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BEVERLY PRESS

INSIDE

- Funding cuts may affect transportation projects pg. 3
- Oscars return to Hollywood on March 2 pg. 11

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

February 27, 2025

Poinsettia Park designated as 'no camping' zone

■ Seven areas in 5th District OK'd as 41.18 sites

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles City Council on Feb. 25 approved seven locations in Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky's 5th District as sites where the city's anti-camping ordinance – commonly referred to as 41.18 – will be

implemented, prohibiting people from people sitting, lying, sleeping, storing items and blocking the public right-of-way in the designated areas.

The locations include Poinsettia Park in the Melrose area, as well as

See **Council** page 26



photo by Edwin Folven

Poinsettia Park has been designated as a "no camping" zone.

ACLU responds to BHUSD controversy

■ Superintendent Bregy resigns; Feb. 25 meeting unravels

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Beverly Hills Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy resigned on Feb. 21, a move that followed months of turmoil over lawsuits and controversies facing the district – at least one of which has drawn concern from the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California.

The BHUSD Board of Education announced Bregy's resignation in an email sent to parents and teachers on Feb. 21. Bregy's resignation became effective on Feb. 24.

"We respect Superintendent Bregy's decision and appreciate the hard work and dedication he brought to our district," board president Rachelle Marcus wrote in the email. "As we move forward, we are committed to ensure a seamless transition that supports our students, staff and community."

The email stated that Dr. Jason



photo by Tabor Brewster

Dr. Michael Bregy resigned as BHUSD superintendent on Feb. 21 following public outcry over controversies facing the school district.

Hasty, assistant superintendent of business services, will serve as acting superintendent while the district conducts a "comprehensive search to secure the best leader to carry BHUSD into the next chapter of educational excellence."

A reason for Bregy's departure

was not stated in the email. Bregy did not respond to a request for comment.

Parents and students showed up to the Feb. 25 school board meeting to demand answers after little information was given about Bregy's resignation. The meeting

See **BHUSD** page 25

City, BHPD launch 'Beverly Hills Connect'

■ Program incorporates private cameras into surveillance system

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The city of Beverly Hills and the Beverly Hills Police Department launched "Beverly Hills Connect," an initiative which will incorporate – on a voluntary basis – privately-owned camera systems such as

Ring doorbells into the city's 24-hour surveillance system, the Real Time Watch Center.

"It's really a way to extend the ability of the residents to connect with the police department," Mayor Lester Friedman said in an interview. He said the initiative is the "next natural step" in the city's security system, including the Real Time Watch Center.

"Beverly Hills Connect underscores our commitment to working

hand-in-hand with the community to create a safer, more connected city," BHPD Chief Mark Stainbrook said in a press release. "This innovative program empowers residents to actively contribute to safety."

The program operates on two levels of community participation.

Level 1 allows residents and business owners to voluntarily register their public-facing security cameras – for instance, Ring doorbell cameras that record front lawns and entrances to homes or security cameras at businesses that record the perimeter of the business – into the city's database of camera locations. Level 1 does not give the BHPD access to live camera feed.

Friedman said Level 1 registration allows police to more quickly request footage of a possible crime – instead of knocking on the residence or business where a camera is located, the department would be able to directly contact the camera owner via email.

Level 2 gives the BHPD live access to private camera feeds. If a crime is reported, police will have immediate access to the footage via the Real Time Watch Center.

See **Beverly Hills** page 25



photo by Tabor Brewster

The initiative links privately-owned security systems into the city's Real Time Watch Center, which includes security cameras and BHPD drones.



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

The Robertson Lane project, which received a development extension last year, will incorporate The Factory building.

WeHo looks to reignite stalled developments

■ Unfinished projects keep some lots vacant throughout city

BY RANCE COLLINS

Last week, the city of West Hollywood ordered that the excavated Melrose Triangle site be

filled. The area has long been earmarked for a large-scale development. Unfortunately, following a series of controversies that included jailtime for developer Arman Gabae, the Charles Company's plans fell through – but only after a large hole was dug for an underground parking

See **WeHo** page 26

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CALENDAR

LACMA exhibit tour

Join LACMA for a gallery tour of the exhibition “We Live in Painting: The Nature of Color in Mesoamerican Art” on Thursday, Feb. 27, from 3-4 p.m., and Sunday, March 2, at 2 p.m. in the Resnick Pavilion. The exhibition, which was created in collaboration with scientists at the Carnegie Observatories and the Griffith Observatory, presents a group of rare and visually stunning artworks from different cultures and time periods that explore human attempts to explain the universe’s origins, mechanics and meaning. The tour is free with museum admission. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. lacma.org.



California Art League exhibition

TAG Gallery celebrates a dynamic month with the California Art League’s exhibition “Imaginations” running from Thursday, Feb. 27, through Friday, March 21. “Imaginations,” curated by Los Angeles based art critic and author Shana Nys Dambrot, is a collective of “ideas, mood, inclination.” An opening reception will be held on Saturday, March 1, from 5-8 p.m. 5458 Wilshire Blvd. (323)297-3061, taggallery.net.

‘Adam-Keep the Faith, Baby’

“Adam-Keep the Faith, Baby,” a production about Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., the first Black congressman from New

York, runs from Friday, Feb. 28, through Friday, March 14, at the GGC Theatre in Hollywood. Myers Clark portrays the civil rights activist, pastor and charismatic congressman of the 18th District, which includes Harlem. In the play, Powell is interviewed by an unseen reporter on his last day in Congress in January 1971. Known for getting things done for constituents and advancing civil rights legislation, Powell was also notorious for taking young women to his property in the Bahamas, which may have led to his political downfall. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Feb. 28, March 1, 7, 8 and 14. Tickets are \$25. 6502 Santa Monica Blvd. onstage411.com/newsite/show/play_inf_o.asp?show_id=7350.

‘Mujeres on the Verge’

CASA 0101 Theater is celebrating the theater’s 25th anniversary season with the world premiere of “Mujeres on the Verge (Women on the Verge)” running from Friday, Feb. 28, through Sunday, March 23. The production celebrates Women’s History Month and includes four one-act plays by Lindsey Haley, Mariana Herrera, Maria G. Martinez and Raquel Salinas that explore love, friendship, ambition and unexpected turns in life. Tickets are \$25. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 3 p.m., Sunday. 2102 E. First St. casa0101.org.

‘L.A. Zine Fest’

The Broad Museum is holding “L.A. Zine Fest” on Saturday, March 1, and Sunday, March 2, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on the museum’s East West Bank Plaza and in Oculus Hall. The “L.A. Zine Fest” celebrates D.I.Y. ethos and the many facets of independent publishing. Meet exhibitors and peruse and purchase their works. The two-day festival includes hands-on workshops, panel discussions and visits to the museum’s galleries. It is presented in conjunction with The Broad’s exhibition “Joseph Beuys: In Defense of Nature.” The festival is free with advanced reservation. 221 S. Grand Ave. lazinefest.com.

Classical concert

The Da Camera Society is holding a spring concert on Saturday, March 1, at 2 p.m. at the Doheny Mansion on the campus of Mount Saint Mary’s University, near downtown. Trio Céleste performs works by Ukrainian and Russian composers. Proceeds from the concert support the Los Angeles Conservancy. Tickets start at \$35. 10 Chester Place. dacamerasociety.org/concerts.

Art of Georgia Gardner Gray

Regen Projects presents “Georgia Gardner Gray: Chrysalis” running from Saturday, March 1, through Saturday, March 29. “Chrysalis” is New York-based artist Gray’s first exhibition with the gallery and her first large-scale solo presentation in the United States. It features new paintings, sculptures and a theatrical play staged in the gallery. Using the chrysalis as a metaphoric and structural framework, Gray examines how perceptions of history, painting, originality and figuration evolve over time. An opening reception will be held on March 1 from 6-8 p.m. 6750 Santa Monica Blvd. (310)276-5424, regen-projects.com.

Bea’s Bakery cookbook signing

Lenny Rosenberg and Adaeze Nwanonyiri will discuss and sign “It’s

a Sweet World: Recipes from Around the Globe at Bea’s Bakery” on Sunday, March 2, at 3 p.m. at DIESEL, A Bookstore in Brentwood. “It’s a Sweet World” brings the rich, nostalgic flavors of Bea’s Bakery into the home with a blend of Jewish, Nigerian and global recipes. The event is free and will be held in the courtyard; seating is limited. Books are available for purchase. 225 26th St., Ste. 33. (310)576-9960, dieselbookstore.com.



Getty art exploration

Join the Getty for “Portraying Power: Representations of Hellenistic Queens,” a virtual program on Monday, March 3, at noon, via Zoom. In honor of International Women’s Day, art historian Patricia Kim explores queenship and power in the era of Alexander the Great and his successors. Kim considers how artists incorporated local traditions and cross-cultural influences when portraying royal women. Their visual strategies conveyed qualities, attributes and behaviors defining a “queen.” Explore how those ideals may still impact women today. Admission is free but reservations are required. getty.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_z1S_Cg8kRuS-_a1mjrtM0g#/registration.

West Hollywood Design District

The West Hollywood Design District is holding a three-day event celebrating 75 years of design excellence in the district from Tuesday, March 4, through Thursday, March 6, bringing together visionary design professionals from across the globe. The program includes an “Opening Night Reception: Creatives Unite for L.A.” on March 4, from 7-9 p.m. at 8936 Beverly Blvd. A welcome breakfast/check-in will be held on March 5 from 10-11:30 a.m. at Rose Tarlow Melrose House, 425 N. Robertson Blvd. Numerous additional events will be held on March 5-6 at different locations in the West Hollywood Design District. For a full list, reservations and information, visit aspiremetro.com/design-weho.

Film of Susan Mogul

Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions welcomes artist and filmmaker Susan Mogul for the world premiere of her latest film “Tell Me About Your Mother,” which investigates matrilineal lineage, domesticity and creativity, on Thursday, March 6, from 7-9 p.m. at the Philosophical Research Society. Additional films by Mogul including “The Pencil Test,” “Moms’ Move” and “Sing O Barren Woman” will be shown. After the films, LACE curator and director of programs Selene Preciado moderates a conversation with Mogul and artists Nao Bustamante and Yuchi Ma. 3910 Los Feliz Blvd. RSVP requested by emailing rsvp@welcometolace.org.

Historical society annual tea

The Windsor Square-Hancock Park Historical Society is holding its annual tea ceremony for guests on Sunday, March 9, from 1-4 p.m. at the Langham Hotel in Pasadena. Join the historical society for an elegant afternoon tea in the Royce Room, one of the original restaurant spaces in the hotel. The cost is \$95 for members; \$115 for non-members. 401 S. Oak Knoll Ave. windsquarehancockpark.com.



photo by Tabor Brewster

Charles Johnson founded 4 Kira 4 Moms after his wife Kira died following childbirth at Cedars-Sinai in 2016.

Protestors demand Cedars-Sinai further protect pregnant women

■ Organization calls for an end to maternal mortality

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Approximately 25 protestors demonstrated outside Cedars-Sinai Medical Center on Feb. 20 demanding that the hospital – and hospitals across the country – do more to protect pregnant patients, specifically women of color.

The protest was organized by 4 Kira 4 Moms, a nonprofit advocacy group dedicated to improving maternal care. The group was founded by Charles Johnson, whose wife Kira died following childbirth in 2016 at Cedars-Sinai – a death that he said was entirely preventable.

“We walked into Cedars-Sinai expecting to have the happiest day of our lives, anticipating the birth of our second son, with my wife Kira. It was supposed to be a routine, scheduled C-section, and it turned into a nightmare,” Johnson said. “Kira was allowed to bleed needlessly for more than 10 hours internally while myself and my family begged and pleaded for the staff at Cedars-Sinai to take action. Our pleas fell on deaf ears.”

Johnson filed a civil rights lawsuit in May 2022, alleging that Kira was denied medical care that would have saved her life due to her race as a Black woman. According to the lawsuit, following Kira Johnson’s 17-minute cesarean section, she began to show signs of internal bleeding within an hour. The lawsuit states that doctors told Charles Johnson that Kira was “not a priority,” while they provided better care to non-Black patients. An autopsy showed that Kira Johnson died from internal bleeding 12 hours after her son was born.

While the lawsuit was ultimately settled, Johnson has not stopped fighting what he sees as a pattern of mistreatment of pregnant women of color in hospitals across the country.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 80% of pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S. are preventable. Additionally, Black women are three times more likely to die during pregnancy than white women.

“Our hope is that – not only for

Cedars-Sinai, but hospital systems around the country – they will understand that if you are not taking steps to dismantle cultures and address institutional racism, then you’re complicit, and you have to be held accountable,” Johnson said. “Every family – not just Black mothers – but every family that steps foot into one of these institutions deserves safe, respectful, dignified care.”

In the aftermath of Johnson’s death, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services opened a federal civil rights investigation into Cedars-Sinai in July 2023. The medical center and federal agency agreed to a voluntary resolution in January, requiring that Cedars-Sinai take steps to improve maternal care for minority patients. However, protestors on Feb. 20 said the agreement did not do enough.

“It’s time to call Cedars on what they are not doing. Yes, they came to resolution with the Office of Civil Rights at the last minute. But what’s not included in that is accountability – admitting that they have a problem,” said Gabby Albert, executive director of 4 Kira 4 Moms. “We’re here calling on that accountability. We’re here to call for immediate suspension for at-fault providers and make them drive a zero-tolerance policy for racism and discrimination.”

Albert added that the group is also asking that Cedars-Sinai provide community oversight into maternity care, funding for minority organizations aimed at ending maternal mortality, reform on guidelines for C-sections and greater access during childbirth for doulas and midwives.

Kimberly Turbin, a Latina woman who gave birth at a Cedars-Sinai facility in Tarzana in 2013, said she was subjected to verbal abuse and medical malpractice at the hands of her obstetrician, Alex Abbassi. According to Turbin, Abbassi performed a forced episiotomy without her consent, and when she protested, he told her to “shut up,” or “go home.”

Turbin recorded the experience on video, and went on to file a lawsuit against the doctor, which was settled. Abbassi surrendered his medical license due to “age-related cognitive defects” in 2015, and died in 2018.

Since the birth of her child in

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Federal funding freeze could derail projects

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Federal and local leaders gathered on Feb. 20 at the nearly completed Wilshire/La Brea subway station to call attention to the impact potential funding freezes by President Donald Trump will have on public transportation projects.

U.S. Reps. Laura Friedman (D-Calif.) and Rick Larsen (D-Wash.) joined Metro Board Member and Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky at a press conference where they said cuts could jeopardize projects in Los Angeles, including the D Line subway extension. Trump signed an executive order in January – that was later placed on hold by a federal judge – putting the future of federal funding for a multitude of programs in limbo. It is unclear what cuts will specifically be made to local transportation projects, but local leaders are worried the impact will be severe.

“As a representative, I’m worried that the Trump [administration] will continue to want to go back on its commitments to the American people. This is a massive investment that’s got to move forward.”

-U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman

“Unfortunately, the current administration and President Trump’s new attack on federal infrastructure dollars puts all of these projects directly at risk,” Friedman said. “The investments that we have made as a community, that we have made here in Los Angeles, the investments that we’ve made as a nation are going to pay dividends, as they already are. All of that could grind to a halt if this administration is successful in defunding investment in California. Hundreds of millions of dollars of federal investment promised by our government to the L.A. Metro expansion are still yet to be delivered, and we’re counting on those dollars. As a representative, I’m worried that the Trump [administration] will continue to want to go back on its commitments to the American people. This is a massive investment that’s got to move forward.”

Funding is already allocated and cannot be cut for the first two segments of the D Line extension between Wilshire/Western and Century City/Constellation, but the final segment from Century City to the Westwood/VA Hospital could be in jeopardy if transportation funds are frozen or rescinded, officials said. The first segment of the new subway line to the Wilshire/La Cienega station is scheduled to open later this year.

“This particular first phase and the second phase are fully funded – a lot of that comes from [Los Angeles County] Measure M, which is our local dollars, and some of it comes from the federal government. But with the third phase, which is to UCLA and the VA, there’s a gap of a few hundred million dollars,” Yaroslavsky said.

“None of us are taking anything for granted. We’re going to keep pushing hard. I don’t think there’s anything reasonable that we can assume right now. With this administration, you can’t make reasonable assumptions based on past behavior.”

