one is left behind as we rebuild.”

LACDA has already taken steps to expedite relief by requesting a regulatory waiver from the U.S. HUD. Once approved, the agency will immediately amend its HCV Administrative Plan to create a new local preference for fire victims, allowing eligible residents to receive assistance on a first-come, first-served basis.

The LACDA website and regional partners will promote the vouchers to ensure impacted families are aware of the opportunity to apply for housing assistance. For information, visit lacda.org.

## RESTAURANT NEWS

### Sora brings Japan to the Farmers Market

Located at The Original Farmers Market, Sora Temaki Bar invites guests to experience open-faced temaki with a West Coast touch, opening Feb. 27.

Sora Temaki Bar, the latest culinary venture from food entrepreneur Vincent Benoliel – creator of Pasta Corner, Michelina and The French Crepes – is opening at the iconic The Original Farmers Market, marking his newest addition to this historic location. Sora Temaki Bar brings an elevated temaki experience to Los Angeles, offering open-faced hand rolls made with fresh fish flown in daily from Japan. The rooftop retreat combines Japanese craftsmanship with California-inspired ingredients in a serene, speakeasy-like setting. Guests can also indulge in visually stunning craft cocktails, making Sora Temaki Bar the perfect escape

from the market's hustle below.

Sora Temaki Bar aims to offer a sophisticated yet accessible dining experience. The restaurant's open-faced temaki concept celebrates the purity of high-quality ingredients, allowing diners to savor each bite in its most authentic form. Whether a casual diner taking a break from shopping or a seasoned foodie on a night out, Sora Temaki Bar's inviting atmosphere, premium ingredients and approachable price point make it a must-visit destination.

Sora is located at The Original Farmers Market, 6333 W. Third St. It will be open daily from noon-10 p.m. For information, visit [farmersmarketla.com/merchants/sora-temaki-bar](http://farmersmarketla.com/merchants/sora-temaki-bar).

### Head to Nobu for Margarita Day

Nobu Los Angeles is serving a luxury margarita cocktail made with the highest quality, premium ingredients, including chef

### Boontown celebrates a decade of brews

Boontown Brewery, L.A.'s iconic craft beer haven nestled in the heart of the DTLA Arts District, is pulling out all the stops to celebrate 10 Years of brewing excellence with an unforgettable Boontown Brewery 10th anniversary weekend. From Friday, Feb. 21 through Sunday, Feb. 23, beer lovers, locals and visitors alike are invited to raise a glass (or several) in honor of a decade of incredible brews, community vibes and epic events.

Patrons will enjoy three action-packed days of craft beer, live entertainment, L.A.'s top food vendors and good times. The Boontown Tap Room – just steps from their cutting-edge brewery – will be buzzing with over eighteen craft beer selections, including fan favorites like BAD HOMBRE Mexican-Style Lager, Nose Job IPA, Chavez Ravine Hazy IPA,



photo courtesy of Boontown Brewery

Raise a glass to Boontown Brewery's 10th anniversary.

Mic Czech Pilsner, plus a rotating selection of styles including IPAs, stouts, sours and gluten-free seltzers. With head brewer Amber Sawicki and production manager Benjamin Turkel leading the charge, guests can expect some exciting new releases to mark the occasion.

Events include a look-alike con-

tents and karaoke kickoff from 6-11 p.m. on Feb. 21, the official anniversary party on Feb. 22 from noon-1 a.m. and a hip-hop concert and IPA beer release party on Feb. 23 from 6-11 p.m.

For information and tickets, [boontownbrew.com/visit/#events](http://boontownbrew.com/visit/#events). Boontown Brewery is located at 700 Jackson St.



### This Week's Specials

#### Piedmontese Rib Eye Steak



#### Chimichurri Chicken Thighs



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[marcondas.com](http://marcondas.com)

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Nobu's very own tequila for National Margarita Day, Feb. 22. Coined the "Noburita," this cocktail is made with Nobu Tequila by Qui, Grand Marnier Centenaire, lime, agave and Maldon sea salt, and served over a Nobu Ice Cube. The cocktail is priced at \$65 and available now on their beverage menu. For information, visit [noburestaurents.com](http://noburestaurents.com) or call (310)657-5711. Nobu Los Angeles is located at 903 N. La Cienega Blvd.

Margarita Ji-Bol with rosa's lime cordial, cascahuin blanco, agua con gas and seville orange oil; and the Infante Margarita with mazapan orgeat, lime and los arcos blanco. Mírate is located at 1712 Vermont Ave. For information, visit [mirate.la](http://mirate.la) or call (323)649-7937.

## El Guero cocktail highlights Mírate offerings

Led by beverage director Max Ries, Mírate's bar team is dedicated to showcasing the depth and diversity of Mexican culture, including in its margaritas. For National Margarita Day on Feb. 22, check out the El Guero cocktail, which features aguachile, nopales granita, coconut and avocado washed don Fulano fuerte. Other margaritas include Tommy's Margarita with lime, nogave and mirate x mal bien espadin; the

See page 17

## Teleferic provides Spanish twist on Margarita Day

Teleferic Barcelona is not only known for its delectable Spanish cuisine but also its cocktail menu. Enjoy authentic Spanish tapas and paellas while sipping on Teleferic's version on the traditional margarita, the Flamenquita, for Feb. 22, National Margarita Day. The cocktail is made with Patron Reposado, Manzanilla Sherry, Bergamot liqueur, pineapple, cilantro, lime and agave, for a sweet yet subtly savory take on the classic cocktail. Teleferic Barcelona is located at 11930 San Vicente Blvd. For information, visit [telefericbarcelona.com](http://telefericbarcelona.com) or call (408)827-4162.

# Loews stirs up Academy Award nominee cocktails

With the Academy Awards fast approaching, Loews Hollywood Hotel – located directly adjacent to Dolby Theatre, home of the annual ceremony – is once again raising a glass to Hollywood's biggest night with the return of its star-studded Best Picture-inspired cocktail lineup at H2 Kitchen & Bar.

Now through March 2, expert mixologists will be serving hand-crafted cocktails inspired by this year's Best Picture nominees, offering a sip-worthy tribute to some of the best films of the past year. At the epicenter of Oscars preparations and post-show celebrations, Loews Hollywood Hotel is the ultimate destination to toast to awards season in Hollywood.

to awards season in Hollywood. Drinks include The Troubadour. Inspired by the spirit of Bob Dylan in "A Complete Unknown," this cocktail is a journey in a glass, blending SelvaRey Coconut Rum, pineapple juice

photo courtesy of Loews Hollywood Hotel  
Drinks inspired by the Oscars nominees for Best Picture are available  
at H2 Kitchen & Bar

coconut cream and a splash of lime. László's Vision reflects the raw strength and striking complexity of "The Brutalist." The cocktail is built on layers of bold flavors, combining Scotch, lemon and ginger. Defying Gravity is a pink cocktail, topped with a green rosemary sprig, a nod to "Wicked," blending Kettle One Grapefruit, St. Germain Liquor, pink grapefruit, rosemary syrup and lemon juice for an uplifting, citrusy herbal flavor. the title character in "Emilia Pérez." The Cardinal's Choice is inspired by "Conclave." The non-alcoholic sip delivers a refined, ceremonial flavor with SeedLip Spice 42, hibiscus tea, lime juice and simple syrup, topped with dry hibiscus and a cinnamon, salt and sugar rim. Finally, For Better or Worse, inspired by "Anora," combines Aperol, St. Germain, lemon juice, simple syrup, Prosecco and soda water, offering a bittersweet sip.

Sincerely, Emilia is made with Patron Reposado, Cointreau, lime juice, peach bitters, hot honey and a Tajín rim. The sweet-spicy cocktail is as dynamic and unforgettable as For information, visit [loewshotels.com/hollywood](http://loewshotels.com/hollywood). Loews Hollywood Hotel is located at 1755 N. Highland Ave.



## Gustave Caillebotte Getty exhibition explores masculinity

The J. Paul Getty Museum announced "Gustave Caillebotte: Painting Men," an exhibition featuring approximately 100 paintings and drawings by French impressionist Gustave Caillebotte (1848-1894). On view at the Getty Center from Feb. 25 to May 25, it is the largest display of Caillebotte's work on the West Coast in 30 years.

Organized by the J. Paul Getty Museum, Art Institute of Chicago and Musée d'Orsay, Paris, the exhibition offers a revealing window into Caillebotte's world as a wealthy and fiercely independent bourgeois for whom avant-garde painting was one of many pursuits. While counterparts like Edouard Manet and Edgar Degas primarily

painted women, Caillebotte distinguished himself by focusing intently on men, from family members and close friends to anonymous workers, sportsmen and soldiers.

"Exceptional for their immersive compositions and energetic execution, Gustave Caillebotte's paintings raise fascinating questions about gender norms and masculinity in 19th-century France and continue to spark discussion and debate today," Getty Museum Director Timothy Potts said. "We are delighted to partner with the Musée d'Orsay and the Art Institute of Chicago to bring to the West Coast many of Caillebotte's most compelling and famous paintings in a display that highlights his

originality while situating him in biographical, social and historical context."

Presented thematically, the exhibition opens with Caillebotte's family life, the subject of his first important paintings, shown in his public debut with the Impressionists in 1876. Getty's recently acquired "Young Man at His Window" depicts the artist's younger brother René gazing out on the street from the family's Paris mansion and is a prime example of what critic Edmond Durand characterized as "The New Painting" – a bold, realist art that portrayed modern individuals in their everyday environments.

Caillebotte's wealth, stemming from his late father's textile business and real estate investments, enabled him to pursue an independent artistic career unburdened by commercial pressures. He nonetheless approached painting with an intense work ethic and identified strongly with working men. His early masterpiece "Floor Scrapers," which shows lean, shirtless men finishing the floors of his studio, introduced the figure of the urban laborer into modern French painting.

Following its display at the Getty, the exhibition will be on view at the Art Institute of Chicago from June 29 to Oct. 5.

For information, visit [getty.edu](http://getty.edu). The Getty Center is located at 1200 Getty Center Drive.



photo courtesy of Musée d'Orsay

Gustave Caillebotte's "Floor Scrapers" will be on display in the exhibition.

## Musical covering Obama's presidency premieres at Kirk Douglas

"44: The Musical" will open at the Kirk Douglas Theatre on Feb. 23.

Written, composed and directed by Eli Bauman (NBC's "Maya and Marty"), a former Obama campaign organizer, the show stars T.J. Wilkins as Barack Obama, Shanice as Michelle Obama, Chad Doreck as Joe Biden, with Larry Cedar as

Mitch McConnell, Marquel Edward Clayton as Brother Abe Lincoln, Summer Nicole Greer as Voice of the People, Jane Papageorge as Sarah Palin, Jenna Pastuszak as Hillary Clinton, Dino Shorté as Herman Cain, Jeff Summer as Lindsey Graham and Michael Uribe as Ted Cruz.

Miss James Alsop serves as choreographer with production design by Julio Hime and sound design by Jonathan Burke.

Lead producers are Monica Saunders-Weinberg (Hana Black Productions), Eli Bauman and Steve McKeever.

"44" is a satirical look at the rise and presidency of Barack Obama, as well as the eccentric political characters he met along the way. But "44" is the story of Obama as Joe Biden kinda sorta remembers it ... as a musical.

"44" is an L.A.-grown musical. It began with a sold-out engagement at The Bourbon Room and was followed by performances in New York, Philadelphia and Chicago, where it played during the Democratic National Convention.

For information, visit [44theobamamusical.com](http://44theobamamusical.com). The show will run through March 23. The Kirk Douglas Theatre is located at 9820 Washington Blvd, Culver City.



photo courtesy of Center Theatre Group

The satirical "44: The Musical" will run from Feb. 23-March 23.

## Erivo to be honored at 36th GLAAD Awards

GLAAD, the world's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer media advocacy organization, has announced Cynthia Erivo will be honored with the Stephen F. Kolzak Award at the 36th annual GLAAD Media Awards in Los Angeles on March 27.

GLAAD's Stephen F. Kolzak Award is presented to a LGBTQ media professional who has made a significant difference in raising visibility and promoting acceptance of LGBTQ people and issues. It is named in honor of the Los Angeles casting director who devoted the last part of his life to fighting homophobia and HIV stigma within the entertainment industry. Previous recipients of the Stephen F. Kolzak Award include Niecy Nash-Betts, Jeremy Pope, Laverne Cox, Wanda Sykes, Jim Parsons, Ruby Rose, Chaz Bono, Melissa Etheridge, Ellen DeGeneres and

Michaela Jai Rodriguez.