Friedman said the potential funding freezes could have a dramatic impact on the city of Los Angeles’ preparations for the 2028 Olympic Games. The D Line is expected to be fully complete to the Westwood/VA Hospital station by 2027 and is part of plans to transport people more efficiently to venues throughout the city.

“Los Angeles is going to be on the world stage in even a more elevated way when the Olympics come here. And as a nation, I think we have a lot to gain by putting our best foot forward and to show the rest of the world that we do make big investments in infrastructure, that we care about our train stops, we care about our water system, we care about our bridges, that we are a first world nation and the best nation in the world.” Friedman

added. “To me, that means making these investments that we’re making right now. But I have not seen the Trump administration step forward acknowledging the importance of those investments here in Los Angeles. Am I confident that the Trump administration wants to invest in the Olympics? No, we haven’t seen that yet. But I certainly hope they’ll come around and that they recognize that moving people around our city during the Olympics in a way that as a nation we can be proud of is part of what’s being done right now. I am deeply worried about the constant attempts to cut federal funding for infrastructure that we’re seeing.”

“Every message coming out of this administration right now is about stopping money or taking money back, not about putting it into investment,” said Larsen, ranking member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. “It would be a shame when the U.S. wins the gold medal race in the 2028 Olympics, we tie with North Korea in best infrastructure. Let’s get this money



photo by Edwin Folven

U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman, flanked by L.A. City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, left, and U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen, said concerns are building about the future of transportation projects in Los Angeles.

invested in the ground where it belongs, jobs created, so that the United States, not just L.A., can be as proud as possible and as ready as possible.”

Metro representatives led Friedman, Larsen and Yaroslavsky on a tour of the Wilshire/La Brea subway station after the press conference. Members of the media

were not allowed underground into the station.

However, Yaroslavsky said the first phase of the D Line subway extension project between Wilshire/Western and Wilshire/La Cienega is on track to open “this fall” as planned. While no date has been announced, she said it may open around the end of October.

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photo by Rance Collins

Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered a risk assessment for the possible parole of Erik and Lyle Menendez, who were sentenced to life in prison without parole for the 1989 murder of their parents in their Beverly Hills home.

Newsom asks for assessment of Menendez brothers case

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Feb. 26 directed the California Board of Parole Hearings to conduct a risk assessment investigation for Erik and Lyle Menendez – brothers who were sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole in 1996 for the double murder of their parents, Jose and Kitty Menendez. The direction is in response to a request for clemency from the brothers’ attorneys, and marks the first step in a possible pardon of the brothers.

“The question for the board is a rather simple one – do Erik and Lyle Menendez pose a current, what we call unreasonable

risk to public safety?” Newsom said in an interview with TMZ. “The risk assessment will be conducted as they typically are conducted by experts in public safety as well as forensic psychologists.”

Newsom added that there is “no guarantee of outcome,” and noted that the investigation is a necessary step before he can make “any determination” on clemency.

The brothers’ attorneys Mark Geragos and Cliff Gardner celebrated the announcement in a statement.

“Along with scores of Jose and Kitty Menendez’s family members who have fought for years to

See **Menendez** page 21

Bicyclists violently attack man on San Vicente

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Police are searching for members of a large group of bicyclists who violently attacked a man on Feb. 22 at the intersection of San Vicente Boulevard and McCarthy Vista in the Carthay Circle community.

The incident was captured on cell phone video by a bystander in a nearby vehicle and posted on social media. Authorities are using the video and security camera footage from other cameras to identify the suspects, who are teenagers approximately 16-18 years old, police said. The video of the attack was broadcast by the media and has caused outrage in the community.

“I’m deeply disturbed by the attack that took place near San Vicente and McCarthy. My heart goes out to the young man who was assaulted and his family, and I’m relieved to hear that he is recovering,” Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, said. “[The] LAPD is actively investigating this incident, and while law enforcement has not indicated they think this was a hate crime, any act of violence like this is unacceptable. I urge anyone with information to come forward to help hold those responsible accountable.”

Lt. Mark Ro, with the Los Angeles Police Department’s Wilshire Division, said there is no evidence to suggest the incident was a hate crime, and he characterized it instead as a spontaneous act of violence committed by a mob. Ro said the incident occurred short-



photo courtesy of the LAPD

A bystander filmed the attack on San Vicente Boulevard. Police are asking witnesses and anyone with information to call investigators.

ly before 5 p.m. as a group of 20-30 bicyclists was riding southbound on San Vicente Boulevard, impeding traffic. The victim, who was driving, honked at the bicyclists and shouted at them as he drove past, he added. When traffic stopped at McCarthy Vista, the cyclists caught up to the victim and members of the group started banging on and kicking his car, Ro said. The victim got out and several members of the group swarmed him, hitting and kicking the man until he lay motionless on the ground.

“It started out as a traffic dispute and quickly escalated. It turned into a melee. It was totally spontaneous,” Ro said. “This type of behavior is completely unacceptable.”

Ro said other motorists got out and began to intervene, at which

time the bicyclists rode off southbound on Carrillo Drive. Police were called and arrived minutes later, but the cyclists were gone. No arrests were made.

The victim, a Beverly Hills resident who Ro said is in his late 20s, was treated at the scene by paramedics and declined to be taken to a hospital. Ro said detectives met with him earlier this week as part of the investigation. Ro said the man sustained cuts, scrapes and bruises, sought medical treatment on his own and is recovering.

“He lives nearby and said he takes San Vicente all the time,” Ro added. “He was in and out of the hospital the same day. Fortunately, his injuries were not more severe.”

Investigators are looking into whether the cyclists are part of a

See **Cyclists** page 25

Man arrested after leading LAPD officers on pursuit

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Officers from the Los Angeles Police Department’s Wilshire Area Gang Enforcement Detail arrested a burglary suspect on Feb. 19 after the man led police on a pursuit through the Melrose area and Hancock Park.

Wilshire Division personnel held an enforcement operation on Feb. 19 in Hancock Park and the Larchmont area to address a recent series of burglaries. Officers from the gang detail who were on their way to join the operation noticed a suspicious Mercedes with two men inside parked near Waring Avenue and Alta Vista Street in the Melrose area. When they attempted to contact the driver, the man sped away, Lt. Mark Ro said.

Officers followed the suspects’ Mercedes into Hancock Park, where the driver turned onto a cul-de-sac near Oakwood Avenue and June Street. Officers attempted to block the vehicle and got out of their car as the driver suddenly turned around and drove toward them. Police fired multiple shots but did not strike the passenger or driver, who sped way again, Ro said. Officers got back in their car and followed the Mercedes.

During the second segment of the pursuit, the suspect slowed down in the 6100 block of Oakwood Avenue and the male passenger exited and fled on foot, Ro said. Officers continued to follow the vehicle, which crashed near Beverly Boulevard and Wilton Place. The driver got

out and fled on foot and was apprehended a short distance away, Ro added. He identified the suspect as Kwentin Monk, 19.

“I’m not sure what he hit but he didn’t hit another vehicle and there were no injuries,” Ro said. “He was arrested and his car was taken into custody as part of the investigation.”

Officers located stolen credit cards and identification cards inside the Mercedes, as well as a handgun. The suspect who jumped out of the vehicle on Oakwood Avenue was not apprehended and no further details were available about him, Ro added.

Monk was booked for assault with a deadly weapon on a police officer and felony evading. He is being held on \$70,000 bail and is scheduled to appear in court on March 12.

The LAPD’s Force Investigation Division is investigating the officer-involved shooting, which is standard protocol in all incidents in which officers use force or weapons. Ro added that there were no additional burglary arrests during the operation on Feb. 19.

He said the Wilshire Division and neighboring Olympic Division, which patrols Windsor Square, are holding frequent operations with marked patrol units and undercover officers to address burglaries in residential neighborhoods. Anyone with information about the recent burglaries or the incident on Feb. 19 is urged to call the Wilshire Division at (213)473-0476.



D LINE SUBWAY EXTENSION PROJECT
Section 1 – Beverly Hills

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

February Updates

Civil restoration continues on the north side of Wilshire Bl between San Vicente Bl and La Cienega Bl. Intermittent lane reductions are in effect during off-peak hours.

Work is also taking place on the plaza level by the station entrance.



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Bass fires Crowley as chief of LAFD amid criticism over handling of Palisades fire

■ Union shows support for Crowley

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Mayor Karen Bass fired Los Angeles Fire Department Chief Kristin Crowley on Feb. 21, criticizing the chief's actions before, during and after the devastating Palisades fire.

Bass said she personally met with Crowley and removed the LAFD leader, effective immediately. The mayor appointed Ronnie Villanueva, a 41-year LAFD veteran, as interim fire chief.

“Acting in the best interests of Los Angeles’ public safety, and for the operations of the Los Angeles Fire Department, I have removed Kristi Crowley as fire chief,” Bass said. “We know that 1,000 firefighters that could have been on duty on the morning the fires broke out were instead sent home on Chief Crowley’s watch. Furthermore, a necessary step to an investigation was the president of the fire commission telling Chief Crowley to do an after-action report on the fires. The chief refused. These require her removal. The heroism of our firefighters – during the Palisades fire and every single day – is without question. Bringing new leadership to the fire department is what our city needs.”

Villanueva, who retired from the department seven months ago as chief deputy of emergency opera-

tions, returns to lead the LAFD as interim chief. Bass said he has decades of experience in fire suppression, emergency management and managing the department.

“While the department is in the experienced and expert hands of Chief Villanueva, my office will lead a national search and I will speak directly with firefighters and Angelenos about what they want to see in their next permanent chief,” Bass said.

Crowley was appointed as fire chief in March 2022 by former Mayor Eric Garcetti, becoming the first woman and first LGBTQ fire chief to lead the department.

“As a humble public servant for over the past 30 years, 25 of those with the LAFD, it has been an absolute honor to represent and lead the men and women of one of the greatest fire departments in the world,” Crowley said in a statement. “As the fire chief, I based my actions and decisions on taking care of our firefighters so that they could take care of our communities. Serving others before self, having the courage and integrity to do what is right and leading with compassion, love and respect have guided me throughout my career. I am extremely proud of the work, sacrifice and dedication of our LAFD members, both sworn and civilian.”

After the Palisades fire, Crowley said in a media interview that budget cuts to the department were a factor in the department's ability to

prepare and respond to a large-scale wildfire. Bass, who was in Ghana on a diplomatic trip when the fire erupted on Jan. 7 and returned the following day, said she did not receive reports ahead of time about the severity of the wind and the possibility of a devastating fire, and would not have left Los Angeles had she been better informed by the fire department about the danger.

“It is very disappointing that Mayor Bass has decided to fire Chief Kristin Crowley.”

– Rick Caruso,
Businessman and developer

The decision to fire Crowley has been met with backlash. Los Angeles City Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, 7th District, has called for an investigation into the Crowley's firing. United Firefighters of Los Angeles City also opposed the fire chief's termination.

“Chief Crowley is a strong leader who has the respect of our firefighters and wasn’t afraid to tell the truth. She’s being made a scapegoat [for] a devastating fire without the benefit of a full investigation into what actually happened. The reality is our fire department has been

understaffed and under resourced for years – including during [Mayor Bass'] time in office. The LAFD did have operational budget cuts in this fiscal year, including cuts to overtime, brush clearance and civilian positions. In fact, we still have nearly 100 broken down fire engines, trucks and ambulances in the maintenance yard because of civilian mechanic job cuts. This is a city that has neglected its fire department and can't even pay our firefighters correctly for the work that we perform every single day," UFLAC President Freddy Escobar said in a statement. "Our firefighters did their job during the Palisades fire against enormous obstacles. Not enough firefighters, not enough working rigs, broken down fire hydrants and a water supply that ran dry. All of this occurred, yet the fire chief is being singled out and has been made the scapegoat. Our firefighters and paramedics stand united on this issue. Terminating Chief Crowley was wrong."

Businessman and developer Rick Caruso, who lost the mayoral race to Bass in 2022, criticized the mayor's actions in addressing the fire and said she was wrong to remove Crowley.

"It is very disappointing that Mayor Bass has decided to fire Chief Kristin Crowley," Caruso said in a statement. "Chief Crowley served Los Angeles well and spoke honestly about the severe and profoundly ill-conceived budget cuts the Bass administration made to the LAFD. That courage to speak the truth was brave, and I admire her. Honesty in a high city official should not be a firing offense. The mayor's decision to ignore the warnings and leave the city was hers alone. This is a time for



Kristin Crowley was appointed fire chief in 2022.

city leaders to take responsibility for their actions and their decisions. We need real leadership, not more blame passing.”

Others in the community also criticized the firing, stating that it appears to be a political move.

“[The mayor] has a staff of more than 100 people. Does anyone believe she didn’t know about the wind and the danger? I don’t,” said Peter Nichols, a Melrose area resident whose neighborhood faced evacuation on Jan. 8 during the Sunset fire in Runyon Canyon. “I’m a director in the work that I do, and the buck stops with me. They are waiting on the LAFD to inform them about the weather? I mean, c’mon. I don’t think the fire department is culpable at all. It’s clear to me that the city had no strategy on how to respond to this emergency. There was no direction because there was no one at the helm.”

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Beverly Hills addresses mayor and vice mayorship

■ Council continues debate on who can hold office

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills City Council on Feb. 19 resumed its discussion of the rules surrounding who can serve as mayor and vice mayor in the city. The discussion – a follow-up to a meeting on Feb. 5 – lasted for approximately an hour and a half and stemmed from an issue with the city’s rotating mayoral system and the schedule for council member elections.

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

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

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

council members in July.

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

For instance, although measure TL was passed in 2022, during the same election cycle, Councilman John Mirisch was elected to an unprecedented fourth term in office. In July 2026, Mirisch will term out of office, having completed his fourth four-year term. However, based on the current rotating schedule of mayor and vice mayor, Mirisch is scheduled to be installed as vice mayor in April 2025 and mayor in April 2026.

The City Council spent the study session meeting on Feb. 5 grappling with how to address the upcoming situation, and determined that Mirisch will split the upcoming vice mayorship with Councilman Craig Corman – each serving a six-month term. Mirisch will be sworn in as vice mayor in April while Corman will be sworn in as vice mayor in October.

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

In the Feb. 19 study session, the council examined issues involving rotating mayorship. For example, in April 2030, under the regular rotation, the third-highest vote-getter in the 2026 City Council election would become mayor. However, that person would also be up for reelection in June 2030.

“It is theoretically possible that they could become mayor in April, and then perhaps be not reelected,” City Manager Nancy Hunt-Coffey said during the study session.

As a result, that individual would only serve as mayor for three months.

The ensuing discussion brought up questions of fairness. For instance, in presidential election years, only two City Council members are elected. However, in non-presidential election years, three are elected. Barring the third-place vote-getter in non-presidential election years from holding the office of mayor could unfairly affect that individual, as both City Council members elected in presidential election years would be guaranteed office, current Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian suggested.

“I don’t think it’s about the five of us sitting up here, it’s about the process,” Nazarian said. “I think about being fair. The way that we’ve positioned this is if somebody – even a vice mayor – who is going to be facing reelection is completely moved down ... The problem is you have three council members who run for office, and then they can’t serve as mayor or vice mayor while the people in the two-person election keep getting



photo by Tabor Brewster

The Beverly Hills City Council is holding ongoing discussions surrounding issues on the roles of mayor and vice mayor.

back on.”

Corman pointed out that none of the possible solutions was ideal, given the complex problems that result from each one.

“There is no good option here,” Corman said. “Someone gets a haircut no matter how you look at it ... The question is, what is the least objectionable option for the council.”

The council ultimately favored a solution presented by Hunt-Coffey that prevents the third highest vote-getter in a non-presidential election from serving as vice mayor. However, Councilwoman Mary Wells suggested that the third-highest vote-getter be allowed to serve as vice mayor for one term before not serving as mayor.

In this scenario, the person who places first in a presidential election year would not be able to serve as vice mayor before serving as

mayor, as the third-highest vote getter from the previous non-presidential election would instead be vice mayor. This raises the possibility of a mayor being sworn in who has never served as vice mayor.

To resolve the issue, Corman then suggested that if the council member who finishes first in the presidential election year had not yet served as vice mayor, then the two people would split the vice mayoral term. If that council member had already served as vice mayor, then the third-place vote-getter in the non-presidential election year would get to serve the full term as vice mayor.

Four of the council members agreed to the complex guidelines. Mirisch abstained, stating that he had “reservations” about denying the third-place vote-getter from serving as mayor.



NOTICE OF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The City of Beverly Hills is seeking Technical and Professional Advisors for the Permanent October 7th Memorial Committee

DEADLINE TO APPLY:
FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025, AT 5:00PM

Term: One-year (minimum)

Qualified experts in memorial design and development are recommended to apply. These unpaid, volunteer positions will be appointed by the City Council.

For more information, please visit the City’s website at www.beverlyhills.org/applyforacommission or call the City Clerk’s Office at 310-285-2400.

Beverly Hills approves changes to development application process

■ New rules affect builder's remedy projects

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills City Council on Feb. 19 approved a resolution that reshapes the application process for certain development projects within the city. The city will no longer require general plan amendment and zoning amendment applications for builder's remedy projects with "previously submitted and valid preliminary applications," according to the resolution.

The builder's remedy is a state provision that allows private developers to bypass local code regulations when a project contains at least 20% affordable housing. The provision takes effect when a municipality's housing element – a state-mandated outline of zoning for affordable housing within the city – is out of compliance.

The goal of the builder's remedy is to incentivize the creation of affordable housing to address California's ongoing housing crisis. The builder's remedy falls under the state's Housing Accountability Act, which was passed in 1982 and significantly expanded in 2017.

The city of Beverly Hills' housing element for the 2021-29 cycle was out of compliance for approximately three years between 2021-24. The city received at least 16 builder's remedy applications during that time period.

On Jan. 1, 2025, Assembly Bill 1893 went into effect. The bill revised the state's Housing Accountability Act by mandating that builder's remedy projects "shall not be required to apply for, or receive approval of, a general plan amendment, specific plan amendment, rezoning or other legislative approval."

The bill prompted the city to alter

its policy on builder's remedy projects, as it had previously required both general plan and zoning amendment requests from such projects. An application for a project which is now at the center of a lawsuit against the city was initially deemed incomplete by city staff, partly on the basis that the developers did not submit a general plan or zoning amendment request. The ongoing lawsuits seeks a court order mandating that the city approve the development.

That project – a 19-story tower at 125-129 S. Linden Drive – was also at the center of a notice of violation sent to the city by the state's Department of Housing and Community Development. The state said that the city violated housing laws by deeming the application incomplete on the basis that the developer did not submit a general plan amendment or zoning change application. The department later sent a second notice of violation to the city, stating it broke housing laws by blocking nine additional builder's remedy projects from moving forward.

"Prior to Jan. 1, as the city and City Council has been confronting the builder's remedy applications that have been submitted, it hasn't been clear whether or not the city could require the amendments," Councilwoman Mary Wells said during the council meeting. "Now that we have clarity, I support this [resolution] and we'll be able to move forward with those said applications."

Mayor Lester Friedman said the resolution was the city's only option under state law.

"This is an item that was a wobbler. We weren't sure which way we would go and we took a more conservative approach to begin with," Friedman said. "When it became clearer that state law required that we do this, we did change gears. I think it's the prudent thing to do at

this point in time. We've researched this thoroughly and believe that we really have no other option."

The resolution passed in a 4-1 vote. Councilman John Mirisch voted against adopting the resolution.

"[I have] no comments except to say – as it will come as no surprise to anybody – I am not a fan of Sacramento," Mirisch said.

The city did not receive any public comments in support or opposition to the resolution.

Dave Rand, an attorney representing the project at 125-129 S. Linden Drive, said in an interview that Assembly Bill 1893 and the subsequent resolution by the city represented a "chink in the armor" for Beverly Hills' attempts to stop builder's remedy projects from moving forward.

"What we've seen is – due to large degree pressure from the state – the city is walking back a number of its legal positions that it firmly relied on in rejecting our appeal [to approve the project] on Linden," Rand said. "Presumably, the city was hoping to make those arguments in court. It's going to be challenging for them to do that at this point."

The next hearing in the lawsuit is scheduled for May 15.

While the city has stated that it has been engaged in settlement discussions with the developer, Rand said the lawsuit is advancing "full steam ahead."



rendering courtesy of Ottinger Architects

The resolution changes the way the city will process builder's remedy applications – which include a 19-story development at 125-129 S. Linden Drive.

Notable Quotes

"It has made me feel very, very humble and I shall always hold it as a beacon for anything I may be able to do in the future. I sincerely hope I shall always be a credit to my race and to the motion picture industry."

Hattie McDaniel (1893-1952)
February 29, 1940

"This moment is so much bigger than me. This moment is for Dorothy Dandridge, Lena Horne, Diahann Carroll. It's for the women that stand beside me – Jada Pinkett, Angela Bassett, Vivica Fox. And it's for every nameless, faceless woman of color that now has a chance because this door tonight has been opened. Thank you. I'm so honored. I'm so honored. And I thank the Academy for choosing me to be the vessel for which His blessing might flow."

Halle Berry (b. 1966)
March 24, 2002

"Ladies, don't let anybody tell you are ever past your prime. Never give up."

Michelle Yeoh (b. 1962)
March 12, 2023

McDaniel, Berry and Yeoh each broke Oscar history, which they acknowledged in their respective speeches. McDaniel and Berry were the first Black actors to win in their respective categories (Best Supporting Actress and Best Actress) and Yeoh was the first Asian to win Best Actress.

*source: oscars.org.



NOTICE OF COMMISSION VACANCIES

***Architectural and Design Review Commission - One Vacancy**
(Term begins: July 1, 2025)

Cultural Heritage Commission - One Vacancy
(Term begins: January 1, 2026)

Traffic and Parking Commission - One Vacancy
(Term begins: July 1, 2025)

Public Works Commission - Two Vacancies
(Terms begin: July 1, 2025 and January 1, 2026)

(*Architectural and Design Review Commission: position must be filled by a landscape architect, Beverly Hills residency not required for this vacancy.)

DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR THE ABOVE COMMISSION IS ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2025 AT 5:00 P.M.

For more information on the Commission position and obtain an application online, please visit the City's website at www.beverlyhills.org/applyforacommission or call the City Clerk's Office at (310) 285-2400 to obtain the application form by mail or e-mail. Selected applicants will be required to complete a background check.

Huma Ahmed

City Clerk

WeHo’s Beaches Tropicana hosts blood drive

■ Event highlights progress in former FDA restrictions

BY RANCE COLLINS

Just two years ago, the Food and Drug Administration lifted its life-time ban on gay and bisexual men from donating blood. The restriction went into effect in 1983, as the HIV/AIDS epidemic was beginning to peak throughout the community. Even until 2023, screening questions included prompts requesting a person’s sexual orientation.

Now, the forums leave orientation out of the equation, asking instead questions regarding sexual contact within three months. While some restrictions remain in place – specifically related to new sexual partners and the number of sexual partners – it is now unilateral for all people, not just gay and bisexual men. The three-month window correlates with the maximum window it typically takes a person to test positive for HIV.

On Feb. 21, Beaches Tropicana broke new ground by partnering with UCLA Blood & Platelet Center and the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce to host a blood drive, in the center of West Hollywood’s famed Rainbow District.

“Beaches Tropicana aims to be more than just an entertainment center in WeHo,” managing partner Jacob Shaw said. “We want to be a place where our community can come together. Being part of this blood drive is important to us and we are thrilled to help in any way we can.”

“The UCLA Blood & Platelet Center is thrilled to be in the heart of West Hollywood at Beaches Tropicana to join forces with the LGBTQ+ community while helping the greater Los Angeles blood supply,” director of the center Eric M. DeCair said.

Dozens showed up to donate, which UCLA said would impact 36 lives.

“Our community always steps up to help our neighbors and is always willing to go the extra mile for the greater good,” Mayor Chelsea Byers said.

UCLA Blood & Platelet Center

WeHo Chamber annual meeting set for March 6

The West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce announced the annual member meeting and board installation, scheduled for Thursday, March 6, from 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m. at the Andaz West Hollywood. The event celebrates leadership, innovation and dedication within West Hollywood’s vibrant business community.

The annual meeting is one of WHCC’s cornerstone annual events, alongside other key fundraisers that collectively raise over \$250,000 in support of the chamber’s mission. The breakfast meeting brings together members, business leaders and community stakeholders to review the past year, unveil its upcoming program of work, celebrate five significant chamber members for their outstanding contributions to the community and formally install its 2025 board of directors.

For event registration and sponsorships, contact Genevieve Morrill at gmorrill@wehochamber.com or (323)650-2688. Visit wehochamber.com. The Andaz West Hollywood is located at 8401 Sunset Blvd.

community liaison Terri Hill said that it was a important step forward to have severed the ban.

“It is very positive to release the restrictions from such a diverse group of people that shouldn’t and wouldn’t have the same lifestyles that would be of concern [except] for the one fact that they are all homosexual men. The new guidelines also follow the most recent science of testing timelines for HIV. The new guidelines also are inclusive of all donors whether they be male or female to answer the same questions, opening up to the possibility of a female being restricted for the same reason a homosexual male might be. This actually means that

the screening of the blood will be even safer,” Hill said.

She added that having a blood drive in the Rainbow District helps to shine a spotlight on the updated guidelines.

“We are thrilled to be able to spread the information about the new guidelines for blood donation to be more inclusive of communities such as the gay community to be able to donate again. Especially, here in our backyard, so to speak, in West Hollywood. The new guidelines also allow Europeans to donate, who were previously restricted because of mad cow disease and we had two tourists visiting from England and Poland that stopped to donate,” Hill said.



Beaches Tropicana welcomed UCLA Blood & Platelet staff on Feb. 21. photo courtesy of Beaches Tropicana

Mardi Gras 2025

AT THE ORIGINAL FARMERS MARKET

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

MUTTI GRAS PET PARADE & COSTUME CONTEST	12 - 1 PM	PLAZA
BEAR BRASS BAND	12 - 3 PM	STROLLING
GUMBO POT BEIGNET TENT	12 - 4 PM	PLAZA
LA LOVE & LEASHES DOG ADOPTION	12 - 4 PM	PLAZA
TORRÉNCÉ BRANNON & HIS EVERYTHING WITH SOUL BAND	2 - 4 PM	WEST PATIO
NERVIS BROS	6 - 8 PM	WEST PATIO

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

ALLUMNUS BRASS BRAND	12 - 2:30 PM	STROLLING
CROWN DECORATING WITH THE ENTERTAINMENT GROUP	12 - 3 PM	PLAZA
GUMBO POT BEIGNET TENT	12 - 4 PM	PLAZA
BRASS BROTHERS SHOW BAND	2 - 4 PM	WEST PATIO
ALLIGATOR BEACH	5 - 7 PM	WEST PATIO

FAT TUESDAY, MARCH 4

NERVIS BROS	6 - 8:30 PM	WEST PATIO
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Hollywood readies for 97th Oscars

■ Ceremony comes just two months after fires

BY RANCE COLLINS

Will it be “Conclave” or “Anora?” Demi Moore or Mikey Madison? Adrien Brody or Timothée Chalamet? These are questions that will be answered in just three days, on March 2, at the Dolby Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard. Each year, the stars descend on moviedom’s capital city for a night of glitz, glamour and surprises, and it’s the ultimate entertainment celebration. This year, the event takes on special meaning, as the evening serves as a large-scale celebration of the Los Angeles spirit in the wake of the January wildfires.

On Feb. 26, the Dolby Theatre was deep in preparation mode, with tents blocking a large swath of Hollywood Boulevard. For those who managed to steal a glance through the temporary chain-link fences a giant red carpet could be spotted – covered, of course, with plastic. Can’t get the pre-show’s most famous accessory smudged before the big day.

Each ceremony since 2002 – the 74th annual – has been held at the Dolby, just down the street from the site of the first awards, the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. In 1929, though, it was just a small banquet held in the Blossom Room, over in 15 minutes.

“It was an intimate affair with just 270 guests, a stark contrast to today’s grand-scale production,” the hotel said in a statement. “The Roosevelt remains a key part of Oscar history, and we take great pride in preserving that legacy. Every year, we continue to be a gathering place for industry insiders, filmmakers and fans who want to connect with Hollywood’s past while celebrating its future.”

The Roosevelt will indeed have an Oscar party this year, a block away from the main show.

Tickets, priced at \$350, can be purchased by visiting thehollywoodroosevelt.com/events/los-angeles/the-97th-oscars-viewing-party.

The 1929 ceremony honored films released between 1927-28, and the silent film “Wings” took home the first Best Picture honor. Ninety-five movies have since joined its place in history, and the 97th will add its name alongside the others in the grand entrance hall of the Dolby complex. Among the titles listed there is 1999’s “American Beauty,” which was produced by Bruce Cohen and Dan Jinks.

“It was almost an out of body experience – from being picked up in the limo, the red carpet, my seats in the theater, Clint Eastwood announcing my name, the parties afterwards,” Jinks said in an interview with the Beverly Press. “The whole thing was just an experience I never expected to have in this lifetime. And I felt so honored and grateful that I got to have it.”

He remembered most the moment immediately after his film was announced as Best Picture.

“I specifically remember as I was walking up on stage to accept the Oscar looking down at my feet – the stairs were lit – and I remember thinking, ‘My God, I’m walking up on stage to accept the Academy Award. I have got to remember this moment.’ And when I went back and watched the tape later on, that was just a split second that I looked down, but I will always remember that. I took the moment to remember what a big deal that moment was,” Jinks said.

He was unwilling to divulge his ballot, citing the Academy’s strict rules on keeping the secret ballots ... well, secret. Jinks will be watching at a friend’s annual gathering. This sense of community, he noted, is especially important following

the wildfires. “Los Angeles is, of course, a company town in the way that Washington, D.C. is a company town, and certainly San Francisco has sort of become a company town with Silicon Valley. Los Angeles is about film and television, and those industries really dominate the whole culture here. Frankly, the Academy Awards is the biggest night that Hollywood has. I think there’s a lot of significance to that show coming at this time when, when the whole L.A. community is still feeling very fragile from the fires.”

Appropriately, the Los Angeles Master Chorale will help celebrate the city in a special segment. Other performers include Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande, who are speculated to be opening the ceremony with a “Wicked” medley.

Additional Oscar parties will be hosted all throughout town, including at the Academy Museum – which has sold out of tickets, but is still accepting reservations at Fanny’s Restaurant. For information, visit academymuseum.org. Vanity Fair’s after party will grace the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills. Elton John’s traditional gala will once again take over West Hollywood Park, and Vice Mayor John Heilman said he was looking forward to attending the festivities.

“The organization does amazing work supporting organizations around the world, often times working with very vulnerable populations who are living with HIV/AIDS or who are at risk of contracting the disease,” Heilman said. “Having these types of events in West Hollywood helps promote the city and drive revenue for our hotels and other businesses. I’m excited to attend the after party.”

But whether or not one is attending a party, the ceremony will air, per usual, on ABC. For the first time ever, it will also stream live on Hulu. The red carpet pre-show starts at 3:30 p.m. Host Conan O’Brien will kick off the ceremony at 4 p.m.

For all the latest, visit oscars.org.



photo by Rance Collins

Preparations are underway in Hollywood for the March 2 Academy Awards ceremony.



The Disappearing Family Vet: The Quiet Takeover of Veterinary Medicine

If you’ve been taking your pet to the same vet clinic for years, you might assume it’s still independently owned. But behind the scenes, many veterinary clinics are quietly being bought by corporations, keeping the same name while shifting decision-making to corporate offices – often in another state.

Signs Your Clinic Has Gone Corporate

Corporate transitions aren’t always obvious. Many newly acquired clinics try to keep the change quiet. Often, the former-owner vet stays for a transition period but becomes less available. Other signs include a rotating lineup of unfamiliar vets, pricing hikes, increased mandatory diagnostics, or pressure to purchase wellness plans.

Why a Consistent Vet Matters

Good veterinary care is harder without consistency. Many clients have told me: “I loved my old vet, but they left, and now I never see the same doctor twice.” A vet who knows your pet’s history can make better decisions. Medicine isn’t just about lab results – it’s about noticing small changes and remembering past reactions to treatments.

What Pet Owners Can Do

Ask who owns your clinic. Knowing how decisions are made matters. Find a clinic with stable staff. A consistent vet ensures continuity of care. Support independent practices. Many vets leave corporate hospitals to focus on patient care. Trust your instincts. If something feels off, seek a second opinion. Your pet benefits from a veterinarian who truly knows them – someone who provides personalized care based on their unique needs.