Erivo won a Tony for her portrayal of Celie in "The Color Purple," and she has additionally won both an Emmy and a Grammy. She is Oscar-nominated for playing Elphaba in the film "Wicked," which will be followed later this year by "Wicked: For Good."

"From an outspoken ally to a trailblazing member of the community, Erivo's one-of-a-kind voice has been an integral part of accelerating acceptance for LGBTQ people since she came on the scene over a decade ago. Her legacy is defined not by her numerous accolades and honors but by how with each new platform and milestone, she continues to show up for Black, queer and other marginalized peoples amid her well-deserved success," said GLAAD President and CEO Sarah Kate Ellis. "As she continues to shatter glass ceilings, I am

certain her commitment to showing up as the intersectional and authentic person she is will never falter, and it is a privilege to present her with the Stephen F. Kolzak Award at this year's GLAAD Media Awards."

For information, visit [glaad.org](http://glaad.org).



photo courtesy of GLAAD

Cynthia Erivo was nominated for an Academy Award earlier this month.



photo courtesy of the Original Farmers Market

## Farmers Market brings New Orleans to L.A. for Mardi Gras

Enjoy a taste of NOLA at the Original Farmers Market's Mardi Gras celebration on Saturday and Sunday, March 1-2, and Fat Tuesday, March 4.

Let the good times roll at the lively annual celebration filled with music, food and festive flair. The highly anticipated Mutti Gras Pet Parade and Contest returns on March 1 from noon-1 p.m. on the plaza, showcasing creative and adorable costumed pups fit for the French Quarter. Visit the L.A. Love & Leashes Dog Adoption and fundraising table to meet lovable pets looking for forever homes.

The Gumbo Pot offers its famous freshly made beignets, king cake and authentic Southern treats at a pop-up tent on the plaza from noon-4 p.m. Live music brings the sounds of New Orleans to the market with performances

by the Bear Brass Band, Torrence Brannon and his Everything with Soul band, and crowd-favorite Nervis Bros.

On Sunday, March 2, the festivities continue with delicious beignets at the Gumbo Pot's pop-up tent from noon-4 p.m. on the plaza; entertainment by Allumus Brass Band, Brass Brothers Show Band and Alligator Beach from noon-7 p.m., and a crown decorating activity hosted by the Entertainment Group from noon-3 p.m. on the plaza.

To keep the party going, join the market on Fat Tuesday, March 4, for a night of celebration featuring the Nervis Bros. performing from 6-8:30 p.m. on the West Patio stage.

The Original Farmers Market is located at 6333 W. Third St. For information, visit [farmersmarketla.com](http://farmersmarketla.com).

## Magic of 'Harry Potter' comes to life at Hollywood Pantages Theatre

Broadway in Hollywood presents "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" running through Sunday, June 22 at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre.

Based on an original story by J.K. Rowling, Jack Thorne and John Tiffany, "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" features John Skelley as Harry Potter, Emmet Smith as Albus Potter, Aidan Close as Scorpius Malfoy, Ebony Blake as Hermione Granger, Matt Mueller as Ron Weasley, Trish Lindstrom as Ginny Potter, Ben Thys as Draco Malfoy, Naiya Vanessa McCalla as Rose Granger-Weasley and Julia Nightingale as Delphi Diggory.

From the moment 11-year-old Harry Potter met Rubeus Hagrid, keeper of keys and grounds at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, his adventures have left an indelible mark on popular cul-

ture. More than 25 years later, "Harry Potter" remains one of the most successful and best-loved entertainment franchises in history. Rowling's best-selling Harry Potter novels have been brought to life in an ever-evolving, interconnected universe. Everyone is invited to find the magic for themselves in "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child."

The Golden Snitch Digital Lottery will offer a limited number of \$40 tickets for every performance exclusively through the Broadway in Hollywood App, which can be downloaded by visiting [broadwayinhollywood.co/app](http://broadwayinhollywood.co/app). Showtimes are at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday; 8 p.m., Friday; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Saturday; and 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday. The Hollywood Pantages Theatre is located at 6233 Hollywood Blvd. For information and tickets, visit [broadwayinhollywood.com](http://broadwayinhollywood.com).



photo by Matthew Murphy

"Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" is based on an original story by J.K. Rowling, Jack Thorne and John Tiffany.

## Baja excellence 'Hides-away' on Rodeo Drive

BY RANCE COLLINS

The Hideaway lives up to its name. You can't see it from Rodeo Drive, because it is – indeed – hidden away inside a complex on the street, situated on the bottom floor of a courtyard inside its own separate bungalow. Boyfriend and I had the last possible reservation, because we're night people who stay up too late and run on coffee fumes.

The benefit to closing down a restaurant like The Hideaway is that you get to fully take in its vibe – and it is quite a vibe, as indicated by the hot pink neon sign that welcomes guests. It's outfitted with a cross-section of traditional Mexican décor, dusty pastels, wrought iron furniture and stucco walls, all seemingly illuminated by a soft candlelit glow. There are several different dining areas, some more formal than others, and each is situated in various rooms within an involving, maze-like layout. We were seated

next to a lovely fireplace under a glass roof, above which could be seen strings of lights. Our room's vibe was strictly relaxed.

It all makes for an Instagrammer's dream ... and there was a table of aspiring influencers next to us who did not miss one potential viral moment. But I'm of the opinion that, when dining at a place literally called The Hideaway, putting the phone away is part of the appeal. The sum total of the carefully crafted atmosphere is that – for an hour or two – you get to be somewhere else. Why spoil it with a notification?

The menu is what our (excellent) server Kara described as Baja California – a Mexican steak place with a vast number of options, essentially.

I'm not typically one for raw fish, but the Hamachi sashimi starter might've changed my mind. A dish that is crafted with soy, honey vinaigrette and pickled Fresno chile, it had a delicate, tart

flavor. I ate what I could of this starter – Boyfriend had devoured most of it by the time I had turned my attention away from the chips and salsa.

You see, as a Texas-raised, TexMex loving boy, I grew up with what I consider to be Grade A-chips and salsa on the regular. It is, I believe, the true marker of a great Mexican-themed establishment. The chip basket is refilled constantly, almost imperceptibly, they are house-made, and, importantly, the salsa has a kick without being overwhelming. The Hideaway has the best chips and salsa in Los Angeles, and I will die on that hill.

Salt, lime and lemon were all placed at the table, which Kara told us were to be used at our own digression with whatever drink or dish we wanted to use them. Every part of the meal – appetizers included – comes with tortillas, choice of flour or corn (I tried both, and both were unsurprisingly perfect). I really enjoyed pairing the tortillas with the queso fundido al fuego, made with Oaxaca and Chihuahua cheese, and literally flamed with tequila and rum. And I do mean \*literally\* flamed. It was brought out by one of the chefs and set ablaze at the table. Adding it to a tortilla (once the fire is out, of course) was like making your own quesadilla.

We ordered two drinks, and I should note that they make each of their cocktails both with- and without alcohol, depending on your spirit tolerance. The strawberry margarita was appropriately refreshing and fruity. The flavorful – might I say juicy – One Night in Tulum is the highlight, though – and not just because of its taste. It comes in a mule cup, and Kara insisted that we name it. Boyfriend dubbed her "Sylvia," which Kara said was the best name she'd ever gotten – but she might have just been flattering us. Regardless, Sylvia observed the rest of our meal patiently.

For the main course, we split a New York wagyu, which at 16-



photo by Rance Collins

The queso fundido al fuego comes replete with actual flames.

ounces was more than enough for both of us – and mind you, we both set out to eat our weight in protein daily. Kara sliced the steak at the table, and I wrapped mine up in tortillas – delicious. Multiple sauces were at our disposal, but as Boyfriend always says, "When the meat is quality, you don't need anything else on it." And boy, was this quality beef.

Boyfriend's birthday is Feb. 20 – the day this is published – and The Hideaway made sure to kick off the celebration for us. Churros – alongside chocolate and strawberry dips – were delivered to the table with a massive sparkler candle. It was the perfect way to ring in his 13th 25th birthday.

While the glow of a winter evening made for a beautiful backdrop, I imagine that the sunlight of

a weekend morning also makes it the perfect locale for brunch – and the menu's steak and eggs, French toast, and a churro sticky bun all would make for great breakfast options. We have only cracked the surface of the restaurant, truly, as the menu contains numerous varieties of steak, fish, lamb, chicken and vegan mushrooms. The combinations are endless.

But it is really the informal, yet polished, elements that make the visit worthwhile. When you pair magnificent food with amazing service and a superb vibe ... well, you really can't go wrong.

The Hideaway Beverly Hills is located at 421 N. Rodeo Drive (remember, wander into the courtyard to find it). For information, visit [thehidewaybeverlyhills.com](http://thehidewaybeverlyhills.com) or call (310)974-8020.



photo by Rance Collins

A sparkler helped bring celebratory flavor to Boyfriend's birthday churro.

From page 15

### It's a chili day at Dog Haus

On Feb. 28, Dog Haus is celebrating National Chili Day and invites guests in to indulge in its Haus Chili made with 100% certified angus beef from Creekstone Farms. The Dog Haus chili is a menu staple where diners can find it spread on its Haus Dogs like Chili the Kid or Chili Idol, the indulgent chili cheese fries and tots, or they can order the Haus Chili by itself on the side. Dog Haus is located at 3817 W. Olive Ave., Burbank. For information, visit [doghaus.com](http://doghaus.com) or call (818)566-4287.

### Specialty Oscar cocktails crafted at Fanny's

Fanny's at the Academy Museum is offering 10 specialty cocktails themed around this year's Best Picture nominees for a limited time. In addition, the Fanny's beverage director has corresponding recipes to whip up at-home – which are tailored to people hosting their own

Oscars parties and at-home bartenders. Among the contenders are "The Substance" with Ford's gun, apple, orchard fruit and lime; "I'm Still Here" with limeade, condensed milk and nutmeg; "Nickel Boys" with Remy Martin 1738, orange liqueur and lemon; and "Dune: Part Two" with Overholt rye, graham cracker syrup, sweet vermouth, chocolate and orange bitters. Fanny's is located inside the Academy Museum at 6067 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit [fannysla.com](http://fannysla.com) or call (323)930-3080.

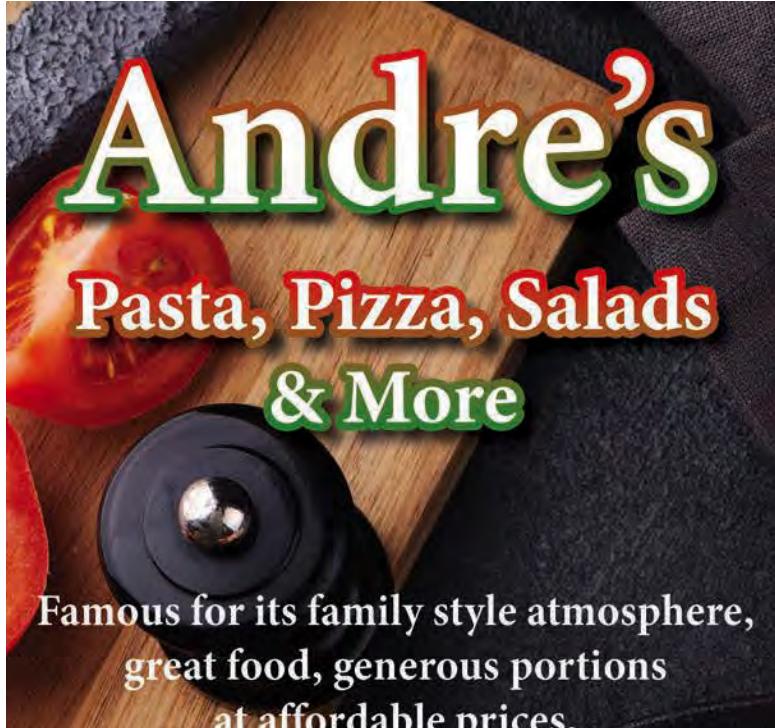
### Kava Nectar tastings add flavor to Kavahana's first birthday

Kavahana's first anniversary tasting event is scheduled for Feb. 21. Join for relaxing social vibes, fun activities, yummy street food and, of course, all the Kava Nectar beverages. Kavahana is the first Kava Nectar bar in L.A., serving Kava Nectar, a 3,000-year-old social drink from Hawaii and the Pacific Islands that is relaxing and tingles the tongue. At the event, guests can sample Kavahana's eight most popular specialty Kava Nectar

drinks – with unique flavors like rose apple, ube beach and paradise – enjoy Thai Street Food from [8e8thaistreetfood](http://8e8thaistreetfood) and get a peek into the future with a tarot card reader. The event is open to the public, but space is limited. An eight-drink tasting flight is \$25. Guests can RSVP via Partiful at [partiful.com/e/qlW1Ryc88BgRI1q15xWx](http://partiful.com/e/qlW1Ryc88BgRI1q15xWx). For information about Kavahana – located at 306 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica – visit [kavahana.com](http://kavahana.com) or call (310)310-8970.

### THE Blvd has authentic British Beef Wellington

Savor THE Blvd's new British executive chef Colin Bedford's famous Beef Wellington, featuring roasted beef tenderloin, mushroom and truffle duxelle, potato purée, green peppercorn sauce, seasonal vegetables and bresaola – all encased in a golden sour cream pastry. It's a timeless U.K. classic with a Beverly Hills twist, available every Wednesday for dinner in THE Blvd. For information, visit [theblvdrestaurant.com](http://theblvdrestaurant.com) or call (310)385-3901. THE Blvd Restaurant and Lounge is located at 9500 Wilshire Blvd.



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## El Rodeo principal named Principal of the Year

The Beverly Hills Unified School District announced that El Rodeo Elementary School Principal Sarah Kaber has been named the Elementary Principal of the Year for Region XIV by the Association of California School Administrators. The distinguished award recognizes an elementary school principal who exemplifies exceptional leadership, dedication to student success and a commitment to public education.

The surprise announcement took place during El Rodeo Elementary's weekly assembly, where more than 700 students and staff gather in the school's state-of-the-art auditorium to celebrate students who exemplify the school's values – "respectful, engaged and open-minded." BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Breyg announced the special news.

"Sarah Kaber is an extraordinary leader who has transformed El Rodeo Elementary School into a model of Educational Excellence," Breyg said. "Her unwavering dedication to student achievement, innovative approach to instruction and steadfast commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive school culture make her truly deserving of this honor. It is a privilege to work alongside such an inspiring leader."

Kaber's impact on BHUSD is unparalleled. Before taking the helm at El Rodeo, she led Hawthorne Elementary School while simultaneously overseeing the design, construction and reopening of El Rodeo Elementary. Under her leadership, Hawthorne achieved notable increases in student achievement, with rising English language arts and math scores on

the CAASPP, the implementation of iReady for personalized learning and a district-wide commitment to cognitive guided instruction training for mathematics.

A passionate advocate for inclusive education, Kaber has championed special education initiatives, ensuring that students with disabilities are fully integrated into the school community. Her leadership in professional learning communities has strengthened teacher collaboration, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and shared success.

"Sarah has truly done the work of two principals in one, and her impact on our students, staff and the community is profound," said Dr. Dustin Seemann, assistant superintendent of education services. "Her ability to lead with vision and compassion makes this recognition



photo courtesy of BHUSD

El Rodeo Elementary School Principal Sarah Kaber was recognized during a surprise announcement at the school.

from ACSA incredibly well-deserved."

The ACSA Elementary Principal of the Year award is presented annually to outstanding school leaders who make significant contributions to the field of education.

As the Region XIV recipient, Kaber is among California's most distinguished administrators, inspiring excellence in students, educators and the broader community.

For information, visit [er.bhusd.org](http://er.bhusd.org).

## BVMS hosts Black History Month discussion

Beverly Vista Middle School continued its recognition of Black History Month with a special presentation by Dr. Jill Humphries on

Feb. 12. Humphries led a powerful discussion on the Double Victory Campaign, highlighting the vital contributions of Black American

soldiers during World War II and their fight for freedom.

The Double Victory Campaign, launched by the Pittsburgh Courier in 1942, was a movement advocating for Black soldiers who served their country while also facing discrimination at home. Humphries' insights provided students with a deeper understanding of this pivotal chapter in American history and its lasting impact on civil rights.

"At BHUSD, we are committed to providing students with an education that fosters a deeper understanding of history, equity and resilience," BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Breyg said.

For information, visit [bhusd.org](http://bhusd.org).



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Dr. Jill Humphries, center, led a discussion focused on Black American soldiers during World War II who faced discrimination.

## Department of Health Care Services launches self-love project

BrightLife Kids, a free mental health and wellness platform for children and families backed by the California Department of Health Care Services, on Feb. 14 launched the Self-Love Letter Project, a first-of-its-kind initiative encouraging elementary school children to write love letters to themselves. Launched on Valentine's Day, the campaign aims to foster self-love and emotional well-being in elementary school children across California. The campaign features a short film produced by ATTN:, the impact-focused media company and creative agency that highlights what four children between ages 6 and 9 love about themselves.

"We wanted to create a moment where kids not only feel seen but see themselves in a new light. The most powerful words they'll ever hear are the ones they say to themselves," said Jarrett Moreno, cofounder and co-CEO of ATTN:. "The Self-Love Letter Project by BrightLife Kids is about giving them the tools – both emotionally and creatively – to build confidence, kindness and resilience from an early age."

To drive the Self-Love Letter Campaign, BrightLife Kids set up interactive self-love writing stations in elementary schools throughout California, where kids will write love letters to themselves to boost confidence and emotional resilience. More than 3,000 students in Sacramento and Santa Clara counties and 100,000 students in Los Angeles County are set to participate in the BrightLife Love Letter Stations. The letters will be compiled and arranged as murals within the schools, so that kids don't just feel good from writing their own notes but can also gain

insight into what others love about themselves and draw inspiration by seeing other examples of self-love. The Valentine's Day cards feature a QR code that links to BrightLife Kids and provides parents with access to free mental health services, as well as custom self-love Valentine's Day stickers. BrightLife Kids partnered with Paper Mate, which donated 100,000 pens for the Self-Love Letter Project.

The campaign was born out of rising concerns about youth anxiety,

self-esteem and emotional health. Like gratitude, self-love has been identified as a practice that can factor greatly into achieving better emotional outcomes in adults. The Self-Love Letter Project aims to start those habits of mind in childhood, so care for and confidence in oneself become ingrained early on. The campaign is a part of DHCS' broader push to provide free mental health services through BrightLife Kids.

For information, visit [hellobrightline.com/brightlifekids](http://hellobrightline.com/brightlifekids).

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## BHHS breaks ground on new center

Beverly Hills High School has reached a historic milestone with the groundbreaking of the new Konheim Building, a state-of-the-art athletics center set to redefine the future of BHHS sports.

The transformative project underscores the school's ongoing commitment to excellence, innovation and student success, ensuring that student-athletes have access to the premier facilities they need to train, compete and thrive.

The groundbreaking ceremony brought together the BHUSD Board of Education, district leadership, faculty, community mem-

bers and the Konheim family, all united in celebrating a new era of BHHS athletics.

"The Konheim Building will be a game-changer for our students and community, providing them with world-class resources that match their dedication and hard work," BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Breyg said. "This project reflects our vision for the future, ensuring that every student at BHHS experiences a day well lived."

For updates on the Konheim Building's progress, visit [bhusd.org/construction](http://bhusd.org/construction).



photo courtesy of BHUSD

BHUSD Board members, district leadership and community members gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking.

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Korean Cultural Center  
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**KOREAN CULTURAL CENTER  
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**Book Talk 'Korea: A New History of South & North'**

Book talk on Korea's past from the late 19th century to the Korean War and beyond

Feb 26th, 6:30 PM  
KCCLA Ari Hall  
KCCLA Website RSVP

**2025 Coming-Of-Age Ceremony**

Celebrate the transition to adulthood through a Korean traditional coming-of-age ceremony.

Feb 22nd, 2 PM  
KCCLA Ari Hall  
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**KCCLA Field Trip Day**

Apply for KCCLA's field trip for teachers and students to explore Korea's rich culture and history.

Monday - Friday  
\*Tour schedule can be adjusted based on the applicants' requests.

KCCLA Website RSVP

## Oscar prep: Let's talk animation

Historically, the Academy doesn't reward experimental film-making in animation. Was "Big Hero 6" really better than "Song of the Sea" or "The Tale of the Princess Kaguya" in 2014? Probably not. How about "Toy Story 4" over "I Lost My Body" or "Klaus," a shockingly good Christmas film? Debatable.

Certainly, access is a challenge. Academy members just don't watch a lot of animation, nor are they inclined to attend special screenings of films that haven't enjoyed a wide release. But that doesn't explain mediocre "Elemental" earning a nom while "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem" stayed home.

The ivory tower of American cinema just doesn't make room for certain kinds of films, even in ani-

mation, a category that should be more accepting. Then comes 2025. This one's all over the place.

Let's get a couple obvious predictions out of the way. A "Wallace & Gromit" film might've won in 2005, but "Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl" doesn't have a chance. Stop-motion has only won twice, and neither this one nor "Memoir of a Snail" will take gold this year. That doesn't discount their quality. Critics love "Wallace & Gromit." Good for them. You know what you're in for with simple, silly Brit flicks.

And "Memoir" is a playful semi-autobiographical story from writer-director Adam Elliot. It deserves a tip of the hat, especially as an R-rated entry in a category normally reserved for broader audiences.

With that out of the way, let's dis-

### ON SCREEN WITH TIM POSADA

cuss the Big 3: "Inside Out 2," "Flow" and "The Wild Robot." Don't discount "Inside Out 2." Since the best animated feature category debuted in 2001, 16 are Pixar or Disney Animation films.

Sure, sequels have a tougher time receiving recognition, but this one is pitch-perfect and grossed \$1.6 billion, more than any other film last year. Sure, that silly "popular film" category never came to fruition, but it's hard to ignore how effective "Inside Out 2" is, both considering theaters' many struggles right now and how incredible the film is by itself. If it did win, it wouldn't be a shock or disappointment.

Regardless, "Flow" is the fron-

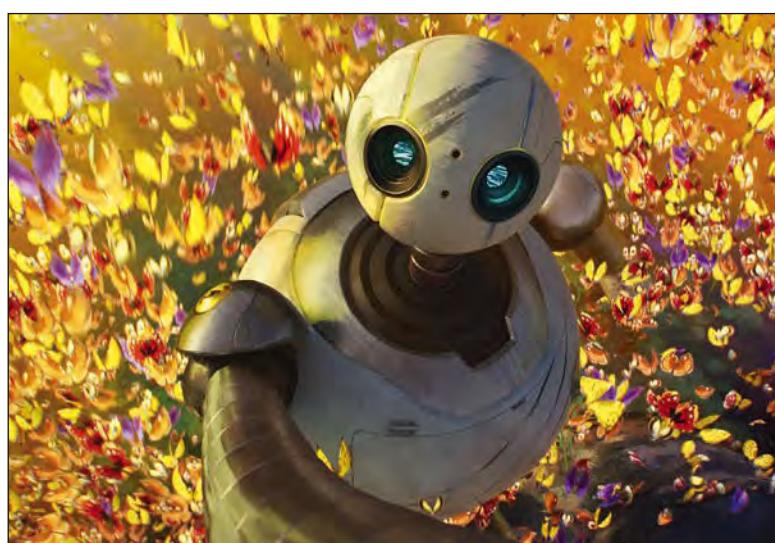


photo courtesy of DreamWorks Animation

"The Wild Robot" is a top contender for the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature.

runner. Haven't heard of it? This Latvian film is finally available on Max. But you need not prepare to read subtitles. It follows a cat trying to survive a massive flood in places once populated by people. But all that remains are an array of animals working together to find dry land.

In some ways, it feels dystopian. Where did everyone go? It's a fascinating story ripe with symbolism and inventive animation. The Golden Globes agreed, crowning it best of the year. But they also thought "Emilia Perez" was a better musical/comedy than "Anora," "Wicked" and "A Real Pain." And it's up for Best International Feature against live-action flicks. No chance there, but a win in animation is possible.

And then there's "The Wild Robot." Before awards season, this was the obvious choice. Frankly, it still should be. "Flow" is a splendid film. No chance there, but a win in Latvian cinema. But "Wild Robot" is that much better.

It's up for sound, though "Dune: Part Two" should be the obvious choice there. Kris Bowers' score is the best of the year. In the past 15 years, how many scores can folks remember and hum? This is one of those. It isn't the moody sounds of "Conclave" or "The Brutalist" or whatever "Emilia" is trying to do. It's emotionally charged and sticks around after the film ends.

The writing, themes and gorgeous animation should be enough. "Wild Robot" is one of the few 2024 films that earned near-universal praise from critics and spectators. "Flow" is splendid, but it's a novelty. Sometimes, the Academy should stick to what it does best and play it safe with the standard option and not take chances. Maybe next year the underdog should win. But not at "Wild Robot's" expense.