About Dr. Ezra Ameis

Dr. Ezra Ameis has been a veterinarian for over a decade, specializing in Emergency and Urgent Care medicine. He independently owns Paw Priority in West Hollywood, which provides general practice, urgent care, and acupuncture.



8020 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90046
(310) 776-5544 • www.pawpriority.vet

Deadline to apply for FEMA and SBA disaster relief is March 10

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is reminding homeowners, renters and business owners who suffered property damage in the January wildfires that the deadline to apply for FEMA disaster assistance and U.S. Small Business Administration low-interest disaster loans is Monday, March 10.

The deadline will not impact applications that have already been started.

To apply for FEMA Individual Assistance, visit disasterassistance.gov or call the FEMA Helpline at (800)621-3362. The helpline is open Sunday-Saturday from 4 a.m.-10 p.m. Individuals can also file for federal disaster

relief at the Disaster Recovery Center at UCLA Research Park, 10850 W Pico Blvd.

To apply for an SBA low-interest disaster loan, visit sba.gov/disaster or call (800)659-2955. The SBA also offers online help with submitting applications.

For information, visit appointment.sba.gov.

Toyota of Hollywood celebrates grand opening at new location

After 67 years on Hollywood Boulevard, Toyota of Hollywood has relocated to 6920 Sunset Blvd. A ribbon cutting with the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce was held at the dealership on Feb. 12. Participants toured the new facility, which includes a 10-car showroom and 26 new service bays. Mike Sullivan and the Sullivan family, of LACarGUY, owners of Toyota of Hollywood, were joined at the new location by Toyota regional executives.

“We are excited to welcome you to our fresh new space, packed with even more deals and top-notch service. Feels good to be officially home. Thanks to the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, Toyota Social and everyone who came to make this day so special,” the owners said.

For information, visit hollywoodtoyota.com.



photo courtesy of Toyota of Hollywood

An opening ceremony with tours of the new dealership at 6920 Sunset Blvd. was held on Feb. 12.

Sondheim takes the spotlight at the Ahmanson

BY RANCE COLLINS

Stephen Sondheim is perhaps the single most important influence on modern musical theater. Richard Rogers, Oscar Hammerstein, Leonard Bernstein, Arthur Laurents and Andrew Lloyd Webber may have opinions on that statement, but it is tough to deny that his shows have shaped the entire idea of what we expect out of a musical.

So, just three-ish years after his death, “Old Friends” makes sense. It is, in essence, a revue, featuring a vast collection of his most popular tunes from his most popular shows. Appropriately, two legitimate Broadway legends head the cast, Bernadette Peters and Lea Salonga.

Non-theater folk are even familiar with these divas. Peters and her signature pout have graced film and television screens for years, with her appearance in “The Jerk” being of particular note. Salonga’s soothing tambor is likely familiar to audiences young and old – she was, after all, the singing voice of both Jasmine and Mulan. Both have Tonys, of course.

Sondheim died in November 2021, just as “Old Friends” was being assembled. The revue transitioned into something more of a tribute, and it performed on the West End, first as a one-night-only affair in May 2022, and then with a 16-week run in 2023. It was during that extended run that Peters and

Salonga stepped into the spotlight, and now it’s Broadway-bound – set to premiere next month. But first stop, the Ahmanson for a trial run.

There is nary a Sondheim favorite neglected in the two-and-a-half-hour runtime (with intermission). The big hits are all present, including “Somewhere” from “West Side Story,” “Children Will Listen” from “Into the Woods” and “Everything’s Coming Up Roses” from “Gypsy.” True musical theater aficionados will appreciate the nods to “Sunday in the Park With George,” “A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum,” “Sweeney Todd” and “Company.” The title comes from a song in “Merrily We Roll Along,” a



photo by Matthew Murphy

Bernadette Peters and Lea Salonga headline “Old Friends.”

musical derided upon its 1981 premiere that found recent success in a 2023 revival.

It is presented largely in sections, with performances featuring costumes and sets that mirror the plays from which the songs originated – almost like a mini-version of the shows themselves.

So to call it a play seems to be inaccurate. It is a concert, and one’s love of the genre is a big determining factor in how much enjoyment is derived from the proceedings. If you aren’t into musicals, this probably isn’t for you.

If you are, you get a couple of Broadway powerhouses matched alongside seasoned theatrical pros belting out some of the greatest showtunes of all time. It cannot be understated how much megawatt talent there is here, and I wish I could name them all. But I do have to say ... the hilarious Beth Leavel has my heart and she is now my obsession. Her “The Ladies Who

Long” rendition (from “Company”) is something I’d be happy to watch on repeat in perpetuity. And I also like ... Jacob Dickey, Jasmine Forsberg, Kate Jennings Grant, Bonnie Langford, Gavin Lee, Jason Pennycooke, Joanna Riding, Jeremy Secomb, Kyle Selig, Maria Wirries, Daniel Yearwood, Kevin Earley, Paige Fauer, Alex Lopez, Peter Neureuther ... oops, I named them all after all.

For me, it was a lot of fun – and I walked away humming “Losing My Mind,” which could also characterize my general mental state, but damnit if that song isn’t incredible. And Peters singing it? C’mon.

If you’re into Sondheim, make sure you head to the Ahmanson before March 9, when the show closes and becomes a “Broadway Baby.”

For tickets and information, visit centertheatregroup.org. The Ahmanson Theatre is located at 136 N. Grand Ave.

Jane Fonda to host Wallis wildfire benefit

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts will hold “The Wallis Delivers: A Benefit Evening to Support Wildfire



photo by L'Oreal

Los Angeles native Jane Fonda is known for activism.

Recovery” on Wednesday, April 30, at The Wallis, beginning at 6 p.m. Actor, producer, author and activist Jane Fonda will serve as host.

“The recent Los Angeles wildfires ravaged far too many of our communities, neighborhoods and homes, but they could not dim our hearts,” philanthropist Wallis Annenberg said. “The outpouring of help and support has been truly extraordinary, and a lot more is needed. That’s why we are dedicating this special evening to helping Los Angeles rise from the ashes of the Eaton and Palisades fires. Inspired by its history as a neighborhood post office, The Wallis was created to be a gathering place

where people from throughout Los Angeles could come together, and work together, around the arts. This year, we are coming together, and working together, for those who need it most.”

“Contributing to the civic and cultural life of Greater Los Angeles is an essential component of The Wallis’ mission,” Robert van Leer, executive director and CEO of The Wallis, said. “We are committed to using our unique resources as a community and arts center to support Los Angeles as it rebuilds itself. Through the arts, we can share hope for a path to better times ahead.”

For information and tickets, visit thewallis.org.



Save the Date

The Beverly Hills City Council Invites You To The Installation of

MAYOR SHARONA R. NAZARIAN

&

Vice Mayors John A. Mirisch & Craig A. Corman

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025 · 7 PM

Wallis Annenberg Center For The Performing Arts

Details To Follow

Full closure of Wilshire planned in mid-March in Beverly Hills

Metro is working on the D Line subway extension project from Wilshire/Western to the Westwood/VA Hospital station, with work occurring at street level at many locations along the route.

The construction requires an upcoming three-week full closure of Wilshire Boulevard in Beverly Hills beginning on March 17 to complete deck removal, street restoration and water service line restoration. Wilshire Boulevard will be closed from just west of Crescent Drive to a point just east of El Camino Drive. Pedestrian access will be maintained along Wilshire Boulevard and South Cañon, Beverly and Reeves drives. All commercial property driveways adjacent to the closure area will also be accessible. Bus stops along Wilshire Boulevard will be relocated, with further information on specific sites provided prior to the closure. Detour routes include Century Park East and Robertson, Olympic

and Santa Monica boulevards.

Street restoration work is ongoing at many other locations along the route including the Wilshire/La Brea, Wilshire/Fairfax and Wilshire/La Cienega stations. Through March, lanes will be closed along Wilshire Boulevard between Sycamore Avenue and Detroit Street, and on La Brea Avenue between Sixth and Eighth streets. 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.

At the Wilshire/Fairfax station, a K-rail work zone is located in the middle lanes of Wilshire Boulevard between Fairfax and Spaulding avenues. Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction near the intersection through March. Crosswalks along Wilshire Boulevard will be maintained at

Spaulding Avenue, Ogden Drive and Fairfax Avenue. Farther west, a K-rail work zone is in place in the center of the Wilshire/La Jolla intersection.

Work is winding down at the Gale Drive staging yard near the Wilshire/La Cienega station. Demobilization work within the staging yard is anticipated to continue through March 17. A K-rail work zone remains in place 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. Work is ongoing in March at the construction yard on the northeast corner of Wilshire/La Cienega.

At the Wilshire/Rodeo station, deck removal preparation work has begun along Wilshire Boulevard in advance of the March 17 three-week full closure. A full closure of South Reeves Drive from Wilshire Boulevard to an alley just south of the boulevard is also being implemented to support the removal of the temporary decking system, station entrance structure construction and street restoration on South



photo by Edwin Folven

Work at the Gale Drive staging yard near the Wilshire/La Cienega station is expected to continue through March 17.

Reeves Drive. The work is expected to last approximately six weeks.

Father west, lane closures are in place near the Century City/Constellation station. Work is ongoing underground and in the staging yard for the new station. Concrete placement is substantially complete. Eastbound and west-

bound vehicle access on Constellation Boulevard is open between Century Park West 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.

Allen introduces Right to Clean Water Act

California Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) introduced the Right to Clean Water Act, Senate Bill 601, to safeguard California’s water systems by enshrining into state law previous federal protections offered by the federal Clean Water Act.

“The challenges presented by ever-changing federal policy requires California to step up and fill the void that is left when priorities become misaligned,” Allen said. “The federal Clean Water Act,

punched by the Supreme Court less than two years ago, provided important protections for many waters throughout California. Now more than ever, we must take action to protect vulnerable ecosystems so they may thrive long into the future.”

The 2023 United States Supreme Court Sackett v. EPA decision stripped away federal Clean Water Act protections that regulated discharge pollution and quality standards for many streams and wet-

lands. The delicate water systems serve a vital role in providing clean water to communities, fostering highly productive ecosystems and providing natural carbon sequestration benefits to aid in climate change mitigation efforts.

SB 601 will re-establish previous federal protections for California wetlands, streams and drinking water by establishing permitting requirements that defend against discharge pollutants from business operations and construction.

Standards established by the permits will meet or exceed federal protections provided during the Biden administration.

“The persistent undermining of federal protections for clean water leaves California streams and wetlands vulnerable to pollution and mismanagement,” said Ashley Overhouse, water policy advisor for the conservation non-profit Defenders of Wildlife.

SB 601 will be referred to a policy committee in the coming weeks.

For information, visit sd24.senate.ca.gov.

Establishing a Family Trust

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

The Kramer Law Group offers clients the peace of mind that comes from knowing families will be taken care of and shielded from unnecessary expenses and probate administration.

Trusts are personalized and can be created to address your unique needs. Whether you own your home and want to avoid probate fees and other costs, or you’re interested in placing assets such as investments into a trust, The Kramer Law Group will endeavor to partner with you to help ensure that your assets are ultimately distributed according to your wishes.

Call us for a courtesy consultation to learn more about the benefits of creating a trust and determine whether it’s the right choice for you and your family.

THE KRAMER LAW GROUP
Stephen W. Kramer
5757 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 535
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(323)964-7100

FireAid grants benefit local organizations

As a result of overwhelming support from around the world for the FireAid benefit concert, an estimated \$100 million has been raised, including \$50 million that was distributed on Feb. 18 through a first set of grants.

The initial phase prioritized community-based organizations on the front lines of wildfire relief. Selected organizations have the infrastructure, experience and relationships to efficiently and equitably deliver

assistance to fire-impacted individuals. Each of the recipients received \$100,000 or more.

Grant recipients in the local area include the Hollywood Food Coalition, Project Angel Food, Bet Tzedek, Westside Food Bank, Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, Jewish Free Loan Association, Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, St. Vincent Meals on Wheels, L.A. Conservation Corps, L.A. County Household Relief

Fund, Didi Hirsch and the L.A. Arts Community Fire Relief Fund.

Grants have been allocated to support displaced residents, workers, small business owners and first responders, with a focus on essential services, food assistance, child-care support, critical health care resources, housing support, rental relief, student assistance programs and navigation services to ensure victims can access legal resources and government benefits. For a full

list of recipients, visit fireaidla.org/grants.

The first phase of funds will be fully distributed by the end of February. Phase two of the program will focus on additional relief needs including sustaining long-term recovery, remediation and rebuilding, and addressing environmental issues. FireAid has established a program to issue smaller grants from \$10,000-\$50,000 that are available to community-based organizations.

For information and to apply for a grant, visit fireaidla.org.

Letters to the Editor

More input received on column about scratched Porsche

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

A neighborhood didn’t come together – a teen just got caught.

Several years ago, I returned to my parked classic 1982 Porsche 911 and found a note on the windshield. Since people often leave messages asking if I’d sell the car, I absent-mindedly stuffed it in my pocket. Later, at a stoplight, I pulled it out and realized it wasn’t an offer – it was an apology. Someone had hit my car and, without hesitation, left their name, phone number, email and insurance information. They took full responsibility and covered the repairs. No detective work, no community rallying, just simple accountability.

So when I read the recent story about Nancy Silverton’s Porsche getting scratched and how it mirac-

ulously “brought a neighborhood together,” I couldn’t help but see a different reality. The extensive sleuthing, security footage review and LAPD contacts weren’t uncovering a selfless act of honesty – they were tracking down someone who never intended to leave a note. A teenager got caught red-handed, and only then did remorse follow.

The real takeaway here isn’t a feel-good tale of neighbors bonding over pizza – it’s that integrity is what you do when no one is watching. In this case, it took cameras, door-knocking and a detective-level investigation to get what should have been there in the first place: a note on the windshield.

Dylan Paul
Los Angeles

Re “Column about scratched Porsche misses mark,” Letters to the Editor, Jan. 13 issue, and “The \$700 scratch that united a neighborhood,” Jan. 2 issue

It’s a rather telling defense to call the piece “tongue in cheek” – how remarkable that I missed that. It certainly is incredible that someone would go to such lengths to find the culprit of a minor car scratch as the basis for a “tongue in cheek” story. I wonder how many residents had a giggle about it. The rich and entitled lead such droll lives, don’t they? And yet, they still know how to rub shoulders with auto mechanics (tongue in cheek).

Unlike your reporter, I actually don’t need the excuse of a scratched luxury car in order to get to know my neighbors. I can’t wait to read more of his sleuthing in the guise of meeting his neighbors.

Bertrand Pellegrin
Los Angeles

Trader Vic’s article was a trip down memory lane

Re “The return of Trader Vic’s,” Dec. 26 issue

I handled all printing for Trader Vic’s in London [from] 1969 to 1973, with Jacky Laugenie as manager. We had a wonderful relationship. Sadly, when he left, standards fell and eventually the place closed.

On occasions when I dined there, I had Peter Sellers at the next table, the entire Chaplin family celebrating the old boy’s birthday, and once with [actor and director] Peter Ustinov sitting by my side enjoying Hawaiian ice cream. I have the full set of menus as a memento.

Did you know that when Queen Elizabeth II of England and the Duke of Edinburgh visited President Reagan, he took them to dine at Trader Vic’s in San Francisco? The queen, much to my delight, ordered my regular meal at Trader Vic’s in London: Indonesian lamb roast and Hawaiian ice cream.

Martin Gordon
Cork, Ireland

RESTAURANT NEWS

Sushi Roku blazes trails by the ocean

At Sushi Roku, contemporary and traditional sushi meets the trailblazing brand's innovative, California-style menu. Diners can treat themselves to fresh fish including the salmon truffle carpaccio, baked cod and the Gensai roll (cucumber, jalapeño, avocado, topped with salmon and kizami wasabi, rice cracker and yuzu olive oil). For information, visit sushi-roku.com or call (310)458-4771.

New brunch discounts launch at WeHo Breakfast Republic

Breakfast Republic is launching happy hour offerings exclusive to its West Hollywood location. Available Monday through Friday

from 7-10 a.m., breakfast fans are invited to indulge in \$3 off alcoholic beverages, excluding full bottles of Prosecco and Brut. Indulge in morning time libations like the Big Boozy Brew Shot, Michelada, Morning Mule, Jurassic Bloody Mary and Lychee Mimosa. Breakfast Republic is located at 7141 Santa Monica Blvd. For information, visit breakfastrepublic.com or call (310)774-0210.

Cesare delivers health-conscious pizza

When living in Milan, the husband-wife duo behind Cesare Ristorante noticed all of the fashion models were eating pizza on a daily basis and wondered how they stayed so slim. It turns out they were eating Pinse, an ancient Roman dough made of 80% water, a unique blend of healthy flours, extra virgin olive oil, sourdough

Farmers Market opens French-inspired SAVTA

SAVTA, a new sit-down restaurant nestled in the heart of the Original Farmers Market, is now open. The inviting space blends California comfort with French sophistication, offering a warm and welcoming atmosphere perfect for any occasion – from a casual lunch to a cozy dinner. Guests can indulge in innovative dishes made from locally sourced ingredients, including veggie-forward options prepared in a charcoal grill oven and creative takes like pizza dough sandwiches. Located on a corner of the Farmers Market, SAVTA's unique fusion of flavors and relaxed vibe make it the perfect escape from shopping and the bustle of the city.

Founder and food entrepreneur Vincent Benoliel is no stranger to the Farmers Market, with well-established local favorites like Pasta Corner,



photo courtesy of SAVTA and The Original Farmers Market

SAVTA's French flavor brings a unique taste to the Original Farmers Market.

Micheline Bakery, The French Crepes and soon Sora Temaki Bar. With its established reputation in New York City, SAVTA is positioned to bring this celebrated concept to Los Angeles rooted in his

family's French culinary heritage.

For information, visit farmers-marketla.com/merchants/savta or call (323)287-5555. The Original Farmers Market is located at 6333 W. Third St.



This Week's Specials
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and salt. The ingredients, plus a 72-hour cold fermentation process and a stone-bake at 650 degrees results in a crisp exterior and a soft, cloud-like interior that is easily digestible, low calorie and low fat.

Cesare Ristorante has brought Milan's best-kept-secret to Los Angeles, offering Pinse in four different varieties: margherita, prosciutto and bufala mozzarella, pear and French brie, and salame. A perfect appetizer before devouring bolognese, a whole branzino and a bottle of super-Tuscan.

For information, visit cesareristorante.com or call (310)273-3605. Cesare Ristorante is located at 8636 W. Third St.

This Oscar Sunday, the winner is 33 Taps

The 97th Academy Awards are just around the corner, and 33 Taps West Hollywood is the place to be for an unforgettable Oscars watch party. On Sunday, March 2, 33 Taps will be rolling out the red-carpet at its West Hollywood loca-

tion, and it is encouraging guests to dress up in their best outfits as if they are attending the award show themselves. Additionally, all locations (Culver City, Silver Lake and Downtown Los Angeles) will be tuning in to the big night, offering good eats, drinks and views of the show. All locations' parties start at 3:30 p.m. 33 Taps is located at 8941 Santa Monica Blvd. in West Hollywood, 9739 Culver Blvd. in Culver City, 3725 W. Sunset Blvd. in Silver Lake and 1240 S. Figueroa St. in Downtown L.A. For information, visit eatdrink33.com.

Marina del Rey pairs with Oak Ridge for Women in Wine

Celebrate Women in Wine with Oak Ridge Winery at Marina del Rey Hotel on Thursday, March 20. Experience the rich heritage of Oak Ridge, Lodi's oldest continuously operating winery, at the hotel's exclusive tasting event. Formerly the historic East-Side Winery, Oak Ridge blends tradition with innovation, reflecting its deep

See page 16

Murillo crafts new cocktails at A.O.C.

A.O.C. has debuted a new cocktail menu crafted by Ignacio Murillo to welcome the changing winter produce and cooler temperatures. In addition to the full bar of premium and classic cocktails, the specialty drinks at both Third Street and Brentwood locations include Clementine Fizz with gin, tangerine, carrot and orange bitters; Sanguinario with mezcal, tequila, blood orange, chili and tamarind; Comice Sour with bourbon, spiced pear, lemon and toasted walnut; Killer Bee with Toki whisky, orange, beets, ginger and honey; and Camote Espresso Martini with aged rum, Pisco, sweet potato and espresso. In addition, A.O.C.'s signatures, the Kingbird and Green Goddess, are ideal for every season.

From his early days as a busser at the original A.O.C. at Third Street and Crescent Heights Boulevard, Murillo always went the extra mile and immersed himself in the A.O.C. ways. He came



photo by Suzanne Lanza

Fresh cocktails are being stirred up at both the Third Street and Brentwood A.O.C. locations.

to every wine and cheese tasting, dedicated to being the best he could be and made himself a key member of the A.O.C. family. Eventually, he moved to the bartender position, where he honed his cocktail-making skills, developing an incredible palate and a magical talent for layering flavors and textures. Murillo is now taking center stage, running

A.O.C.'s bar program featuring seasonally motivated cocktails created to pair with chef Suzanne Goin's market menu offerings. Cocktails are priced at \$18-24 and are available now and continue through the season.

A.O.C. is located at 8700 Third St. and 11648 San Vicente Blvd. For information, visit aocwinebar.com.

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BLUE PLATE #2
HOT CAKES SANDWICH
Two hot cakes, one egg bacon or turkey links. **21.95**

BLUE PLATE #3
FRENCH TOAST SHORT ORDER
With bacon or turkey links. **21.95**

BLUE PLATE #4
THE AMERICAN BREAKFAST
PLATE COMPLETE BREAKFAST
One egg, two bacon or turkey links, golden hash browns and toast with jam. Includes fresh squeezed orange juice. **21.95**

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Beverly Hills welcomes Florentine sandwich shop

All’Antico Vinaio, the famed Florentine sandwich shop celebrated worldwide for its authentic Tuscan flavors and bespoke sandwiches, is set to open its third and flagship location in Los Angeles in the heart of Beverly Hills on March 5. The highly anticipated opening brings the beloved sandwich shop to the heart of one of Los Angeles’ most vibrant neighborhoods, joining their current locations in Venice and Koreatown to offer a taste in every area of the city.

Known for its signature schiacciata bread, which is made fresh in-house daily, and the use of premium Italian ingredients, all’Antico Vinaio delivers an unparalleled sandwich experience. Every sandwich is a masterpiece of authentic

Italian flavors, from creamy Pecorino and truffle spreads to savory Prosciutto Toscano and artichoke cream.

Since its founding in Florence in 1991 by the Mazzanti family, all’Antico Vinaio has become a global phenomenon.

“Opening a location in Beverly Hills is a dream come true,” said Tommaso “Tommy” Mazzanti, the family’s second-generation restaurateur. “Bringing the authentic flavors of Florence to Los Angeles, while making everything fresh daily in-house, is what makes us unique. We can’t wait to welcome our new community to experience all’Antico Vinaio.”

The Beverly Hills location marks the latest milestone in all’Antico

Vinaio’s rapid U.S. expansion, joining its existing locations in Venice Beach, Koreatown, New York and Las Vegas. Visitors can expect a menu of celebrated classics, including: La Favolosa, La Schiacciata Del Boss and La Toscana, with special offerings found only at the Beverly Hills flagship location.

The grand opening will feature a ribbon-cutting ceremony with Tommy Mazzanti at 11 a.m and the first 100 guests in line will receive a complimentary sandwich of their choice, limited to one per person. All’Antico Vinaio Beverly Hills will be open daily from 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. For information, visit allanticovinaiousa.com. All’Antico Vinaio will be located at 419 N. Beverly Drive.



photo courtesy of All’ Antico Vinaio

All’Antico Vinaio has opened two other Los Angeles-area locations in Koreatown and Venice.

Culver Hotel launches new Hollywood-infused menu

In celebration of its 100th anniversary, The Culver Hotel is unveiling an exciting new menu that blends the glamour of Hollywood’s Golden Age with the innovative spirit of Los Angeles’ contemporary culinary scene.

Launching March 6, the reimagined menu brings a fresh take on classic dishes, elevating iconic staples with a distinctly Californian flair and tableside touches.

Highlights include American wagyu tartare, truffle and caviar deviled eggs, and shrimp cocktail with house-made brown butter saltines. The hotel’s beverage program continues the historic journey with creative twists on signature drinks, such as the Culver Martini, the Ruby Red Slipper and the whimsical Listen Glinda. A chic mahogany and brass cart adds a playful, elegant touch, offering

guests made-to-order cocktails from a selection of premium gins and vodkas.

Crafted under the leadership of Proper Hospitality’s executive culinary director Umit Kaygusuz, and executive chef Diana Khngikyan, the menu showcases locally sourced, seasonal ingredients while honoring the fundamentals of French culinary techniques to ensure every dish remains fresh, timeless and distinctive. A charcoal grill gives seabass a smoky finish, enhancing its delicate flavor and adding depth to every bite. Mushroom au poivre, prepared with homemade cashew cream, celebrates Los Angeles’ thriving vegan scene with an indulgent touch. Art Deco-inspired presentations pay homage to the hotel’s history while reflecting a modern aesthetic.

For information, culverhotel.com or call (310)558-9400. The Culver Hotel is located at 9400 Culver Blvd., Culver City.



photo courtesy of the Culver Hotel

The Culver Hotel first opened its doors in 1924.

From page 15

roots and legacy in each glass. Savor its exceptional wines and celebrate the founder’s three great granddaughters who now oversee the operations at Oak Ridge Winery. A general admission ticket includes Fiore di Maggio welcome spritz, pimento cheese dip paired with OZV rosé, shrimp and creamy grits paired with 3 Girls sauvignon blanc, and pecan pie served with East Side Crossing cabernet sauvignon.

For tickets, visit eventbrite.com/e/celebrate-women-in-wine-an-evening-with-oak-ridge-at-marina-del-rey-hotel-tickets-1095459150809?aff=odcleo-eventsincollection. The Marina Del Rey Hotel is located at 13534 Bali Way, Marina Del Rey.

cocktail spots to choose from, the initiative continues to showcase the diverse and unique experiences that make West Hollywood special. Participating eateries include Alfred Coffee, Barney’s Beanery, zpizza, Or Bar, BOA Steakhouse, La Boheme and Bottega Louie. For information and a full list of restaurants, visit eatdrinkweho.com.

The Grove sparkles with American Beauty wine

Caruso Signature Members are invited to enjoy a complimentary glass of sparkling wine while dining at American Beauty in celebration of the grand opening through Feb. 28. For information and to become a Caruso Signature Member, visit thegrovela.com/offers/complimentary-sparkling-wine-at-american-beauty. American Beauty is located at The Grove, 189 The Grove Drive.

BOA keeps Santa Monica elegant

Dine with elegance at Santa Monica’s BOA Steakhouse, where diners can indulge in favorites like shrimp scampi, Gundagai lamb lollipops and lobster fra diavolo. Plus, take sips from BOA’s beautiful cocktails, including the Blackberry Smash, Fire &

Smoke and Bee Blossom. For information, visit boasteak.com/locations/santa-monica or call (310)899-4466. BOA Steakhouse is located at 101 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica.

Katana adds Japanese flare to WeHo

West Hollywood is packed with great restaurants, and Katana offers something unique right on the Sunset Strip – an authentic Japanese robata experience. Robata or robatayaki is “cooking with an open flame” using Binchotan charcoal, a special Japanese charcoal from the seaside village of Wakayama.

Beyond robatayaki, Katana offers stunning panoramic views of the Strip, a buzzy atmosphere, a menu featuring sushi/sashimi, an izakaya feast and a wide selection of specialty cocktails. Menu highlights include Saikyo Yaki skewers, a miso marinated black cod, Yellowtail Serrano with yellowtail sashimi, garlic ponzu, serrano peppers, Toro sushi featuring bluefin tuna belly, kizami wasabi, tosa shoyu and Tuna Jalapeno roll with spicy tuna, avocado, topped with tuna, crispy onions, cilantro, jalapeños and yuzu olive oil.

For information, visit katanarobata.com or call (323)650-8585. Katana is located at 8439 W. Sunset Blvd.

Chamber puts the spotlight on WeHo restaurants

The quintessential dining event of the year is back and bigger than ever. For the entire month of March, the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce invites guests to pull up a seat at any WeHo table, enjoy a meal and come together with the community for Eat + Drink West Hollywood. Every seated reservation at any West Hollywood restaurant supports L.A.’s food and beverage workers affected by the recent wildfires. With hundreds of culinary and

NOTICE TO BIDDERS Construction of WATER MAIN REPLACEMENTS – VARIOUS LOCATIONS Within the City of BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA

City of Beverly Hills (City), California invites electronic bids for the **WATER MAIN REPLACEMENTS – VARIOUS LOCATIONS** within the City of Beverly Hills, California. The City will receive such bids electronically via PlanetBids up to **2:00 p.m., on Thursday, March 27, 2025. Bid results** will be publicly released via PlanetBids.

Copies of the Plans and Specifications and may be inspected and downloaded from the City’s PlanetBids webpage: <https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/39493/bo/bo-detail/126208>

A virtual **NON-MANDATORY pre-bid meeting** to discuss the requirements of the Project will be held at **10:00 am on Thursday March 6, 2025** via Microsoft Teams. The meeting link will be posted on bid page for this project on PlanetBids.

PROJECT WORK LOCATIONS

- Hillcrest Drive** (from Carmelita Avenue to just north of Elevado Avenue).
- Alta Drive** (from Carmelita Avenue to Elevado Avenue).
- Sierra Drive** (from Carmelita Avenue to just north of Elevado Avenue).
- Oakhurst Drive** (from Carmelita Avenue to Elevado Avenue).
- Alley between Sierra Drive and Oakhurst Drive** (from Elevado Avenue to Cinthia Street).
- Elevado Avenue** (from Hillcrest Drive to Doheny Drive).

SCOPE OF THE WORK – The work to be done shall consist of furnishing all the required labor, materials, equipment, parts, implements and supplies necessary for, or appurtenant to, the construction and completion of the **Water Main Replacements – Various Locations** in accordance with Drawing No. 10428 and the specifications prepared for this project.

TIME FOR COMPLETION - The Contractor agrees to complete the entire work within **250 working days** from Notice to Proceed.

ENGINEER’S ESTIMATE - The preliminary cost of construction of this Work has been prepared and the said estimate is **\$7,100,000.00.**

CITY CONTACT – Any questions or requests for information can be directed to the Project Manager, **Tristan Malabanan, P.E.**, via PlanetBids.

CONTRACTORS LICENSE - In compliance with Public Contract Code Section 3300, the City has determined that the Bidder must possess the following license(s): **“Class A”**

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

Oscars prep: 'The Brutalist' prepares for the big day this Sunday

The Super Bowl of the movies is upon us. Pre-season games began with that less important excuse for a party, featuring several shocks and a few predictable moments. But a leading star's bigoted comments and rumors of A.I. might spell the end to top contenders' chances at Oscar gold.

As awards season began, "Emilia Perez," beloved by Hollywood insiders and reviled by most of the viewing public, seemed poised to go all the way. Then old, incredibly racist tweets by nominee Karla Sofía Gascón resurfaced. We're talking bigotry of all kinds that kept

her away from other awards shows. This early upset likely means losses across the board, with only a couple prospects across the film's (undeserved) 13 categories of consideration.

With that one out of the way, it looks like "Anora" and "The Brutalist" now face off for all the glory. We already know about "Anora," a heartfelt, raw story about a sex worker and a quickie wedding. The Academy might favor "The Brutalist" based solely on the premise. This one seems custom made for the big game.

Best actor nom Adrien Brody is

ON SCREEN

WITH
TIM POSADA

Laszlo, a Jewish immigrant from Hungary trying to get by in the mid-century. In Europe, he's a notable architect. Not so much stateside. His first big project doesn't pan out, but he catches the eye of Harrison Lee Van Buren (Guy Pearce, nominated for supporting actor), a stupid rich industrialist who wants to leave a legacy in the form of a community building. He believes Laszlo is the guy to do it.

Getting to this point is challenging enough. So much so that the film provides an intermission before it pulls a "Psycho" and switches gears. Eventually, Laszlo's wife, Erzsebet (Felicity Jones, nominated for supporting actress) appears and the story goes in unexpected directions at several key points.

Amidst the many 180s, the film's language keeps us sutured, particularly. Memorable production, editing and cinematography present a marvelous visual aesthetic, topped off with a moody score by Daniel Blumberg – all possible areas the film can win. But how far will "The Brutalist" go? Against, "Wicked," "Dune: Part Two" and "Nosferatu," product design seems less likely. Cinematography has a fair chance, though a couple contenders stand out there as well.