## Fowler Museum hosts 'Fire Kinship'

The exhibition "Fire Kinship: Southern California Native Ecology and Art" is the second PST ART show at the Fowler Museum, on view through July 13.

"Fire Kinship" challenges the attitudes of fear and illegality around fire, arguing for a return to Native practices in which fire is regarded as a vital aspect of land stewardship, community well-being and tribal sovereignty. Highlighting the knowledge and expertise of the Tongva, Cahuilla, Luiseño and Kumeyaay peoples, the exhibition presents a living

history of communities past and present.

The evening will begin with a panel discussion of Indigenous fire stewardship from diverse perspectives. Following the panel, guests can view the exhibition and enjoy a reception. The gathering will provide an opportunity to reflect on the role of fire stewardship in local communities.

For information, visit [fowler.ucla.edu/exhibitions/fire-kinship](http://fowler.ucla.edu/exhibitions/fire-kinship). The Fowler Museum is located at 308 Charles E. Young Drive North.



photo courtesy of Weshoyot Alvitre  
Works from artist Weshoyot Alvitre are included in "Fire Kinship."

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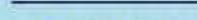
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## LA Marathon 2025

March 16, 2025

Beverly Hills Street Closures | 5 a.m. – 1 p.m.

City Hotline (3/16): 5 a.m. – 2 p.m. - (310) 550-4680



### WATER STATIONS:

**Water Station 16**  
Burton Way west of Foothill Rd.

**Water Station 17**  
SM south/west of Charleville Blvd.

### PARKING STRUCTURES

[beverlyhills.org/parking](http://beverlyhills.org/parking)

### FIRST AID STATION

in Rexford Mini Park at  
Rexford Dr. & Burton Way

### SHUTTLE FOR RUNNERS

one-way start time 4 a.m.

### VIEWING AREA

of Rodeo Dr. & Wilshire Blvd.

### MARATHON ROUTE

[beverlyhills.org/marathon](http://beverlyhills.org/marathon)

### For Access to Get Around Closure

Go West on Sunset  
to South on Bundy Drive

### For access to 10 Freeway

Take Wilshire Blvd. East to Robertson;  
Turn South/Right to 10 Freeway

### For access to 405 Freeway

Go West on Olympic Blvd to Freeway



## Descanso Gardens explores connections between the body and nature

Descanso Gardens presents "Daphne's Wardrobe – Metamorphosis into Nature," an interdisciplinary exhibition of artworks that explore transformations of the body into nature running from March 1–June 1 in the Sturt Haaga Gallery and Boddy House.

"Daphne's Wardrobe" includes photography, sculpture, painting, works on paper and wearable garments that draw on mythologic and folklore narratives to examine themes of metamorphosis. The Daphne of the title is the virginal naiad from Greek mythology who metamorphosized into a laurel tree to escape Apollo's sexual advances. Her soft skin turned into bark, her smooth hair grew into wild foliage, her delicate arms into branches and her petite feet into long-reaching roots, making her forever embedded in the Earth. As a tree, no longer the maiden she once was, Daphne is perpetually silenced and "speaks" through the rustling of leaves.

Curator Carole Ann Klonarides

has chosen works that explore ideas of identity, femininity and the symbolic role of trees, plants and organic forms that shed light on the often-overlooked connection to the natural world. Works by artists Valerie Hammond, Adelle Lutz, Elana Herzog, Melissa Meier, Wangchi Mutu, Vibke Sorensen, Alison Saar, Rina Banerjee, Phyllis Green, Iris Yirei Hu and Vera Lehndorff/Holger Trülsch challenge viewers to rethink connections to nature while referencing the complex cultural histories that have shaped the relationship.

"The transformation of Daphne has many representations in art and fashion throughout history," Klonarides said. "Today, this powerful, often referred to and on occasion debated myth might have Daphne change into a gynoid or an AI fantasy like in the film 'Her.' The art in this exhibition leads us to find ourselves one with nature in a world dominated by machines and digital representations."

On Feb. 28 from 5-7 p.m., the

garden will open to all visitors for the "Daphne's Wardrobe" opening reception. Admission is free. Meet the artists and Klonarides, and enjoy a no-host bar and live music.

The exhibition opens on March 1, featuring walk-throughs with Klonarides at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. A series of special events related to the exhibition will be held throughout spring. A Nature and Fashion Workshop will take place on March 9 from 9 a.m.–4 p.m., followed by a Wearable Nature Art Workshop on April 5 from 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m., a "Daphne's Wardrobe" curator tour on May 3 from 1-2 p.m. and a "Daphne's Wardrobe" artists panel on May 15 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Regular viewing hours are 10 a.m.–4 p.m., daily. Entry to the gallery and Boddy House are included in the price of admission and membership.

Descanso Gardens is located at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada Flintridge. For information, visit [descansogardens.org/event/daphne-s-wardrobe/2025-04-20](http://descansogardens.org/event/daphne-s-wardrobe/2025-04-20).



photo courtesy of Descanso Gardens

A piece by artists Melissa Meier is included in the "Daphne's Wardrobe" exhibition opening on March 1 at Descanso Gardens.

## Applications open for MAK Center-SOM Foundation residency

The SOM Foundation and the MAK Center for Art and Architecture are accepting applications for the 2025 researcher-in-residence.

A fully funded summer residency program based in Los Angeles, the researcher-in-residence program provides an architect, artist or researcher dedicated space and time for innovative work that addresses pressing issues related to the built environment. This year's topic is "Advancing Toward a Water-Secure Future," which corresponds to the SOM Foundation's 2024-25 research topic.

The researcher-in-residence will receive a \$5,000 stipend and a four-to-eight-week summer residency in the live/work space at R.M. Schindler's Fitzpatrick-Leland House in Los Angeles, which is also home to the MAK Center's Study Center.

Residency recipients are encouraged to participate in the activities of the MAK Center and engage with the larger art, architecture and design communities of Los Angeles. The residency will culminate with a public talk or program related to the recipient's research and interests.

The inaugural recipient of the researcher-in-residence was Maya Livio, an interdisciplinary curator, writer, scholar and media artist, as well as assistant professor of climate, environmental justice, media and communication at American University.

The researcher-in-residence program began in 2024 and is presented as a joint endeavor between the SOM Foundation and the MAK Center for Art and Architecture.

The program is the newest addition to the MAK Center's illustrious history of hosting residencies,

including the Urban Futures Initiative and the Artists and Architects-in-Residence Program at the Mackey Apartments. To date, the MAK Center has hosted 56 groups of international residents in the Artists and Architects-in-Residence Program.

The Researcher-in-Residence program also reflects the SOM Foundation's 40-year commitment to providing research support to innovative architects and designers as they shape the future of the built environment.

Applications are currently being accepted for the second residency cycle, which will take place in the summer. The deadline to apply is Friday, March 28, at 5 p.m.

For details about the residency, eligibility and how to apply, visit [somfoundation.com/awards/researcher-in-residence/apply](http://somfoundation.com/awards/researcher-in-residence/apply).



photo courtesy of the MAK Center for Art and Architecture

The researcher-in-residence will have access to a live and work space at the Fitzpatrick-Leland House in Los Angeles.

## LACMA explores 'Ritual Expressions' of African cultures

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art will present "Ritual Expressions: African Adornment from the Permanent Collection" from Feb. 23–July 6.

Bodily adornments, such as ritual textiles, clothing, and headwear, are created by many cultures throughout the African continent. The exhibition explores how adornments are constructed to express societal conventions, and reveals their critical role in establishing and transmitting

the wearer's identity and rank. "Ritual Expressions" is a focused presentation that brings together more than 30 examples of a rich diversity of textiles, clothing and headwear representing more than 20 cultures from Africa, all drawn from LACMA's permanent collection.

For information, visit [lacma.org/art/exhibition/ritual-expressions-african-adornment-permanent-collection](http://lacma.org/art/exhibition/ritual-expressions-african-adornment-permanent-collection).



The "Ritual Expressions" exhibition was curated by Sharon S. Takeda, senior curator and department head of costume and textiles.



## 10 Reasons Why I Don't Want An Estate Plan

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

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

**KRAMER LAW GROUP**

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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. 9 and Feb. 15. 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. 9

At 12:16 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Santa Monica and Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of N. Reeves at 2:24 p.m.

At 5:51 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of N. Crescent.

An unknown suspect stole auto parts in the 400 block of N. Bedford at 10 p.m.

### Feb. 10

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9300 block of Olympic at 5 p.m.

At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of N. Doheny.

### Feb. 11

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of Swall.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Rodeo at 2:57 p.m.

At 4:26 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 9600 block of Wilshire.

### Feb. 12

At 4:07 p.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Santa Monica and Camden.

### Feb. 13

At 2:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire.

### Feb. 14

At 5:50 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 9100 block of Third.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1700 block of Angelo at 10:40 a.m.

At 1:07 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of N. Rodeo.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Alpine at 3 p.m.

### Feb. 15

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of Bedford at 6:39 a.m.

At 8:45 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of Hamilton.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 8300 block of Wilshire at 9:23 a.m.

At 9:40 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 300 block of Oakhurst.

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the 200 block of Cañon at 10:17 p.m.

## West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

### Feb. 9

At 12:10 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 600 block of N. San Vicente at 12:43 a.m.

At 1:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7700 block of Romaine at 1:30 a.m.

At 1 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of N. Orange Grove.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of Carol at 3:30 p.m.

At 3:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of N. Orange Grove.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Santa Monica and Ogden at 8 p.m.

At 8:20 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8200 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9000 block of Sunset at 9:40 p.m.

At 10:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800b block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of N. Ogden at 11:58 p.m.

### Feb. 10

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9000 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of N. Orange Grove at 3:30 a.m.

At 8:30 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 900 block of Palm.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near Doheny and Keith at noon.

At 7:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 600 block of Almont.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of Formosa at 8:30 p.m.

At 9:40 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9000 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 10:34 p.m.

At 11:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

pect committed a petty theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

### Feb. 11

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1000 block of Westmount at 1 a.m.

At 2:35 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 900 block of N. Doheny.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1300 block of N. Laurel at 4 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7300 block of Santa Monica.

### Feb. 12

At 1 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 7700 block of Romaine.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1100 block of Formosa at 7 a.m.

At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect

committed a grand theft in the 1200 block of N. Horn.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8400 block of Melrose at 7:30 p.m.

At 11:44 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 600 block of West Knoll.

### Feb. 13

At 2:06 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8400 block of De Longpre.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8700 block of Santa Monica at 10 a.m.

At 1:49 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8600 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9200 block of N. Doheny at 9:30 p.m.

### Feb. 14

At 1:45 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Robertson

and El Tovar.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8300 block of Santa Monica at 3:30 p.m.

At 11:25 p.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 8700 block of Melrose.

### Feb. 15

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Santa Monica at 12:43 a.m.

At 4:53 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 900 block of N. Palm.

## 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.

## Federal bill aims to raise age to buy assault weapons

U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) announced legislation on Feb. 14 to raise the minimum age to purchase assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines from 18 to 21, the same age requirement that already applies to purchasing handguns from federally licensed dealers.

The bill was introduced on the seventh anniversary of the tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Individuals under 21 have used assault weapons in many of the most devastating school shootings in U.S. history, including the mass shootings in Parkland, Florida; at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas; and at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

"Seven years after a 19-year-old gunman tragically took the lives of

17 students and faculty in Parkland, we're still seeing far too many preventable mass shootings at the hands of deadly assault rifles," Padilla said. "If you can't legally buy a handgun, there's no reason you should be able to buy a military-grade weapon. This common-sense legislation would raise the minimum age to purchase or carry an assault weapon or high-capacity ammunition from 18 to 21 – the same standard already in place for purchasing handguns – helping to curb the gun violence epidemic that continues to devastate communities in California and across the nation."

The bill's restrictions on the sale of assault weapons, handguns, large-capacity ammunition feeding devices and ammunition to individuals under the age of 21 would apply to federally licensed and private sellers. Additionally, the legis-

lation would prohibit most individuals under 21 from possessing the items, with limited exceptions for specific circumstances such as service in law enforcement or the armed forces. California currently bans assault weapons by type, series and model.

"This bill helps address the epidemic of gun violence by restricting access to weapons capable of inflicting the most grievous loss of life to those of appropriate age," U.S. Senator Schiff (D-Calif.) said. "It is not too much to ask that someone wait until the age of 21 to purchase a military style assault weapon for civilian use. Gun violence takes the lives of too many people each year, including many children, and we must do everything in our power to find solutions that keep our communities and our children safe."

## Zbur bill offers attorneys protections in sensitive cases

Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood) on Feb. 18 introduced Assembly Bill 715 – the California Attorney Protection Act – which will safeguard attorneys from disciplinary action when providing legal services to patients, medical providers and others seeking or offering health care services that are lawful in California but illegal in other states.

Sponsored by the Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, Equality California and the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, AB 715 strengthens California's leadership in protecting reproductive rights and gender-affirming care.

"As hostile state legislatures across the country criminalize reproductive health care and gender-affirming care, California must continue to lead as a beacon of justice," Zbur said. "AB 715 ensures that attorneys in our state can provide critical legal assistance to patients, providers and families without fear of reprisal for defending rights that are fundamental in California. This bill is not just about protecting attorneys, it's about protecting the people they represent."



photo by Edwin Folven  
A fire damaged a unit that housed a clothing shop on La Brea Avenue near Clinton Street.

## LAFD extinguishes fire at clothing store on La Brea

Firefighters were called around 8:45 a.m. on Feb. 14 to a blaze in a commercial building at 601 N. La Brea Ave. that housed the Orgu Dike clothing store. LAFD personnel found light to moderate flames and smoke in a wall in the one-story row of units, with the flames threatening a shared attic. Firefighters went into an offensive mode and

opened walls, LAFD spokeswoman Lyndsey Lantz said. The fire was extinguished in 33 minutes. Crews remained at the scene to ensure the flames did not reignite and helped with overhaul and salvage operations. No injuries were reported.

The store remained closed on Feb. 18. The cause is under investigation.

## Two collaborators extend associations with LA Phil

The Los Angeles Philharmonic announced Feb. 13 engagement extensions for two longtime collaborators: Herbie Hancock will continue his role as creative chair for Jazz through May 2027 and Thomas Wilkins will continue his role as principal conductor of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra through 2028.

Hancock's tenure began in the summer of 2010; under his guid-

ance the LA Phil has offered jazz programming from around the world with artists such as Christian McBride, Wayne Shorter, Jill Scott, Marcus Miller, Kamasi Washington, Trombone Shorty, Esperanza Spalding, the late Quincy Jones and Bobby McFerrin.

He currently serves as institute chairman of the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz, the foremost international organization devoted to the development of jazz performance and education worldwide. Additionally, he is a founder of The International Committee of Artists for Peace and was awarded the esteemed Commandeur des Arts et des Lettres by French Prime Minister François Fillon. In 2013, Hancock was the recipient of a prestigious Kennedy Center Honor, and in 2014 he was named the Norton Professor of Poetry at Harvard University, completing his lectures series, "The Ethics of Jazz," as part of the Charles Eliot Norton Lecture Series for a period of six weeks.

"I'm excited to keep working with the LA Phil to bring incredible jazz to the Hollywood Bowl and

Walt Disney Concert Hall," Hancock said. "Their vision for live music is right in sync with mine – it's about creativity, connection and pushing boundaries. I look forward to continuing this partnership and showcasing the best jazz artists of today."

Wilkins has held a titled position at the Hollywood Bowl since 2008, when he was named principal guest conductor. In the spring of 2014, he became principal conductor. Devoted to promoting a lifelong enthusiasm for music, Wilkins brings energy and commitment to audiences of all ages. He is hailed as a master at communicating and connecting with audiences.

"I'm honored to continue my journey as principal conductor of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, a place where music, community and the joy of live performance come together under the stars," Wilkins said. "The Bowl is a space where we celebrate the power of music to inspire and connect us all. I look forward to sharing many more unforgettable nights with our audiences."

For information, visit [laphil.com](http://laphil.com).



photos courtesy of LA Phil

Herbie Hancock and Thomas Wilkins have served with the Los Angeles Philharmonic since 2010 and 2008, respectively.

## The Getty welcomes Stream as associate director for exhibitions

The J. Paul Getty Museum announced on Feb. 11 the appointment of Heidi Domine Stream as associate director for exhibitions.

Stream will join the Getty on March 17, coming from the Cleveland Museum of Art, where she has been a part of the exhibition team since 2001. She held multiple roles during her tenure in Cleveland, most recently as the Margaret and Loyal Wilson Chief Exhibition, Design and Publications Officer.

"The Getty's exhibition program is one of the most ambitious of any art museum. Heidi's extensive experience at the Cleveland Museum of Art is certain to bring valuable new perspectives to our presentations in the years ahead," said Timothy Potts, Maria Hummer-Tuttle and Robert Tuttle Director of the Getty Museum. "She is a strategic and collaborative leader whose wide experience and insightful judgement will ensure the Getty's continued commitment to excellence and creativity in all aspects of our exhibitions."

At the Cleveland Museum of Art, Stream grew the exhibition program to match the expansion of the museum's 2005-13 renovation, establishing dedicated programs for photography, prints and drawings, works in focus and a series of contemporary installations, developing more than 450 exhibitions.

Stream will oversee several museum departments at the Getty including Exhibitions, Registration, Design and Preparations. She will also oversee the museum's permanent collection galleries and improvement projects at the Getty Center and Getty Villa. The Getty Museum presents approximately 25 exhibitions each year.

The Getty is located at 1200 Getty Center Drive. For information, visit [getty.edu](http://getty.edu).



photo courtesy of the Getty  
Heidi Domine Stream will oversee the museum's Exhibitions, Registration, Design and Preparations departments.

### CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT 345 FOOTHILL ROAD BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

**REQUEST FOR  
PREQUALIFICATION OF  
BIDDERS AND  
PREQUALIFICATION  
INSTRUCTIONS FOR:  
Waterproofing Projects at Various  
Subterranean Structures  
RFQ #25-350-18**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Beverly Hills ("CITY") has determined that all bidders for the WATERPROOFING PROJECTS AT VARIOUS SUBTERRANEAN STRUCTURES, ("Project") must be pre-qualified prior to submitting a bid on the Project. It is mandatory that all Contractors who intend to submit a bid, fully complete the prequalification questionnaire, provide all materials requested herein, and be approved by the CITY to be on the final qualified Bidders list.

No bid will be accepted from a Contractor that has failed to comply with these requirements. If two or more business entities submit a bid as part of a Joint Venture, or expect to submit a bid as part of a Joint Venture, each entity within the Joint Venture must be separately qualified to bid. The last date to submit a fully completed questionnaire is **5:00 PM Monday, March 10, 2025**.

Contractors are encouraged to submit prequalification packages as soon as possible, so that they may be notified of omissions of information to be remedied or of their prequalification status in advance of the prequalification deadline for this Project.

A contractor (B and D-51 licenses) is the prime contractor for this project, and the contractor will need to subcontract with the appropriate contractors for a turnkey project.

Answers to questions contained in the questionnaire are required. The questionnaire is posted on Planet

Bids portal:  
<https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=39493>. The item is listed as: Request for prequalification of bidders for: *Waterproofing Projects at Various Subterranean Structures*

The CITY will use these documents as the basis of rating Contractors with respect to whether each Contractor is qualified to bid on the Project, and reserves the right to check other sources available. The CITY's decision will be based on objective evaluation criteria.

The CITY reserves the right to adjust, increase, limit, suspend or rescind the prequalification rating based on subsequently learned information. Contractors whose rating changes sufficiently to disqualify them will be notified, and given an opportunity for a hearing consistent with the hearing procedures described below for appealing a prequalification rating.

While it is the intent of the prequalification questionnaire and documents required therewith to assist the CITY in determining bidder responsibility prior to bid and to aid the CITY in selecting the lowest responsible bidder, neither the fact of prequalification, nor any prequalification rating, will preclude the CITY from a post-bid consideration and determination of whether a bidder has the quality, fitness, capacity and experience to satisfactorily perform the proposed work, and has demonstrated the requisite trustworthiness.

The prequalification packages should be submitted electronically on Planet Bids. Questions regarding the questionnaire and the qualification package should be submitted on Planet Bids.

The prequalification packages submitted by Contractors are not public records and are not open to public inspection. All information provided will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law. However, the contents may be disclosed to third parties for purpose of verification, or in-

vestigation of substantial allegations, or in an appeal hearing. State law requires that the names of contractors applying for prequalification status shall be public records subject to disclosure, and the first page of the questionnaire will be used for that purpose.

Each questionnaire must be signed under penalty of perjury in the manner designated at the end of the form, by an individual who has the legal authority to bind the Contractor on whose behalf that person is signing. If any information provided by a Contractor becomes inaccurate, the Contractor must immediately notify the CITY and provide updated accurate information in writing, under penalty of perjury.

The CITY reserves the right to waive minor irregularities and omissions in the information contained in the prequalification application submitted, and to make all final determinations. The CITY may also determine at any time that the prequalification process will be suspended for the Project and the Project will be bid without prequalification.

Contractors who submit a complete prequalification package will be notified of their qualification status no later than ten business days after submission of the information.

The CITY may refuse to grant prequalification where the requested information and materials are not provided by the due date indicated above. There is no appeal from a refusal for an incomplete or late application, but re-application for a later project is permitted. Neither the closing time for submitting prequalification packages for this Project will be changed in order to accommodate supplementation of incomplete submissions, or late submissions, unless requested by the CITY in its sole discretion.

In addition to a contractor's failure to be pre-qualified pursuant to the scoring system set forth in the prequalification package, a contractor may be

found not prequalified for either omission of or falsification of, any requested information.

Where a timely and completed application results in a rating below that necessary to pre-qualify, an appeal can be made by the unsuccessful Contractor. An appeal is begun by the Contractor delivering notice to the CITY of its appeal of the decision with respect to its prequalification rating, no later than two business days following notification that it is not pre-qualified. The notice of appeal shall include an address where the Contractor wishes to receive notice of the appeal hearing. Without a timely appeal, the Contractor waives any and all rights to challenge the decision of the CITY, whether by administrative process, judicial process or any other legal process or proceeding.

If the Contractor gives the required notice of appeal, a hearing shall be conducted no earlier than five business days after the CITY's receipt of the notice of appeal and not later than five business days prior to the date of the Notice Inviting Bids for this Project. Prior to the hearing, the Contractor shall, in writing, be advised of the basis for the City's pre-qualification determination.

The hearing shall be conducted by a panel consisting of three members of the Public Works Department senior management staff (the "Appeals Panel"). The Appeals Panel shall consider any evidence presented by the Contractor, whether or not the evidence is presented in compliance with formal rules of evidence. The Contractor will be given the opportunity to present evidence, information and arguments as to why the Contractor believes it should be pre-qualified. Within one day after the conclusion of the hearing, the Appeals Panel will render a written determination as to whether the Contractor is pre-qualified. It is the intention of the CITY that the date for the submission and opening of bids will not be delayed or postponed to allow for completion of an appeal process.

## Natural History Museum's Board of Governors welcomes new member

Los Angeles County Chair Pro Tem Hilda L. Solis, 1st District, appointed Ambassador Cynthia Ann Telles on Feb. 11 to the Board of Governors for the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County. Telles will provide strategic leadership and guidance to enhance the museums' commitment to cultural enrichment, scientific education and community engagement.

Telles has a diverse background in public service, diplomacy and academia. Most recently, she served as the United States ambassador to Costa Rica, where she

played a critical role in strengthening diplomatic ties and focused on critical issues such as bilateral trade, security, economic development, cybersecurity and environmental protection. Telles also previously held leadership positions on Los Angeles county and city commissions, contributing to initiatives addressing health disparities, economic mobility and access to public resources in underserved communities. As a clinical professor at UCLA, Telles was dedicated to improving access to high-quality health care and mental health services, particularly for underserved

Latino and Black communities. Her work in mental health care policy has had a lasting impact on vulnerable populations, and she has been a staunch advocate for the integration of health services into community-based programs.

"Ambassador Telles offers invaluable experience in working with diverse communities, particularly in the areas of health and mental health care. Her ability to foster partnerships between public, private, and community organizations makes her an ideal addition to the NHMLAC Board of Governors," Solis said. "With her vast experience, commitment to equity and passion for cultural responsiveness, I have full confidence that Ambassador Telles will support the museums' efforts to provide acces-

sible, meaningful experiences for families."

"I am honored to join the Board of Governors for the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County and look forward to supporting their vital mission of making culture, science and history accessible to all members of our community," Telles said. "The museum plays an important role in inspiring curiosity, promoting learning and celebrating the rich diversity of Los Angeles. I am eager to contribute to its continued growth and to help ensure that all Angelenos, regardless of background or zip code, can experience and benefit from the museums' work."