That score is critically beloved and could win, though "The Wild



Adrien Brody and Guy Pearce give standout performances in "The Brutalist."

'Pirates of the Caribbean' commandeers El Capitan Theatre

Disney's "Pirates of the Caribbean" franchise returns to the El Capitan Theatre for a limited engagement from March 5-9. Guests can see "The Curse of the Black Pearl" on Wednesday, March 5, "Dead Man's Chest" on Thursday, March 6, "At World's End" on Friday, March 7, "On Stranger Tides" on Saturday, March 8, and "Dead Men Tell No Tales" on Sunday, March 9. Audience

members can also explore the treasures of Captain Jack Sparrow at the theater's archival display.

A special fan event celebrating "The Curse of the Black Pearl" will take place on March 5 to kick off the engagement. Tickets are \$40 and include a reserved ticket, event credential, popcorn, fountain drink and Jack Sparrow hat.

Daily showtimes for the "Pirates of the Caribbean" film are 11:30

a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$16. A special ticket package for all five movies is \$50.

The El Capitan Theatre is located at 6838 Hollywood Blvd. For information, call (800)DISNEY6, or visit elcapitantheatre.com.



photo © 2025 Disney. All Rights Reserved. All five "Pirates of the Caribbean" films will be shown from March 5-9.

Pink's rolls out Red Carpet Hot Dog

To celebrate the 97th annual Academy Awards on March 2 at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Pink's Hot Dogs on La Brea Avenue is offering the Red Carpet Hot Dog topped with chili, cheese, mustard, chopped tomatoes and three strips of bacon. The special hot dog is on the menu through the awards ceremony broadcast and is priced at \$9.70 in celebration of the Academy Awards' 97th year, owner Richard Pink said.

The hot dog stand, which started as a push-cart in 1939, has long been part of Hollywood history and is a frequent stop for celebrities. Pink said it was natural to offer a hot dog to celebrate the Academy Awards, and he hung a new banner on the front of the stand to mark the occasion.

"We've rolled out the red hot carpet for this award-winning hot dog," Pink said. "I introduced it to honor the Academy Awards and recognize all the hard work of the men and women of Hollywood. It's a time to celebrate the best Hollywood films, and Pink's is celebrating with the Red Carpet Hot Dog."

Pink's Hot Dogs is located at 709 N. La Brea Ave. For information, call (323)931-4223, or visit pinkshollywood.com.



The Red Carpet Hot Dog at Pink's is topped with chili, cheese, mustard, chopped tomatoes and three strips of bacon.

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Adrien Brody, as Laszlo, makes "The Brutalist" a top contender at the Academy Awards.

Robot's" score is better based on a simple criterion: After the film ends, do you still remember the main tune? While viewing "The Brutalist," that score works. Afterward, the feeling doesn't linger the same as others do, which is a systemic problem dating back two decades.

As for editing, that might be DOA at this point considering the revelation that the film used some A.I. tools to modulate Brody and Jones' scenes in Hungarian, along with other minor elements. In a film that's 202 minutes long (including that intermission), the use of such controversial tools accounts for maybe 1% of the runtime, so we'll have to see if all the fruit is deemed poisonous.

Frankly, Pearce should win supporting actor for his work here, but Kieran Culkin will almost certainly steal that honor even though his role in "A Real Pain" belongs in the

leading role category. Jones also doesn't have a chance, but she is always a delight on screen.


As for any awards for Brady Corbet – the director, co-writer and a producer – he has a chance at original writing, though that could easily go to "Anora" or "A Real Pain." As for directing, any of the five could win.

"The Brutalist" is sure to go home with something, but "Anora" has a very good chance of spiriting away with the biggest film of the night. And good for those folks if it does. This A24 film is marvelous and confounding (especially that odd ending) in ways that feel intentional or entirely sporadic. Perhaps that is a sign of a great film: It doesn't show you its game face. No matter. In a few days, we'll see who lands on top. Regardless of the outcome, it's about time to go watch something dumb.

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Beverly Hills High School academic decathlon team advances to state competition

Beverly Hills High School's academic decathlon team secured a spot at the California state competition, marking its fifth consecutive year at the prestigious event. Competing against 55 schools in the Los Angeles County Office of Education Regional Competition, the team placed fifth overall, demonstrating academic excellence across economics, math, science, art, music, literature and social science. In addition to rigorous subject testing, decathletes competed in prepared and impromptu speeches, essay writing and interviews, further showcasing their depth of knowledge and critical thinking skills.

Several team members earned individual honors for their outstanding performances.

Official team medalists included Jacob Treiman – gold medal in speech, gold medal in interview, silver medal in economics, silver medal in science and bronze medal in essay; Sarah Zhang – gold medal in speech, silver medal in interview, silver medal in mathematics and bronze medal in essay; Karina Kruger – silver medal in essay, silver medal in interview, silver medal in speech and bronze medal in art; Nicholas Lau – silver medal in essay; Daesung (Peter) Kang – silver medal in interview; Lea Levy – silver medal in essay, silver medal in speech, bronze medal in interview and bronze medal in literature; Elisha Rhie – bronze medal in essay and bronze medal in speech; and Lindsay Jada Moreno

- bronze medal in speech.

The official team, including Daniyel Borodin, will advance to state essay testing at BHHS on March 5, before traveling to Santa Clara from March 20-23 to compete in the state finals, where they will participate in objective tests, speeches, interviews and the highly anticipated super quiz.

The Junior Team also delivered an outstanding performance, earning the following distinctions: Hannah Davis – gold certificate in speech; Grace Chang – silver certificate in speech; Jion Jung – silver certificate in speech; and Nima Farnad – bronze certificate in speech. Junior team members will compete next in the heptathlon on March 8 at BHHS.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Several team members earned individual honors for their outstanding performances.

Notably, every decathlete improved their scores in at least one subject from the scrimmage, a testament to their dedication, perseverance and commitment to academic excellence.

"These students have put in extraordinary effort, demonstrating resilience, intellect and passion for learning," BHHS Principal Drew

Stewart said. “Their dedication to pushing boundaries and striving for excellence is the embodiment of what it means to make each day well lived, our school’s foundational motto. We could not be more proud of their achievements and can’t wait to see them shine at the state level.”

For information, visit bhusd.org.

Zbur co-authors bill to standardize ethnic studies curriculum

In response to deep concerns over many California high schools' implementation of the ethnic studies curriculum, State Assembly-members Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood), Dawn Addis (D-Morro Bay) and State Senator Josh Becker (D-Menlo Park) have introduced Assembly Bill 1468, which will standardize teaching the subject across the state while fostering safe and supportive school climates and ensuring historical accuracy. The bill will give educators a clear,

structured roadmap for implementation and protect students from inaccurate or biased information being taught in their classrooms. This much-needed action for students, teachers, administrators and parents will safeguard the promise of ethnic studies and further mutual understanding and tolerance.

AB 1468, which has 31 co-authors, requires the California State Board of Education to develop and adopt uniform content standards, a curriculum framework and

instructional materials for high school ethnic studies instruction with guidance from an advisory committee appointed by the governor. The advisory committee will be composed of academic experts in the disciplines of African American, Latino/ChicanX, Asian American/Pacific Islander and Native American studies, as well as representatives from communities most frequently targeted by hate crimes according to the California Department of Justice's annual Hate Crimes in California Report.

In 2021, California passed Assembly Bill 101, which outlined that the stories of California's ethnic communities would be included

in high school curricula. While the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum was created in 2021, it lacked state-approved content standards that guide other academic subjects and remains a voluntary curriculum that school districts may or may not choose to use.

In California, the lack of clear standards for ethnic studies has resulted at times in lawsuits, divided communities, factually inaccurate materials, and harmful, antisemitic environments for Jewish students and families.

And for many Jews, fears intensified after Oct. 7, 2023 when some ethnic studies curriculum and instruction contractors glorified Hamas and

the violence committed that day.

While the Jewish community is currently experiencing the consequences of the lack of standards and infusion of bias into ethnic studies, other vulnerable communities are at risk of facing similar situations if standards are not swiftly implemented.

With these guidelines, California will create curriculum standards that all teachers, students, parents and community members can rely upon to be rigorous, thoughtful and fact-based.

To read the full bill, visit
leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB1468.

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Teachers encouraged to apply for special project grants

California Credit Union Foundation encourages Los Angeles County teachers with innovative class project ideas to apply for grants through the credit union's spring Teacher Grant program. Ten grants of \$500 each will be awarded in April. California Credit Union Foundation's grant program is available to full-time teachers in Los Angeles County, and credit

union members teaching in California, who are seeking funds for special learning opportunities for students. The project should have clearly defined learning objectives tied to students' academic needs, display creativity and benefit a significant number of students. "Providing resources to help teachers and schools thrive and support students is an important aspect

of the foundation's work," California Credit Union Foundation president Marvel Ford said. "Our long-time teacher grant program provides those extra funds that enable our dedicated educators to bring creative new projects to their students. We encourage all our teachers to submit their ideas so we can support their great work." The application deadline is March 28. Since the program was created in 2012, \$205,000 in teacher grants have been awarded to projects in Southern California. For information and to apply, visit ccu.com/teachergrant.

State education leaders encourage organic meals at schools

California Superintendent Tony Thurmond convened leaders in school nutrition, sustainability and organic farming in a webinar on Feb. 24 to continue "Go Organic," an initiative to increase organic food in school meals. Thurmond kicked off the "Go Organic" initiative in partnership with Conscious Kitchen last June,

encouraging local educational agencies to take the Go Organic Pledge and commit to introducing more organic ingredients in school meals. The webinar included nutrition services directors from different parts of the state sharing how they are increasing fresh, healthy ingredients in student meals.

Additionally, Watsonville-based Hikari Farms owner Janet Nagamine, a medical doctor who oversees her family's organic farm, discussed how growing food for schools combats rising trends in childhood obesity and diabetes. The webinar has information for school administrators and educators on expanding organic foods on campuses. To view the webinar, visit facebook.com/CAEducation/videos/3476136282694802. For information, visit cde.ca.gov.

Arnold, Guerrero win Frieze film awards

On Feb. 21, Ja'Lisa Arnold was named as the recipient of the \$10,000 Deutsche Bank Frieze Los Angeles Film Award, and Christopher Guerrero was revealed as the winner of the \$2,500 Audience Award, voted for by the public. Both winners received their prizes during a special invitation-only ceremony at Frieze Los Angeles.

Realized in collaboration with acclaimed non-profit Ghetto Film School and global film and TV studio Fifth Season, the Frieze Los Angeles Film Award has been widely recognized within the industry as an incubator for next-generation talent. Since its launch in 2019, the initiative has supported over 40 fellows, providing a platform for

emerging voices in filmmaking. "Frieze Los Angeles, taking place in the home and heart of the film industry, is celebrating the sixth Deutsche Bank Film Award this year," Frieze director of Americas Christine Messineo said. Arnold's award-winning film "Grief Cannot Exist Without Joy" follows Tobin, a gifted musician struggling with the recent loss of his brother, Lou. His only path to healing is through music. By com-

BHHS senior to attend University of Miami

Beverly Hills High School announced that Elisa Bonaparte-Wyse will be attending the University of Miami, where she will study mechanical engineering and pursue a passion for motor-sports innovation. Bonaparte-Wyse has made a lasting impact at BHHS, excelling in the classroom and on the field. As a varsity tennis and lacrosse athlete, she has demonstrated commitment, resilience and teamwork while balancing a rigorous academic schedule. She has also been an integral part of the Medical Science Academy for three years, gaining insight into the intersection of engineering and medicine. Additionally, Bonaparte-Wyse has contributed as a staff writer for BHHS Highlights, where she has developed her storytelling skills and passion for journalism. "Elisa's drive, determination and curiosity have set her apart, and we are incredibly proud of her



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Elisa Bonaparte-Wyse will study mechanical engineering at the university in Coral Gables, Florida. achievements," BHHS Principal Drew Stewart said. "She has embraced every opportunity to grow and explore her passions, and we cannot wait to see how she thrives at the University of Miami." For information, visit bhhsd.org.

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Pipeline Project Construction

N. SANTA MONICA BLVD. AND WILSHIRE BLVD. IMPACTED

Water will not be disrupted during this pipeline work
Traffic will be impacted as lane restrictions will be in place due to equipment and crews

WILSHIRE BLVD:
Work dates are March 4 – March 12

N. SANTA MONICA BLVD:
Work dates are February 26 – March 25; intermittent work daily

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Road Closure (No Access)

City Boundary

For more information, please contact the Construction Hotline at (424) 252-1338.

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. 15 and Feb 22. 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. 15

At 6:39 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of S. Bedford.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. Hamilton at 8:45 a.m.

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

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of N. Oakhurst at 9:40 p.m.

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

Feb. 16

At 8:30 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8400 block of Wilshire.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 1700 block of Green Acres at 11 a.m.

At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of N. Rexford.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 500 block of N. Roxbury at 5:56 p.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Santa Monica and Charleville.

Feb. 17

At 1:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 200 block of S. La Cienega at 3:13 a.m.

At 6 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 200 block of Willaman.

Feb. 18

At 12:05 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 400 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near Santa Monica and Crescent at 2:50 p.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 9800 block of Charleville.

Feb. 19

At 5 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 400 block of N. Rexford.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Rodeo at 6:20 p.m.

Feb. 20

At 11 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of N. Maple.

An unknown suspect robbed a vic-

tim in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 4:43 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported near Santa Monica and Merv Griffin Way.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 11:26 p.m.

Feb. 21

At 10:02 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Wilshire and McCarty.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9500 block of Wilshire at 6:37p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of S. Oakhurst.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 200 block of S. Lasky at 7:30 p.m.

At 9:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of N. Crescent.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 100 block of S. Bedford at 9:45 p.m.

At 11:30 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported near Santa Monica and Merv Griffin Way.

Feb. 22

At 4:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of N. Clark.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of S. La Cienega at 8:25 a.m.

At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of S. Tower.

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

Feb. 15

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

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8200 block of Fountain at noon.

At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9200 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 600 block of N. Robertson at midnight.

Feb. 16

At 2:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 900 block of N. Palm at 3:09 a.m.

At 2:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1200 block of La Brea.

Feb. 17

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in

the 1200 block of N. La Brea at 12:15 a.m.

At 8 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of Norwich at 2:41 a.m.

At 4:58 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8900 block of Melrose.

Feb. 18

At 1:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 1200 block of N. Fuller.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 7500 block of Santa Monica at 4:03 a.m.

At 9 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1200 block of N. La Brea.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 7800 block of Santa Monica at 11 a.m.

At 12:12 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 500 block of Norwich.

Feb. 19

An unknown suspect robbed a vic-

tim near the corner of Cynthia and Palm at 2:55 p.m.

At 11:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8500 block of Holloway.

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.

Menendez brothers undergo risk assessment

From page 4

see Erik and Lyle have a chance to finally come home, we are grateful for the governor's decision,” the statement read. “The family realizes that the governor’s action does not mean he will commute the sentences. Instead, this initial step reflects the governor's considered decision to at least obtain the information required to make a fair decision as to whether Erik and Lyle, after 35 years in prison, have done the hard work necessary to have a chance at a life outside prison. Jose and Kitty’s family members, as well as Erik and Lyle, can ask for nothing more.”

The move comes days after Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman opposed a possible retrial of the brothers, but left the door open for resentencing.

The homicide took place in the family home in Beverly Hills in 1989. While the determination that the brothers murdered their parents has not been contested, new evidence has since come to light that the previous district attorney’s office said could affect the sentencing of the brothers. Calls for their release have also grown louder due to increased attention from a recent Netflix series and documentary.

In 2023, the brothers’ attorneys filed a habeas corpus petition asking that the case return to trial, citing evidence that was not presented at the trial which resulted in the conviction.

Additionally, previous district attorney, George Gascón – who was defeated by Hochman in the Nov. 5, 2024, election – recommended the brothers be resentenced after reviewing evidence that suggests they were sexually abused by their father. Gascón said the brothers should be sentenced to 50 years to life in prison with the possibility of parole as opposed to the existing life in prison without the possibility of parole.

However, Gascón also supported a clemency request for the Menendez brothers. According to the California Constitution, the governor has the authority to grant clemency in the form of a sentence commutation or pardon. Gov. Gavin Newsom initially announced he would not make a clemency decision until Hochman reviewed the

case.

Hochman opposed the habeas corpus petition in an informal motion filed on Feb. 21.