For information, visit [nhmlac.org/about-us/corporate-governance](http://nhmlac.org/about-us/corporate-governance).



photo courtesy of the U.S. State Department  
Cynthia Ann Telles, who served as United States ambassador to Costa Rica, has been appointed to the NHMLAC's Board of Governors.

## MAK lets Lang 'remain behind'

MAK Center for Art and Architecture is presenting "What remains behind" by Helmut Lang in the artist's first solo institutional exhibition in Los Angeles at the Schindler House. The historic house designed by fellow Austrian Rudolph Schindler provides the spare, proto-minimalist frame for a series of freestanding sculptures. As with all of Lang's work, the visible and the invisible are put in direct play. Stating his preference for materials "with a past, elements with irreplaceable presence and with scars and memories of a former purpose," Lang fills the architecturally hallowed space with the

powerful but ghostly presences of collective pasts and unknown futures.

Within the Kings Road space, the presence of Lang's sculptures transforms each of the storied rooms into echo-chambers reverberating ideas of materialized humanity across concrete, wood and glass. Proximity and aspect constantly change. Like emotions, they are fugitive, restless and refuse to settle into singular meanings and forms. Shape-shifting in character as much as form, depending on where one stands, they can appear mordant, lugubrious, tragic and even comic. But beneath these surface impressions is

expressed through film.

The festival provides an opportunity for emerging filmmakers to gain exposure, recognition and support for their artistic endeavors. This year's event will celebrate the creative vision of filmmakers from around the world, offering a unique space for storytelling, innovation and artistic expression.

"We're excited to see how filmmakers are pushing the limits of dance on screen and creating new

ways to experience movement," said Heidi Duckler, founder and executive director at Heidi Duckler Dance. "This festival is about discovering fresh voices, supporting the next generation of filmmakers and celebrating the limitless possibilities that dance and film have when they come together."

Narrative shorts, documentaries, live performance captures and experimental dance installations on screen are all eligible. All styles of dance are welcome, and diverse, innovative approaches to the art form are encouraged.

the undertow of darker sexualized forms of desire, a less palpable but more powerful energy field that forces us to confront the inherent tension between the body, the object, the gaze and the architecture that contains them. Just as all art is manifest thought, so these works are extroversions of interior conditions. Lang addresses the tensions between the public and private self. In doing so, he investigates the ways in which the invoked but absent body is both an object of desire and a site of personal expression.

The exhibition is open at the Schindler House, 835 N. Kings Road Wednesday-Sunday from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. For information and to book a visit, go to [mak-center.org/tickets](http://mak-center.org/tickets).

The deadline for student film submissions is Feb. 14 at 11:59 p.m. The deadline for independent film submissions is Feb. 21 at 11:59 p.m. Filmmakers will be notified via email and will receive further details about the screening and additional festival opportunities. The selected films will be showcased at the free inaugural screenings at the Bendix Building rooftop, located at 1206 Maple Ave., a stunning venue with sweeping views of Downtown Los Angeles.

For information on how to submit a film, visit [heididuckler.org](http://heididuckler.org).



photo courtesy of MAK Center

Helmut Lang's first solo exhibition opened Feb. 19.

## Submissions open for 4D Film Fridays

Heidi Duckler Dance announced the launch of 4D Film Fridays, an innovative new dance film festival dedicated to the intersection of dance and cinema. The festival invites students and independent artists to submit their work for a chance to be featured in the inaugural screenings, which will take place on March 14 and April 4 at the rooftop of the historic Bendix Building in Downtown Los Angeles.

The 4D Film Fridays festival seeks creative submissions that explore the dynamic relationship between film and dance. Whether it's narrative shorts, documentaries, live performance captures or experimental installations on screen, the festival aims to provide a platform for artists whose work challenges the boundaries of both mediums. The curatorial team will judge on cinematic quality and the innovative ways in which dance is

## VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

### Miracle Mile hosts Parade of Nations



Los Angeles county celebrated its 150th anniversary with a Parade of Nations down Wilshire Boulevard in the Miracle Mile in this photograph in the Feb. 24, 2000, issue of the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News. Founded in 1850, Los Angeles was one of California's original 27 counties. The Parade of Nations capped a three-day festival in which county museums such as LACMA and the La Brea Tar Pits offered free admission, and the sheriff's department and fire stations held open houses. The parade on Wilshire Boulevard, which celebrated the county's diversity, featured 3,500 people representing more than 50 nations.

## Bogie's Liquor



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[www.bogiesliquor.com](http://www.bogiesliquor.com)**

## Voyage back to the Titanic

History comes to life like never before with the launch of "Titanic: A Voyage Through Time," a groundbreaking virtual reality experience set to debut in March at the iconic Los Angeles mall, the Beverly Center. The one-of-a-kind immersive attraction offers visitors an extraordinary journey into the past, where they can explore the Titanic in all its grandeur and witness its tragic fate firsthand. Guests can sign up for the waitlist now to be among the first to hear when tickets go on sale. Tickets will officially be available for purchase starting Feb. 25 and the experience will open to visitors on March 27 at the Beverly Center.

Developed in collaboration with Musealia experts to ensure historical accuracy, "Titanic: A Voyage Through Time" transports guests nearly 3.8 kilometers beneath the ocean's surface to view the Titanic's wreckage as it rests today. From there, visitors will step back to 1912, where they will walk the iconic Grand Staircase, explore the ship's lavish dining rooms and cabins and interact with historical figures who shaped its legacy. The experience combines cutting-edge VR technology with rich storytelling, offering an unforgettable, shared adventure through history's most famous maritime tragedy.

The experience is uniquely

defined by its interactive elements, allowing visitors to not only witness history but actively participate in it. Upon boarding the Titanic, guests can hold their personal boarding pass, place it in a mailbox and enter the ship as first-class passengers. Inside, visitors are invited to explore their private cabin: unpacking their luggage and enjoying fresh fruit from the ship's finest offerings. In the engine room, guests can join the crew by tossing coal into the fire to help fuel the ship. These hands-on, immersive moments uniquely bring Titanic's history to life, with every detail designed to make participants feel as though they are truly aboard the fabled vessel.

For information and ticket details, visit [titanicexperiencevr.com/los-angeles](http://titanicexperiencevr.com/los-angeles). The Beverly Center is located at 8500 Beverly Blvd.



photo courtesy of Titanic: A Voyage Through Time

The one-of-a-kind immersive Titanic attraction offers visitors an extraordinary journey into the past.

## It's lucky number 13 for Other Art Fair

Celebrating its 13th edition in Los Angeles, The Other Art Fair, presented by Saatchi Art, is joining LA Art Week for the first time Feb. 20-23.

Continuing its mission of highlighting emerging and groundbreaking artists, The Other Art Fair will feature 140 independent artists at a new venue located at 2800 Casitas Ave. in the Atwater Village neighborhood of Los Angeles. In support of the artists and arts professionals affected by the Los Angeles fires, the Fair will donate 100% of its Friday late ticket sales and proceeds from a charitable art sale to the L.A. Arts Community Fire Relief Fund.

Subverting the traditional art-

buying experience, The Other Art Fair values accessibility and inclusiveness, transparently listing prices and allowing collectors to connect directly with emerging and independent artists. A selection committee of art world experts handpicks the exhibiting artists, allowing attendees to discover the next generation of contemporary artistic talent. This edition's committee includes artist Bettina Hubby; Dominique Clayton, arts consultant, writer and founder of Dominique Gallery; Herbert Mendoza, assistant director at Mixografia; Erin Remington, director of sales and curation at Saatchi Art; and Nicole Garton, global fair director at The Other Art Fair.

Previous fairs have helped to spotlight artists of particular promise, including local artist Jackie Amézquita, who was selected for the Hammer's 2023 Made in L.A. biennial, where she received the Mohn Public Recognition Award, and is featured at this year's Frieze Projects in LA.

"Creating opportunities for emerging and independent artists to make a living from their work is at the heart of what we do, and so I'm thrilled that, for the first time, we're hosting the Fair during Art Week to highlight the role an incubator fair like ours plays in the larger art world ecosystem and to offer a chance for artists without gallery representation to participate in the week's festivities," Garton said.

For information, visit [theotherartfair.com/la](http://theotherartfair.com/la).

## Paley brings more stars to the 'Fest'

The Paley Center for Media has announced additional stars joining key events at PaleyFest LA, taking place from Friday, March 21 through Saturday, March 29, at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood. The nation's premier television festival celebrating creative excellence, PaleyFest LA brings audiences together with television's brightest stars from the most acclaimed and buzzworthy TV shows.



photo courtesy of IMDb

Kathy Bates will appear alongside the cast of "Matlock" on March 23.

president of the Geopolitics and Foreign Policy Department and Korea Chair at CSIS and professor at Georgetown University, and Ramon Pacheco Pardo, professor at King's College London, will attend the event in person. The book talk will introduce their recently published book, "Korea: A New History of South & North," followed by a discussion with the authors, an audience Q&A session and a book signing.

The event is free and open to the public. Attendees can RSVP at [kccla.org](http://kccla.org).

## U.S.-Korea relations explored at KCCLA book talk

In celebration of the 80th anniversary of Korea's liberation, the Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles, led by director Sangwon Jung, will host a book talk event on "The Korean Peninsula and U.S.-Korea Diplomatic Relations" in collaboration with the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Los Angeles and the Center for Strategic and International Studies. The event will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 6:30 p.m. at KCCLA's Ari Hall, located at 5505 Wilshire Blvd. Distinguished scholars Victor Cha,

ously announced Kathryn Hahn (Agatha Harkness) and Jac Schaeffer. Carl Clemons-Hopkins (Marcus) and Mark Indelicato (Damien) will join their co-stars from "Hacks." Stellar Talent from Peacock's "Poker Face" will also join the show's PaleyFest event including Kumail Nanjiani (Season Two Guest Star) and Clea DuVall (Season One Guest Star and Season Two Director). Other series highlighted include "Cobra Kai," "Matlock," "The Handmaid's Tale," as well as a tribute to shows created by Amy Sherman-Palladino ("Gilmore Girls," The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" and "Étoile").

There are a limited number of tickets left for select programs. Paley Members can take advantage of discounted tickets to each PaleyFest LA event. For information on the benefits of Paley Center Membership, visit [paleycenter.org/join-us](http://paleycenter.org/join-us). For updates on the complete list of programming for PaleyFest LA, visit [paleyfest.org](http://paleyfest.org).

The Dolby Theatre is located at 6801 Hollywood Blvd.

## 'Nosferatu,' 'Wicked,' 'Conclave' earn top production design honors

The Art Directors Guild presented the 29th annual Excellence in Production Design Awards on Feb. 16 in a ceremony hosted by actress and comedian Rachael Harris.

For the Excellence in Production Design in a Feature Film awards categories, Craig Lathrop won the Period Feature Film award for "Nosferatu," Nathan Crowley took home the Fantasy Feature Film award for "Wicked" and Suzie Davies won the Contemporary Feature Film award for "Conclave." In the Excellence in Production Design in Television categories, Helen Jarvis won the One-Hour Period Single-Camera Series award for "Shōgun," Howard Cummings won the One-Hour Fantasy Single-Camera Series award for "Fallout," Chae Kyoung-sun earned the One-Hour Contemporary Single-Camera Series award for "Squid Game," Kalina Ivanov won the Limited Series award for "The Penguin," Clayton Hartley won the Television Movie award for

"Unfrosted," Shayne Fox received the Half-Hour Single-Camera Series award for "What We Do in the Shadows" and Glenda Rovello took home the Multi-Camera Series award for "Frasier."

"The winners of this year's ADG Awards have demonstrated exceptional skill and innovation, pushing the boundaries of their craft and inspiring us all with their ingenuity," said award show producers Michael Allen Glover and Megan Elizabeth Bell. "We are thrilled to celebrate their contributions to the art of visual storytelling."

Established in 1937, the Art Directors Guild represents 3,300 members who work throughout the world in film, television and theater. Ongoing activities include a Film Society screening series, the annual Excellence in Production Design Awards gala, a bimonthly craft magazine, figure drawing and other creative workshops, as well as extensive technology and craft training programs.

For information, visit [adg.org](http://adg.org).



photo by Rob Latour

Rachael Harris hosted the Excellence in Production Design Awards.

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# Homeless count conducted over three days

From page 1

canvass specific neighborhoods looking for people who are unhoused. The Mid City West Neighborhood Council has organized the count in the local area for approximately 10 years. Television City allows the neighborhood council to use its parking lot as a staging area, where volunteers gathered before heading out into the neighborhoods. Mid City West Board member Julian Stern has organized the council's count for the past few years and said it is encouraging to see people getting involved in the community.

"My dad ran a homeless outreach center. I grew up just outside D.C. in Maryland. I would volunteer at the shelter and I've just always been around that my whole life," Stern said. "I've lived in L.A. for 14 years now and ... I knew that the problem [of homelessness] was always there and I recognized that it was getting more visible. I said, 'this is something that I've been a part of my whole life, why am I not trying to help?' That's why I'm involved. I think the neighborhood council's role is to be the touch point between anybody who lives here and all of the other forms of government."

Volunteers canvassed neighborhoods for approximately three hours

on Feb. 18, covering the communities between La Brea Avenue to the east, Willoughby Avenue and Romaine Street to the north, La Cienega Boulevard and the Beverly Hills and West Hollywood borders to the west, and Olympic and San Vicente boulevards to the south. The volunteers use a smartphone app to tally the number of unhoused people they see, and the data is transmitted directly to LAHSA. There is no interaction between the volunteers and the people they count. Stern said the neighborhood council coordinates the local count but does not have access to the data. However, he said multiple volunteers reported seeing fewer people than they expected.

"What I was hearing more often than not was, 'we didn't see a lot,'" Stern said. "We don't know the numbers, but that is a good sign."

Volunteer Shem Bitterman, a longtime resident of the Beverly-Fairfax area, canvassed neighborhoods between Fairfax Avenue and Gardner Street, and Beverly Boulevard and Rosewood Avenue.

"We walked our district and it was a cool and pleasant night. From what I heard, it sounded like there were fewer unhoused people in the area. We only saw two adults. And

from hanging around after with the neighborhood council, it seems like other people are also, anecdotally, seeing fewer people," Bitterman said.

Volunteers are required to go out in groups of two or more for safety. Bitterman was paired with Josh Davis, an Echo Park resident who participated in earlier homeless counts but joined the Mid City West count for the first time. Both Bitterman and Davis said the homeless count is a community-serving experience that is rewarding.

"It's always good to see people coming out and mobilizing for this effort. A shout out to all the council districts and different neighborhood councils that set everything up. They just do an amazing job," Davis said. "I've [counted in] North Hollywood and Burbank before, and both of those went really smooth. It's a good experience."

The 2025 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count is being held over three days from Feb. 18-20, with counts in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, West Los Angeles, South Los Angeles, the South Bay and Harbor areas and the Antelope Valley occurring on Feb. 20. LAHSA will analyze data from regions throughout the county and will release totals later this year, typically in June.



photo by Edwin Folven

Volunteers Shem Bitterman, left, and Josh Davis, who met for the first time at the homeless count and walked the community together, said participating in the effort is rewarding and beneficial to society.

LAHSA is required to conduct the count by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the data is used to determine funding and resources. It also identifies areas of need in communities and is used to plan strategies to address homelessness.

"This year's homeless count demonstrates the power of community action to transform lives," LAHSA CEO Dr. Va Licia Adams Kellum said. "Alignment between LAHSA, the city and the county on addressing homelessness has been key to our progress. We must continue strengthening this collaboration to continue our success."

"Last year's count showed that the collaboration and dedication ...

are beginning to yield results. After years and years of increases, thanks to our new approach to this crisis, we brought homelessness down for the first time in a long time. We have turned the corner, but make no mistake, we have a long way to go and it's going to take all of us working together and committing to making change together," Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said.

"We committed to a new way of doing things with programs like Inside Safe and a Pathway Home. Especially now, when the Palisades and Eaton fires have cost so many more people their homes and their livelihoods, we must double down on innovation, efficiency and on delivering results."

## WeHo council calls for pit to be filled in

From page 1

kind of swamp.

On Feb. 18, with the planned development dead in the water, city staff reported to the West Hollywood City Council that the pit will soon be filled with dirt – an order by the city to the developer. The area, situated on what is called the Melrose Triangle, was marked for 225,000 square feet of office space, 80 residential units with 24 set for moderate-or-low-income tenants, and 60,000 square feet of retail space. It also included 526 subterranean parking spaces, which was the reason the lot was originally excavated. The developer, Arman Gabaei of the Charles Company, was sentenced to four years in prison in 2022 for bribing a Los Angeles County employee in an attempt to secure a \$45 million office lease. He has been footed with the fill-in bill.

Currently, however, there is no active development plan for the Melrose Triangle. The website, melrosetriangle.com, has an error message. In response to an inquiry from the Beverly Press, a spokesperson for the company said, "The property is not for sale."

If any new project is proposed, it could take years before the community sees any kind of progress.

"For a long time, our community has been waiting for not only the completion but also the start of the Melrose Triangle project but now they're going to have to wait even longer to have what was promised," Councilman John Erickson said. "It's been an eyesore in the community and city and now we wait for it to be addressed in this manner."

Erickson took issue with the timeline for filling in the pit, which could take six to nine months. "I'm disappointed in the timeline and of course we want to make sure that filling the hole is

done both expeditiously, as well as with materials that are safe to be put into our community," he said.

"I think it should be done as soon as possible," Councilman Danny Hang said. "A giant hole in the middle of the neighborhood isn't just an eyesore, it's a safety hazard and a waste of great space. If the project's not happening, then yeah, they should at least clean it up, fill it in and put some trees in so it doesn't look like a meteor crashed there. No one wants to look at a construction pit for years."

"I don't really want the hole filled in. I want the project built," Vice Mayor John Heilman said, conceding that, under the circumstances filling the hole is the best possible option.

"The hole needs to be filled promptly to prevent hazardous conditions. I hope the property owner comes back expeditiously with a proposal which includes housing and provides benefits for the community," he added.

"It's deeply disappointing to have waited this long on a project, only to be left with no project and significant challenges in how we move forward," Mayor Chelsea Byers said. "There is nothing ideal about enforcing 27,000 truckloads of dirt – but the hole itself created its own issues with water retention, mosquitoes, dust and ongoing safety concerns. I hope the city sees future plans reflective of the significance this area holds and backed by invested stakeholders committed to follow through."

"I was really hoping the Melrose Triangle would turn into something great, a space that adds to the vibe of West Hollywood, whether that's cool shops, restaurants or something the community actually needs," Hang said. "It's such a prime location, and it's a shame to see it stuck in limbo."

"If the developer is not going to apply for new entitlements in the near-term, and doesn't want to sell the property to someone who might develop it in the near-term, then filling the hole is the only option," Councilwoman Lauren Meister said. "I'm not happy about the time it will take or the potential environmental impacts, but I don't see an alternative."

City staff assured the council, following a question from Erickson, during the Feb. 18 meeting, that fire debris would not be used for the fill-in process, and that the dirt will be tested for possible contaminations.

Three Zoom meetings are scheduled on Feb. 26 as part of the backfill process. The community meetings are necessary before the area can be restored. For information, email melrosetriangle@gmail.com. All residents within 200 feet are required to be notified. After the meetings, a clearer timeline on the fill-in process should be determined.

## Suspect who climbed Hollywood Sign arrested

From page 4

broadcasts showed the man on top of the letter with a flag. After LAPD officers and park rangers arrived at the base of the letter, the man came down without further incident and was arrested for trespassing, Eisenman said. He was not identified.

The Hollywood Sign is targeted from time to time by people committing pranks or seeking to illegally promote different things, most recently in 2021 when two social media influencers briefly altered the sign. Jeff Zarrinnam, chair of the Hollywood Sign Trust, said numerous measures have been taken to prevent people from climbing to and onto the sign. The area above the Hollywood Sign is fenced along a trail leading to Mount Lee, and it is a treacherous hike from below to reach the sign, he said. The trust

funded the security cameras that monitor the sign 24 hours. Some cameras are mounted to the actual sign itself.

"Usually the LAPD gets them before they get up to the sign but I guess this guy had a mission," Zarrinnam said. "It's unfortunate. They are looking for publicity and I guess he wanted his 15 seconds of fame. People should know that it's dangerous to be up there. You will be arrested and you will get fined."

Zarrinnam added that the Hollywood Sign Trust has been conducting repairs to the sign recently due to erosion and rocks that tumbled down the hillside during storms. He said the trust plans to landscape the area above the sign with native toyon bushes and nopalera cactus. The work will likely take place within the next three months, he added.

## Citations issued for blocking bus-only lanes

From page 4

The bus-only lanes on Wilshire Boulevard are not continuous, such as locations in the Miracle Mile where subway construction has prompted lane closures. Sweeney said the cameras on the buses are programmed to only take photographs of vehicles blocking bus-only lanes, and not those parked in other areas.

Richard Pink, owner of Pink's Hot Dogs on La Brea Avenue just north of Melrose Avenue, said rules about blocking the curbside lanes during rush-hour periods are nothing new. The city has long prohibited parking in the curbside lane in

front of his stand during peak commute times, and it's the same now that they are bus-only lanes.

"I don't see any difference other than it's a technological advancement. A meter maid doesn't have to go out and issue a ticket, which makes it safer," Pink said. "Our customers are aware of it. We notify people about the parking restrictions with a sign. If a customer comes up and it even appears they parked illegally, we warn them."

Pink added that he sympathizes with food delivery service drivers who need a quick place to park, but the rules apply to everybody.

Transit advocate Joe Linton, author of the online Streetsblog LA, said the bus-only lanes are beneficial to transit riders and he supports citing drivers who block them. The Koreatown resident rides the bus on Wilshire Boulevard multiple times each month.

"It's not night and day, but on Wilshire, it's been a little faster. We are seeing a little better speeds," Linton said. "I don't want to see a delivery driver penalized, but there's 30 people on the bus and one person in the car, and I don't think dozens of people should be penalized on the bus."

# BHUSD faces multiple controversies

From page 1

the school community on student life and district-related issues. KBEV provides students with journalism experience, and its anchors, reporters and behind-the-scenes crew are Beverly Hills High School students.

Under Carey's guidance, KBEV students were awarded gold medals 10 years in a row at the Los Angeles Regional SkillsUSA Championship between 2014-24. In July 2024, U.S. Rep. Ted Lieu (D-Los Angeles County) recognized KBEV and Carey's leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives for winning second place for Video News Production in the 2024 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference.

Many students, parents, teachers and alumni have expressed outrage over Carey's administrative leave, characterizing it as an act of retaliation after they allege the district attempted to censor a KBEV-produced video. More than 900 people have signed a petition for the district to reinstate Carey.

Since Carey's absence began, members of the BHUSD community have regularly called out the school board for its inaction in board meetings.

"In my opinion, he has and is doing everything I, we and you should hope all educators have the fortitude to do – to protect, inspire, educate and support students," student Jason Maybaum said to the board during a meeting on Feb. 11. Maybaum is the co-director of student productions for KBEV.

"Hold a hearing and make a finding concerning Mr. Carey's fitness to return to the classroom. I don't know if you owe that to him, but you do owe that to me," he added.

According to BHHS student journalists, Carey's leave stems from KBEV's coverage of an incident involving the alleged assault of a student, in which a video was uploaded to KBEV's YouTube channel. The video, uploaded on Dec. 2 and still publicly available on YouTube, was taken during a pro-Trump campus gathering on Nov. 6, and appears to show the district's executive director of school safety, Mark Mead, with his hands around a student's neck. Other elements of KBEV's coverage included re-uploading of student testimony made during school board meetings.

"[Mead] came up and just grabbed me in the neck and [it] was completely unprovoked. I was just standing there with everyone else," student Kyle Neiman said in a board meeting

on Dec. 10. "I don't feel comfortable that he's at the school."

"Mark Mead singled out my son [on] the day of the rally and I have multiple videos of him literally charging through a crowd, opening two hands, putting it around my son's neck, shaking him to the point where the cap on his head fell off," the student's mother said.

She added that she made a report to the BHHS Principal Drew Stewart. According to parents, Mead was placed on administrative leave for five days, while the BHUSD investigated the allegations. Mead was reinstated following the investigation, and remains the director of school safety.

Students and parents allege that Carey was placed on leave in retaliation for allowing KBEV students to upload the video to YouTube. Carey has been on leave for more than two months.

During the school board meeting on Feb. 11, BHUSD President Rachelle Marcus made a statement suggesting the investigation had stretched too long.

"For the last several months, we as board have been inundated with public commentary, and I have personally received countless communications – both emails and telephone calls – all with an outpouring of personal regard, respect and admiration that students, both current, former, parents and other community members have all made for Mr. Romeo Carey," Marcus said. "I do know as I sit here tonight and as we hear from many of you ... what Mr. Carey has meant to you and the impact he has made to the hundreds, if not thousands of students that have come through our KBEV programming and affiliated studios over the last two decades. With that in mind, I think the time has come for a decision to be made with the guiding principle that no one is perfect, and this community deserves to know whatever the results are of the apparent, still ongoing investigation, with the understanding that Mr. Carey – like every single teacher and educator in this district – has to follow the rules."