The habeas petition cited two pieces of evidence – a letter that Erik Menendez allegedly wrote to his cousin Andy Cano in 1988 describing sexual abuse at the hands of José Menendez, and an allegation by singer Roy Rosselló that he was also abused by José Menendez as a child.

However, Hochman argued that the evidence was not enough to warrant a retrial, stating that it did not prove that the brothers acted in self-defense.

“Sexual abuse is abhorrent, and we will prosecute sexual abuse in any form it comes, but sexual abuse in this situation – while it may have been a motivation for Erik and Lyle to do what they did – does not constitute self-defense,” Hochman said in a press conference.

He also noted that the evidence was never used at trial, arguing that it would have been used if it was credible. Hochman also questioned the reliability of the Menendez brothers, stating that their story on what led to the murders changed multiple times.

“We looked at the credibility of the letters – particularly this Andy Cano 1988 letter – in the continuum of lies, and it calls into drastic question whether or not it is in fact a 1988 letter written by Erik Menendez to Andy Cano about this sexual abuse,” Hochman said. “Even if it is, it’s not timely because it was not presented at the time of trial. They substantially delayed in bringing this motion from at least 2015 to 2023. And in certain respects it’s also not admissible.”

Hochman said his office will examine the possibility of resentencing “in the coming weeks.”

Family members of Erik and Lyle Menendez condemned Hochman’s opposition to the habeas petition in a statement.

“District Attorney Nathan Hochman took us right back to 1996. He opened the wounds we have spent decades trying to heal. He didn’t listen to us. We are profoundly disappointed by his remarks, in which he effectively tore

up new evidence and discredited the trauma they experienced,” the statement read. “The justice system failed Erik and Lyle then, and it continues to fail them now. The fact remains: the jury in their second trial never heard the full truth. Key testimony was kept from them, and now, D.A. Hochman is attempting to erase this reality once again. He is not just dismissing Erik and Lyle’s experiences, he is silencing survivors everywhere who know what it’s like to be disbelieved, ignored and retraumatized by a system designed to protect them.”

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

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ORDINANCE NO. 25-O-2912

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING SECTIONS 2-4-201; 2-4-202; AND 2-4-203 OF THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO THE PREVENTION OF PRICE GOUGING

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Fires and Windstorm Event of January 2025 has burned over 40,000 acres, destroyed more than 12,000 residential and commercial structures, and damaged critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, on January 7, 2025, the Governor of California declared a State of Emergency to exist in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties due to the Fires and Windstorm Event; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Los Angeles County residents have had their lives significantly impacted through partial or complete property loss, damage or evacuation orders, and

WHEREAS, in the wake of widespread destruction, thousands of Los Angeles County residents must now purchase a myriad of goods and services to sustain their wellbeing and to begin the long process of rebuilding their lives; and

WHEREAS, California Penal Code Section 396 makes it illegal for a person, contractor, business, or other entity to increase the price of a product or service item more than ten (10) percent for the following thirty (30) days after a proclamation of a state of emergency declared by the President of the United States or the Governor, or upon the declaration of a local emergency by an official, board, or other governing body vested with authority to make that declaration; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to California Penal Code Section 396(k), municipalities are authorized to enact local legislation prohibiting excessive and unjustified increases in the prices of essential consumer goods and services when a declared state of emergency results in abnormal disruptions of the market; and

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 7 of the California Constitution and California Government Code Section 37100 provide the City with authority to enact local ordinances to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of this Council to amend the price gouging article of the Municipal Code to reflect consistency with state law and to include provisions that protect against price gouging for newly rented properties.

Section 1. The City Council hereby amends and re-states Section 2-4-201 of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code to read as follows:

2-4-201: FINDINGS AND INTENT:

The city council hereby finds that during a state of emergency or local emergency, including, but not limited to, an earthquake, flood, fire, riot, storm, drought, plant or animal infestation or disease, pandemic or epidemic disease outbreak, or other natural or manmade disaster, some merchants have taken unfair advantage of consumers by greatly increasing prices for essential consumer goods and services. While the pricing of consumer goods and services is generally best left to the marketplace under ordinary conditions, when a Declared Emergency results in abnormal disruptions of the market, the public interest requires that excessive and unjustified increases in the prices of essential consumer goods and services be prohibited. It is the intent of the city council in enacting this article to protect citizens from excessive and unjustified increases in the prices charged during or shortly after a Declared Emergency for goods and services that are vital and necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of consumers, whether those goods and services are offered or sold in person, in stores, or online. Further, it is the intent of the city council that this article be liberally construed so that its beneficial purposes may be served.

Section 2. The City Council hereby amends and re-states Section 2-4-202 of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code to include or revise the following definitions:

DECLARED EMERGENCY: The proclamation or declaration of a “local emergency” or “state of emergency” or “state of war emergency” as defined in section 2-4-102 of this chapter.
HOUSING: Any rental housing with an initial lease term of no longer than one year.
REPAIR OR RECONSTRUCTION SERVICES: Services performed by any Person who is required to be licensed under the California contractors’ state license law (chapter 9 (commencing with Section 7000) of Division 3 of the California Business and Professions Code), for repairs to residential or commercial property of any type that is damaged as a result of an event that led to a De-

clared Emergency.
TRANSPORTATION, FREIGHT, AND STORAGE SERVICES: Any service that is performed by any company that contracts to move, store, or transport personal or business property or rents equipment for those purposes.
RENTAL PRICE:

(A) For Housing rented within one year prior to a Declared Emergency, the actual Rental Price paid by the tenant.

For Housing not rented at the time of a Declared Emergency, but rented, or offered for rent, within one year prior to the Declared Emergency, the most recent Rental Price offered before the Declared Emergency.

For Housing rented at the time of a Declared Emergency but which becomes vacant while the emergency remains in effect and which is subject to any ordinance, rule, regulation, or initiative measure adopted by any local governmental entity that establishes a maximum amount that a landlord may charge a tenant for rent, the actual Rental Price paid by the previous tenant or the amount specified in subparagraph (B), whichever is greater. This amount may be increased by 5 percent (5%) if the Housing was previously rented or offered for rent unfurnished, and it is now being offered for rent fully furnished. This amount shall not be adjusted for any other good or service, including, but not limited to, gardening or utilities currently or formerly provided in connection with the lease.

(B) For Housing not rented and not offered for rent within one year prior to a Declared Emergency, 160 percent (160%) of the fair market rent established by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. This amount may be increased by 5 percent (5%) if the Housing is offered for rent fully furnished. This amount shall not be adjusted for any other good or service, including, but not limited to, gardening or utilities currently or formerly provided in connection with the lease.

(C) Housing advertised, offered, or charged, at a daily rate at the time of a Declared Emergency, shall be subject to the Rental Price described in subparagraph (A), if the Housing continues to be advertised, offered, or charged, at a daily rate. Housing advertised, offered, or charged, on a daily basis at the time of a Declared Emergency, shall be subject to the Rental Price in subparagraph (B), if the Housing is advertised, offered, or charged, on a periodic lease agreement after the Declared Emergency.

Section 3. The City Council hereby amends and re-states Section 2-4-203 of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code to read as follows:

2-4-203: PROHIBITION AGAINST EXCESSIVE AND UNJUSTIFIED INCREASES IN CONSUMER PRICES DURING A DECLARED EMERGENCY:

A. Consumer Goods And Services:

1. Upon a Declared Emergency, and for a period of thirty (30) days following a Declared Emergency, it is unlawful for a Person to sell or offer to sell any consumer food items or goods, goods or services used for emergency cleanup, emergency supplies, medical supplies, home heating oil, building materials, housing, Transportation, Freight, and Storage Services, or gasoline or other motor fuels for a price of more than ten percent (10%) above the price charged by that Person for those goods or services immediately prior to the Declared Emergency.

2. A Person may increase prices in excess of the amount permitted in subsection (A)(1) of this section if the seller or vendor can demonstrate that the increase in price is directly attributable to additional costs imposed on that Person by the supplier of the goods, or directly attributable to additional costs for labor or materials used to provide the services, provided that in those situations where the increase in price is attributable to additional costs imposed by the seller’s supplier or additional costs of providing the goods or service during the Declared Emergency, the price represents no more than ten percent (10%) above the total of the cost to the seller plus the markup customarily applied by the seller for that good or service in the usual course of business immediately prior to the Declared Emergency.

3. A Person offering an item for sale at a reduced price immediately prior to a Declared Emergency may use the price at which it usually sells the item to calculate the price increase permitted pursuant to this subsection.

B. Construction, Repair, And Cleanup Services:

1. Upon a Declared Emergency, and for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days following a Declared Emergency, it is unlawful for a Person to sell or offer to sell any Repair or Reconstruction Services or any services used in emergency cleanup for a price of more than ten percent (10%) above the price charged by that Person for those services immediately prior to the Declared Emergency.

2. A Person may increase prices in excess of the amount permitted in subsection (B)(1) of this section if the Person can demonstrate that the increase in price is directly attributable to additional costs imposed on that Person by the supplier of the goods, or directly attributa-

ble to additional costs for labor or materials used to provide the services, provided that in those situations where the increase in price is attributable to the additional costs imposed by the Person’s supplier or additional costs of providing the service during the Declared Emergency, the price represents no more than ten percent (10%) above the total of the cost to the Person plus the markup customarily applied by the Person for that good or service in the usual course of business immediately prior to the Declared Emergency.

3. A Person offering a service at a reduced price immediately prior to a Declared Emergency may use the price at which he or she usually provides the service to calculate the price increase permitted pursuant to this subsection.

C. Hotel And Motel Rates:

1. Upon a Declared Emergency, and for a period of thirty (30) days following a Declared Emergency, it is unlawful for an owner or operator of a hotel or motel to increase the hotel or motel’s regular rates, as advertised immediately prior to the Declared Emergency, by more than ten percent (10%).

2. A hotel owner or operator may increase prices in excess of the amount permitted by subsection (C)(1) of this section if the owner or operator can prove that the increase in price is directly attributable to additional costs imposed on it for goods or labor used in its business, to seasonal adjustments in rates that are regularly scheduled, or to previously contracted rates.

D. Rental Property Rates:

1. Upon a Declared Emergency, and for a period of thirty (30) days following a Declared Emergency, it is unlawful for any Person to increase the Rental Price, as defined in Section 2-4-202, advertised, offered, or charged for Housing, to an existing or prospective tenant, by more than ten percent (10%) of the regular rate, as advertised immediately prior to the Declared Emergency.

2. A Person may increase prices in excess of the amount permitted by subsection (D)(1) of this section if the Person can prove that the increase in price is directly attributable to additional costs for repairs or additions beyond normal maintenance that were amortized over the rental term that caused the rent to be increased greater than ten percent (10%) or that an increase was contractually agreed to by the tenant prior to the Declared Emergency.

3. It shall not be a defense to a prosecution under this subdivision that an increase in Rental Price was based on the length of the rental term, the inclusion of additional goods or services, except as provided in Section 2-4-202 with respect to furniture, or that the rent was offered by, or paid by, an insurance company, or other third party, on behalf of a tenant. This subdivision does not authorize a landlord to charge a price greater than the amount authorized by a local rent control ordinance.

Section 4. Severability. If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall be considered a separate, distinct and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity and enforceability of the other provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 5. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation published and circulated in the City within fifteen (15) days after its passage in accordance with Section 36933 of the Government Code, shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance and shall cause this Ordinance and the City Clerk’s certification, together with proof of publication, to be entered in the Book of Ordinances of the Council of this City.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall go into effect and be in full force and effect at 12:01 a.m. on the thirty-first (31st) day after its passage.

Section 7. Certification. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance.

Adopted: February 19, 2025

Effective: March 22, 2025

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

ATTEST:
HUMA AHMED
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
LAURENCE S. WIENER
City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:
NANCY HUNT-COFFEY
City Manager

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

Academy announces spring programming

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures has unveiled its new film series, public events and education programs for the spring season.

Programming includes a 20th anniversary screening of “The 40-Year-Old Virgin” (2005) with Judd Apatow; “Enter The Matrix: A Conversation with Lyndon Barrois Sr. and Lilly Wachowski”; the 4K west coast restoration premiere of Jean-Luc Godard’s “A Woman Is a Woman” (1961); a book signing with author Marya E. Gates preceding a screening of “Gas Food Lodging” (1992) and a conversation between Gates and director Allison Anders; a book signing and conversation with authors Ira M. Resnick and Raissa Bretaña for their new book “Moxie: The Daring Women of Classic Hollywood”; the Careers in Film Summit, offering free workshops and demonstrations; a Cyberpunk gallery spotlight

with director Alex Rivera, delving into the genre's influence and Rivera’s work on “Sleep Dealer” (2008); “Emotion in Color: A Kaleidoscope of Indian Cinema”; “Raising the Lantern: A Celebration of Chinese-Language Cinema”; “Something Mysterious: The Art of Philip Seymour Hoffman”; and the third annual May the 4th Celebration, featuring a force of public programs and screenings.

The Academy Museum will also present “Director’s Inspiration: Bong Joon Ho,” a film series programmed to accompany the museum’s new exhibition of the same name, opening on March 23. The series includes special appearances from celebrated filmmaker Bong Joon Ho, including a conversation with legendary filmmaker and composer John Carpenter for a screening of “The Thing” (1982) on March 22, a conversation with actor Steven Yeun for the March 23 screening of

“Okja” (2017), and a conversation ahead of the “Parasite” (2019) screening on March 23.

Fanny’s will celebrate Korean cuisine with a special weekly menu inspired by “Director’s Inspiration: Bong Joon Ho” beginning March 23. In addition to the restaurant’s regular menu, the Korean Sunday Supper menu will feature a rotating selection of traditional Korean dishes crafted by Fanny’s chef Jun Bum Oh, such as bibimbap with seasonal banchan and galbi jjim, along with a selection of cinema-inspired craft cocktails. The Korean Sunday Supper series will run through the duration of the exhibition; reservations can be made via OpenTable and Resy, or by emailing info@fannysla.com.

On May 23, to celebrate the opening of the exhibition “Barbie to Anna Karenina: The Cinematic Worlds of Sarah Greenwood and Katie Spencer” , the museum will host an in-depth conversation with



photos courtesy of the Academy Museum

A variety of films, including those from the “Star Wars” canon, actor Philip Seymour Hoffman and director Bong Joon Ho, are on the Academy Museum’s spring schedule.

the Oscar-nominated production designers, followed by a screening of “Barbie” (2023).

“We’re excited to offer visitors an eclectic and unique lineup of programming this season, made possible by working in partnership with some of the most prolific filmmakers of our time,” said director and president Amy Homma. “From dynamic exhibitions, exciting conversation programs, family-friendly

workshops, and full-museum activations like our May the 4th celebration, we work with our local community and artists of all crafts to bring a range of experiences for families and movie lovers alike – only available at the Academy Museum.”

For information, visit academy-museum.org.

The Academy Museum is located at 6067 Wilshire Blvd.

Hollywood Fringe open for applicants



photo courtesy of Hollywood Fringe Festival

The Hollywood Fringe Festival highlights performing arts in Los Angeles.

Registration is officially open for the 2025 Hollywood Fringe Festival, L.A.’s largest celebration of the performing arts. Festival organizers are seeking performing artists to join the 15th annual festival, which will take place in June across Hollywood.

Registration is a simple process with three easy steps – creating a project on the festival website, booking a venue within the HFF boundaries and paying the festival registration fee of \$300 for paid, ticketed and/or multi-performance shows and \$175 for shows that are free to audiences. Registration must be completed by April 15 in order to be included in the printed guide, but anyone interested in registering

after April 15 can still participate and sell tickets through the festival website.

Various workshops leading up to the festival will cover a variety of topics including budgeting, fundraising, anti-racism, accessibility, marketing, tech and festival preparation.

The Hollywood Fringe Festival is an open-access and non-curated event. Any artistic group able to book a venue within the festival’s boundaries may register. All shows must present their work in the Hollywood Fringe Zone with tickets available for live, in-person audiences and all shows will have the option to additionally present their work via livestream. Participants can book a venue that is already signed up with Fringe, or bring their own venue – traditional

theatre spaces as well as temporary or DIY spaces are encouraged. All proceeds from ticket sales go back to artists at the Hollywood Fringe Festival, over \$5 million since 2010.

“After last year’s record-breaking ticket sales, we are eager to launch our 15th anniversary season,” co-executive director Lois Neville said. “The secret is out. Local audiences are embracing the festival and the artists who participate. I can’t wait to see the stories that will be shared this year.”