However, as of press time on Feb. 19, a decision on Carey's employment status appears yet to be made.

The investigation of Carey has also raised concerns for students within the school district. During the meeting on Feb. 11, multiple students criticized the district's investigation, which they said was carried out by Horvath.

Students said they were pulled out of class without warning by Horvath and taken into closed-door, one-on-one

meetings with the administrator.

"Let's talk about the absolute disgrace of an investigation happening right now. You are dragging students into private meetings, twisting stories and making outrageous accusations that have absolutely no basis in reality," student Ava Wizmann said. "Asking female students if Mr. Carey has ever forced us to undress in KBEV? Do you even hear yourselves? To even suggest such disgusting allegations is not only insulting, it's proof that this board has no shame."

"Tonight, I sit here before you feeling alienated, disrespected and unsafe because of the way I was treated by Assistant Superintendent Matt Horvath. He has abused his power, lacked all compassion and demonstrated that he is willing to frame Mr. Carey at any cost, even if this means using innocent students like me as pawns in his game," student Delara Yektafar said. "I tell you all this because of the way Mr. Horvath treated me behind closed doors. This is not how you treat a student who not only excels in the district, but embodies what's right with this school. I've done nothing wrong, yet I was interrogated, belittled and made to feel completely unsafe."

Former BHUSD parent Robbie Curtis – who has led the charge pressuring the district to reinstate Carey – said the testimony by the female students should require the district to immediately report Horvath under California child abuse and neglect mandatory reporting laws.

"It is our understanding that Principal Drew Stewart, Superintendent Dr. Bregy, the board and any teacher or administrator who heard the testimony of the minor-aged female student at the Feb. 11 board meeting, regarding the inappropriate and distressing interrogation she was subjected to ... by Assistant Superintendent Matt Horvath, are legally required to report such incidents within 36 hours. Failure to do so could result in misdemeanor charges," Curtis said. "A week has passed, and there has been no indication that Mr. Horvath is facing disciplinary action, has been placed on administrative leave or is under investigation. This continued inaction is deeply concerning and further erodes trust in the district's leadership."

Horvath is also at the center of at least two other controversies surrounding BHUSD.

BHUSD's current athletic director Tim Ellis was accused of sexual

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

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

When Cafagna reported Ellis' behavior to the BHUSD, the district appointed Horvath to meet with her, the lawsuit states.

"When [Cafagna] attempted to explain the sexual harassment and retaliation she suffered, Horvath appeared disinterested, annoyed and lacked patience. He refused to give [Cafagna] any direction on what, if anything, would be done to hold Ellis accountable," read the lawsuit. "Indeed, entity defendants did not wish to hold Ellis accountable, because doing so would mean exposing entity defendants to civil liability."

Joanie Garratt, a former BHHS teacher, filed a claim in December 2024 against the school district alleging that she was wrongfully terminated after she criticized President Donald Trump and the pro-Trump campus incident on her private Facebook Page. She alleged that Horvath informed her that she would be fired for making the Facebook post.

"Not only did the district's decision come without any rationale or legal grounds, but were based entirely on social media posts they didn't like," Garratt's attorney V. James DeSimone said. "One has to question how much concern the district had about the negative impact of Joanie's sudden dismissal on her students who were preparing for their AP exams, particularly given her unique expertise in the subject. By punishing an exceptional teacher for the content of her expression of protected first amendment rights, BHUSD not only harmed Joanie, it hurt her students who were at school to learn."

The pro-Trump incident on campus also led to a separate complaint filed by two Black teachers against the school district alleging discrimination, harassment, retaliation, racial comments and physical threats.

Fashion design teacher Bella Ivory said she and her classroom – where students from the school's Black

Student Union were present – were targeted by members of the pro-Trump group. According to Ivory, several Black students and parents, they were subjected to slurs including the n-word and other racist language. Ivory said the district dismissed the allegations.

During the Feb. 11 board meeting, several Black parents spoke about the alleged ongoing problem of racism within the district.

"My son and several of his friends are repeatedly called the n-word in school, monkey sounds made at him while class is in session. This has happened in the middle of class or on the school yard," Beverly Vista Middle School parent Kandace Lindsey said. "This is not a one-time event. It is happening consistently over the last couple of years."

Lindsey added that she is having second thoughts about enrolling her son in Beverly Hills High School next year due to the racism allegations.

The school district's current assistant superintendent for student services, Laura Collins-Williams, is also suing BHUSD for alleged transgressions including discrimination based on race, age and gender, retaliation and a hostile work environment.

Ivory's attorney Brad Gage said he will be filing a lawsuit on behalf of Ivory and an unnamed teacher in a matter of weeks, after the school district did not respond to the initial claim alleging racism. He said the lawsuits are the result of unaddressed racism.

"[Racism] has been a problem. But that problem has not been addressed adequately – perhaps in many cases not at all," Gage said. "The students are unsafe, they're being denied their constitutional rights to have a free education and to avoid threats and harm. Because of what's happened to them, they are in fear. Some have left the school. It's similar to Bella – her son has been targeted at times. You go through showing how so many different people are victims and yet the school just won't accept it."

Gage said the many allegations facing BHUSD stem from what he sees as a "code of silence" within the district.

"If you expose a code of silence, it demonstrates even bigger problems," Gage said. "It certainly seems, in my opinion, that they are trying to cover up wrongdoing. I guess that they think folks will buy that story or they can cover it up. But often, the truth prevails, and the truth will set you free."

Marcus, BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy, Assistant Superintendent Krissy Austin and Communications Director Rebecca Starkins did not respond to multiple requests for comment by the Beverly Press.

# Project would transform Wilshire/San Vicente

From page 1

Millennium Partners, "the plan is to lease the space to two world-class restaurants to meet the demand for dining in the area."

"I get that we want more restaurants, but we have a lot of restaurants right now and we're going to have even more with Metro going in," Amsterdam said. "So that to me is a little bit absurd."

Amsterdam also said the project is too tall to fit the neighborhood – 10 stories taller than a 24-story building on the southeast corner of Wilshire and San Vicente boulevards. Additionally, she pointed out that the building on the southeast corner is more separated from residences, while the proposed project is much closer to homes.

"I understand the friction between the development on main drags and

in a nice big intersection like that. I understand that we need more development and more density – totally get it. That's insane at that corner. Just absolutely, utterly insane," Amsterdam said.

She said she hopes the developer will be willing to negotiate the size of the project.

Dan Makos, who also lives on Schumacher Drive just steps away from the project, said that the loss of the mini-mall would be "devastating" for the community and the daily routines of its residents.

"During COVID, the little restaurant over there fed us," Makos said. "It's part of life, and progress is progress, but it's going to have a major impact on lives in the area."

Makos also expressed concern over construction – the potential

noise it could create for a significant amount of time, given the size of the project.

However, Makos was not completely opposed to the project.

"I'm a businessman ... I've been in this neighborhood 13 years and I've also been saying that land is worth a heck of a lot more to a businessperson than the rent they're getting off those stores. After COVID, it was half-empty for many months – it's still partially empty," he said. "From a business standpoint, it's a smart move. From living next to it, and the noise for another five years, three years, whatever, it's disheartening. So I'm totally on that fence."

Egal Meidan, who lives in the house on Schumacher Drive nearest to the project, expressed optimism upon seeing the plans.

"I think it's going to be nice. As long as it doesn't bother me," he said.

In a statement, Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, which borders the site, praised the project for placing housing near a future transit hub, but urged the developers to work with the surrounding community.

"The Los Angeles region faces an urgent need for more housing, and the best place to focus new density is along major transit corridors – especially with the upcoming opening of the Metro D Line. Developments like this help maximize our growing transit network, reduce car dependency and create more walkable communities," Yaroslavsky said. "However, developers must also be accountable to the neighborhoods where they build. While this project is just over the border from the city of Los Angeles, many of its impacts will be felt by my constituents. we look for-

ward to detailed conversations with the development team and their neighbors to minimize construction and traffic impacts."

The development is in the early stages of planning, and a date for a public hearing on the project before the Beverly Hills Planning Commission has not been set.

Millennium Partners declined an interview with the Beverly Press.

## Answers From Page 27



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### Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

#### Across

1. Pottery oven
5. Breeding horse
9. A sentence starter
12. Aussie greeting
13. Pitcher's perfect game
15. Orchard fruit
16. Hospital facilities
17. Love, in Roma
18. Himalayan holy man
19. Hurricane center
22. Brace
23. “\_\_ will be done ...”
24. Markedly masculine
28. Hollywood headliner
34. Farm measure
35. Orange outside
36. Third in a family
37. Raves very critically
42. Place for a swing
43. Beehive, e.g.
44. Gawk at
45. Tallinn natives
48. Long-eared beasts of burden
49. Alphabet segment
50. “I knew it!”
52. Like oceanfront houses, often
59. Hoedown area
60. Fencing swords
61. Head cover
63. Bit of kindling
64. Blood and sweat companions
65. School for a future ens.

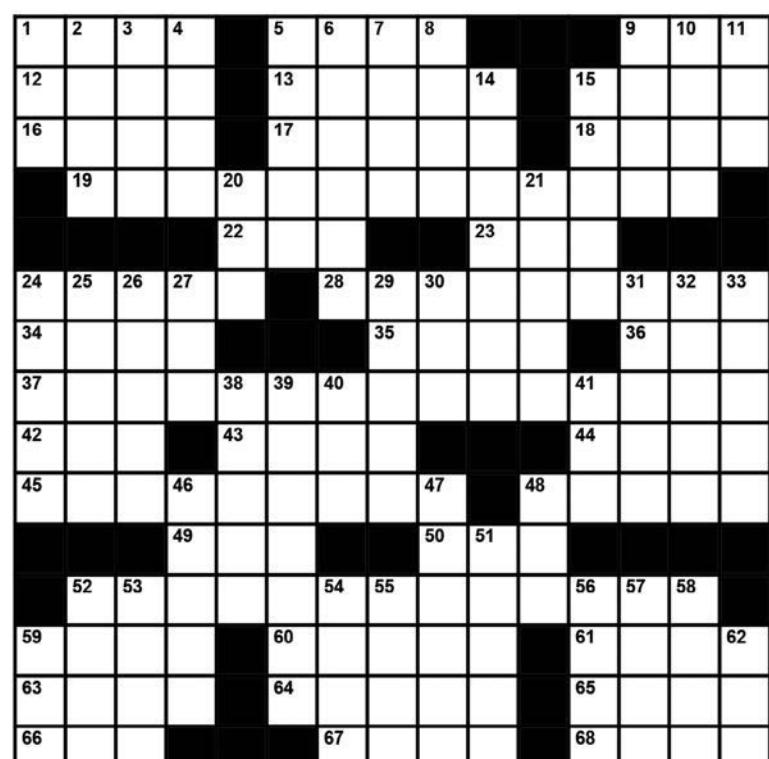
#### 66. Emirates, for short

67. “Can I get you anything \_\_?”

68. Worry

#### Down

1. Cold war grp.
2. \_\_ fixe
3. Gaga or Godiva
4. Wall Street Journal subject, abbr.
5. Mix-up
6. Indian drum
7. “Here comes trouble!”
8. Threatening
9. Spree
10. Retired soccer star Mia
11. Unforgettable time for historians
14. Screening
15. Tactics
20. \_\_meter
21. Actress Bara
24. Dull
25. Has a yen
26. Salad oil holder
27. Egg protector
29. Director Welles
30. Itinerary word
31. Metallic sounds
32. Bridal path
33. Marriage and others
38. Actress who plays Spiderman's love
39. Disparaging nickname
40. Nutritionist's fig.
41. Aegean Sea island
46. Ape
47. Fencing swords
48. Auto insurer with roadside service
51. Steppenwolf writer
52. Trumpet sound
53. Large lake
54. D'Artagnan weapon of choice
55. Palpable
56. As follows



57. N.C.A.A. tournament division

58. Front or back in golf

59. A.C. letters

62. Like sushi

answers on page 26

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

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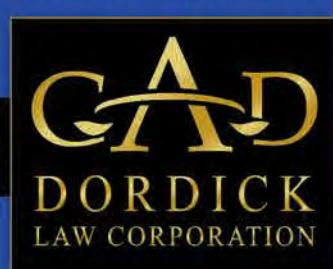
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