Previews will run from June 5-10, followed by an opening night party on June 11. The official festival will run from June 12-29, followed by an awards ceremony on June 30.

For information, visit hollywoodfringe.org.

The Groundlings School hosts open house on March 8

The Groundlings Theatre and School announced the eighth annual open house on Saturday, March 8. The beloved yearly event is the perfect opportunity for comedy lovers, aspiring performers and those who are simply curious to experience firsthand what makes the Groundlings a legendary hub for improvisation and sketch comedy.

Attendees can start the day with special \$10 classes for all levels, including “Beginners’ Party” and “Creating Characters.” Whether stepping into improv for the first time or looking to sharpen comedic instincts, the classes provide a fun, welcoming environment to explore the world of improv and character creation.

At 1 p.m., guests can take a break and join the Groundlings for recess, featuring free popcorn, free snow cones and free pizza from Fresh Brothers. It’s the perfect opportunity to meet fellow students, chat with

teachers and get a taste of the Groundlings community.

At 2:30 p.m., attendees can watch the talented faculty take the stage in a hilarious, high-energy performance. At 3:30 p.m., a special performance highlighting students from the diversity scholarship program will take place.

The eighth annual open house is an opportunity to discover the Groundlings School, meet students and teachers and – most importantly – have a blast.

For information and to sign up, visit groundlings.com/school.

The Groundlings Theatre and School is located at 7307 Melrose Ave.



photo courtesy of The Groundlings Theatre and School

The yearly event includes \$10 classes, complimentary snacks and free shows.

Golden Reel honors sound in film, Television

Motion Picture Sound Editors, the premier organization of entertainment sound editing professionals since 1953, announced the winners for the 72nd annual MPSE Golden Reel Awards on Feb. 23, honoring outstanding achievement in sound editing, sound design, music editing and foley artistry in film, television and gaming. Winners were announced at the annual gala at

the Wilshire Ebell Theatre in Los Angeles.

Two honorary awards were also presented. Kevin Costner received the Filmmaker Award and supervising sound editor Greg Hedgepath received the Career Achievement Award. Patton Oswalt served as the evening’s host, marking the third time he’s hosted the Golden Reel Awards. MPSE president David Barber presided over the festivities

as the sound community came together to celebrate their own. The MPSE invited firefighters to attend the gala as special guests with the audience honoring them for their heroic efforts during the recent L.A. wildfires.

Films honored with awards included “Saturday Night,” Dune: Part Two” and “Wicked.”

For a full list of winners, visit mpse.org/current-awards.

Holocaust educators honored

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is holding the “Western Region Tribute Dinner: Together We Can Do More” on Wednesday, March 19, at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

Dr. Anita Friedman and Holocaust survivor David Wiener will receive the museum’s National Leadership Award. The event will include Dr. Rebecca Erbelding, a museum historian who helped uncover the truth about a group of photographs showing Nazis on leisure time at Auschwitz.

The new play “Here There Are Blueberries” tells the true story of the rare photographs in the museum’s collection, revealing a side of life at the notorious concentration camp kept secret for decades.

“I knew that there was something interesting and historically valuable about the album from the beginning,” Erbelding said. “So many different offices at the museum worked together to solve the mystery of this album.”

The program will be hosted by Melvin Robert, co-anchor of “Good Day LA” and senior correspondent-weekend co-host for “Extra.” Friedman is board president of the Koret Foundation and executive director of Jewish Family and Children’s Services in the San Francisco Bay area. The child of Holocaust survivors, she also works as a filmmaker, community leader and expert on the Holocaust and genocide education. Wiener was

born on May 30, 1926, in Łódź, Poland. He endured the Warsaw ghetto, forced labor and deportation to Auschwitz before the age of 20. After immigrating to the United States in 1946, he became a successful real estate developer. He is a long-standing supporter of the museum and organizations that educate about the dangers of antisemitism and hate.

“I knew that there was something interesting and historically valuable about the album from the beginning.”

Dr. Rebecca Erbelding, museum historian

“We are deeply honored to recognize Dr. Anita Friedman and David Wiener for their outstanding dedication to Holocaust education, remembrance and advancing the museum’s mission,” said Carol Stulberg, senior advisor for leadership giving in the western region for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The event begins with a reception at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. The Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel, is located at 9500 Wilshire Blvd.

For information, email western-team@ushmm.org.

Getty presents ‘A Brush With Nature’

The J. Paul Getty Museum presents “A Brush with Nature: Romantic Landscape Drawings,” an exhibition of more than 30 works from the Getty Museum’s collection by British, French and German artists from the Romantic period.

On view at the Getty Center from Feb. 18-May 25, the exhibition highlights how 18th- and 19th-century artists reconsidered their relationship to the landscape through important Romantic motifs such as the sublime power of natural forces and the melancholy appeal of ruins.

“Featuring extraordinary works by Romantic artists like Caspar David Friedrich, J.M.W. Turner and Théodore Géricault, this exhibition offers visitors a deeper insight into the world of Romanticism and the diverse techniques employed by artists of this period,” said Danielle

Canter, assistant curator of drawings at the Getty Museum. “Just as it did for Romantic artists, nature continues to influence audiences today, for its profound beauty and fragility.”

Romanticism was a wide-ranging artistic movement characterized by an interest in exploration of the natural world. Spanning the late 18th century and the first half of the 19th century, the movement represented a transitional moment in European landscape tradition, as artists abandoned idealized depictions of nature in favor of a more personal relationship with the environment.

More than before, Romantic artists worked “en plein air” – directly in the landscape – seeking to better understand nature through close observation. One example on display is Alfred William Hunt’s “Mount Snowdon through Clearing

Clouds,” which captures the astonishing effects of light and color caused by dissolving mist surrounding the mountain. Hunt’s loose handling of the atmospheric haze he observed in Wales is starkly contrasted by his detailed rendering of plants and stones in the foreground.

Many landscape artists also found inspiration in architectural ruins. The abandoned structures illustrate the persistence of nature and the passage of time, evoking feelings of melancholy and spiritual contemplation. Hubert Robert was well known for featuring ancient ruins in his scenic views of real or imagined vistas. In his large fantasy watercolor “Landscape with Ruins,” Robert depicted the crumbling remains of an ancient Roman temple. The imposing structure is as much a part of the landscape as the



photo courtesy of Getty

“Sailboat on a Raging Sea” by Théodore Géricault is one of the many works on display in the new exhibition.

gnarled tree in the foreground, reaching up to the sky with its crooked branches.

“With their dynamic compositions, vibrant colors and dramatic use of scale, these landscape drawings offer a striking view of how Romantic artists engaged with their

environment,” Canter said. “We hope our visitors will be inspired to reflect on their personal relationship with nature following their visit.”

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

Hollywood Bowl 2025 season revealed



photo courtesy of LA Phil

Opening night of the Hollywood Bowl season is scheduled for June 7.

The LA Phil has announced the 2025 Hollywood Bowl summer season with performances at the world-renowned amphitheater in the Hollywood Hills from June to September 2025. The Hollywood Bowl 2025 season marks the LA Phil’s 103rd season at the storied venue.

“The start of 2025 has been a profound reminder of the strength and resilience of Los Angeles,” said Kim Noltemy, president and CEO of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association. “Many of our orchestra members, guest artists and community members have been deeply impacted by this

moment, and we are grateful to the dedicated firefighters, service workers and broader community whose efforts help keep L.A. strong. Their dedication and perseverance inspire us as we look ahead to a 2025 Bowl season that unites the world’s greatest talent with moments of joy, discovery and celebration all summer long.”

To honor and thank the first responders who bravely fought the Los Angeles fires, and the community members who were impacted, the LA Phil is presenting a free “We Love LA” concert on Tuesday, April 1, at the Hollywood Bowl, featuring

Gustavo Dudamel, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and special guests to be announced.

This year’s opening night will be held June 7 with special guest Hugh Jackman. Cynthia Erivo will appear as Jesus in “Jesus Christ Superstar” Aug 1-3. “Jaws” will be screened with live music on July 5. The annual “The Sound of Music” sing-along will take place on Sept. 20. Cyndi Lauper will perform on Aug. 29, Chicago on Sept. 12-14 and John Legend on Sept. 28.

For a full schedule, visit HollywoodBowl.com. The Hollywood Bowl is located at 2301 Highland Ave.

Miracle Mile Chamber hosts wildfire benefit at Halls of Ivy

Join the Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce for a “Fundraiser Friday” event on Feb. 28 at Halls of Ivy Salon to help those in need.

The event includes a DJ, drinks and fun, and a raffle with gifts from Fancifull, Urban Florist, Rocco’s, Japan Foundation and Bootcamp LA. A portion of ticket sales will be

donated to programs helping wildfire victims, and additional donations will be accepted. The event is being held by the Greater Miracle Mile Chamber, Oasis Church, the Labelle Foundation, Halls of Ivy Salon and EvoHair.

Guests are encouraged to donate household items, clothing, pet items, toiletries and non-perish-

ables. Additionally, reserve a \$50 blowout and 100% of the proceeds will go toward supporting those in need with essential items.

Tickets are \$35 for members, \$45 for non-members. Halls of Ivy Salon is located at 358 S. La Brea Ave. RSVP is requested by noon on Feb. 28 by emailing info@miraclemilechamber.org.

Protestors call for greater protections for pregnant women

From page 2

2013, Turbin has dedicated her life to being an advocate for other minority patients.

“I uncovered maternal mortality for a lot of women, Latina women also,” Turbin said. “Our babies and our mothers are dying ... I don’t think I’ll ever quit fighting for this cause.”

The protestors also called for Cedars-Sinai to take greater accountability for alleged sexual abuse committed by former OB-GYN Barry J. Brock over the course of more than 40 years.

“This institution not only robbed me of what is most precious, but it is robbing families day in and day out,” Johnson said. “This is not just about health equity and racism, this is about a culture that harbors sexual predators like Dr. Barry J. Brock.”

In at least three lawsuits, Brock has been accused by 167 women of sexual misconduct, rape and other criminal sexual acts. The lawsuits also allege that Cedars-Sinai covered up the abuse while allowing Brock to continue exploiting patients. Cedars-Sinai banned Brock from practicing at the hospital in September 2024.

Carmen Balber, executive direc-

tor of Consumer Watchdog – a non-profit consumer advocacy organization that pushes for stronger patient protections – said the many cases expose a pattern of negligence.

“What happened to Kira Johnson is an outrage, what happened to Kimberly Turbin is an outrage and what happened to the 160 women who recently filed lawsuits accusing a Cedars-Sinai OB-GYN for 30 years of sexual assault and abuse is an outrage,” Balber said. “We’re all disgusted by this activity. But what is an even worse outrage is that Cedars-Sinai allowed these serial offender doctors to keep harming women. And that is unacceptable.”

After the protest, Cedars-Sinai agreed to meet with 4 Kira 4 Moms.

“Cedars-Sinai appreciates and values the advocacy of organizations, including 4 Kira 4 Moms, in elevating awareness of disparities in Black maternal health, and we share a common goal of ensuring that all birthing patients receive high-quality, safe and equitable care,” read a statement from Cedars-Sinai. “We welcome dialogue with patients and community

organizations in advocating for progress as we continue to advance this urgent work – and that is why we have offered to meet with 4 Kira 4 Moms to foster greater collaboration.”

The hospital also highlighted the agreement with the Office of Civil Rights, and the measures introduced as a result that are meant to eliminate racism and discrimination.

“Cedars-Sinai has led substantial efforts over the last decade to understand and address the effects of bias in healthcare and promote equitable outcomes for our birthing patients, one of our highest priorities,” the statement read. “Among other initiatives, we have introduced an online tool to anonymously report suspected bias in labor and delivery settings, instituted mandatory annual unconscious bias education, created clinical and research programs to improve maternal health outcomes and collaborated with community partners to further reduce Black maternal health disparities. We remain committed to partnering with organizations in the community to build on this important work.”

VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

New Orleans comes to L.A. for Mardi Gras



Marvo Moore posed for a photograph in the Feb. 22, 1996, issue of the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News at the Original Farmers Market’s Mardi Gras festival. Moore, who attended with her husband Paul and daughter Athena, had moved to Los Angeles from New Orleans and returned for a second year to the market to celebrate with colorful masks and beads. This year the Original Farmers Market, located at the corner of Third and Fairfax, is holding its annual Mardi Gras celebration on Saturday and Sunday, March 1-2, and Fat Tuesday, March 4. The festivities include music, food and fun activities, as well as the Mutti Gras Pet Parade and Contest, featuring costumed canines, on March 1 from noon-1 p.m. For information, visit farmersmarketla.com.

BHUSD superintendent Bregy resigns

From page 1

descended into chaos after the public comment period was moved to the end of the meeting. The board also limited individual comments to two minutes, rather than the usual three, and added all public comments on each “topic” must take no more than 20 minutes.

The resignation comes as 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. The district placed Carey on leave on Dec. 1 without giving a specific reason – only stating that he was placed on leave “pending the finding of the district’s investigation of the incidents at Beverly Hills High School,” without specifying what the incidents were. Members of the BHUSD community have accused the district of placing Carey on leave in retaliation for student journalists’ coverage of an incident involving the alleged assault of a student by the district’s executive director of school safety, Mark Mead.

Peter Eliasberg, chief counsel for the ACLU of Southern California, said in an interview with the Beverly Press that the organization has “very serious concerns” over the situation surrounding Carey’s leave and the alleged censorship of KBEV.

KBEV’s coverage included a video 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 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.

Students and parents allege that Carey was placed on leave in retaliation for allowing KBEV students to upload the video to YouTube and refusing the school district’s request to have the video removed. Carey has been on paid leave for almost three months.

“Everything that I have seen so far indicates that the high school doesn’t seem to understand or doesn’t care to understand the pro-

tections of student journalism and student journalism advisors provided by California Education Code,” Eliasberg said.

He added that the district had no right to request the removal of the video under the education code, and no right to place Carey on leave as a result.

“There’s a very explicit no retaliation provision for teachers who are the journalism advisors who are basically acting to protect students’ right to engage in speech that’s protected by the ed code,” Eliasberg said. “It seems to me that any first-year law graduate would probably win a case showing that this is retaliation for doing his job.”

Eliasberg said he believes the district is “acting illegally” based on the evidence that he has seen.

The district’s investigation of Carey and its treatment of students have also raised concerns. Students said they were intimidated and made to feel unsafe by Assistant Superintendent Matt Horvath as he questioned them in one-on-one, closed-door meetings.

“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 in a board meeting on Feb. 11. “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.”

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

In a separate wrongful termination claim, former teacher Joanie Garratt alleged that Horvath fired her after she criticized President Donald Trump and a pro-Trump campus incident on her personal Facebook page.

Additionally, Black students, parents, teacher Bella Ivory and Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Laura Collins-Williams have accused the district of ignoring rampant racism and discrimination. Students alleged they have repeatedly been called the n-word while at school. The current athletic director Tim Ellis has been accused of racism.

Ellis has also been accused of sexual harassment in a separate wrongful termination claim. Former tennis coach Robbin Cafagna said Ellis – her former boss – harassed her, groped her and repeatedly tried to coerce her into a sexual relationship before he fired her when she threatened to report his behavior. Cafagna alleged that when she did report Ellis’ behavior, the district – notably, Horvath – ignored her claims and moved forward with her termination.

Another controversy surrounding the district is the suspended enrollment of displaced Palisades Charter High School students. The district denied the enrollment of more than 100 displaced Pali High students, after allowing the enrollment of 47 students. State Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) is now asking the district to resume enrollment, and said the state will reimburse any added cost.

Additionally, a civil lawsuit will return to court on April 7, to determine damages awarded to a former Beverly Hills High School student Laurie Siegman after a former teacher, Henry “Hank” Friedman admitted to sexually abusing her between 1978 and 1981. The lawsuit alleges that BHUSD knew about Friedman’s behavior but kept him employed. Siegman is seeking \$70 million in damages against BHUSD and Friedman combined.

Robbie Curtis – a former

BHUSD parent who has led the charge calling for the district to reinstate Carey – said he believed the situation surrounding Carey’s leave was the “straw that broke the camel’s back,” forcing Bregy to resign. He added that while the move appears to be in response to the controversies, the district needs to do more to take accountability and address the concerns of the community.

“It’s not an adequate response to what we’ve been fighting for [to reinstate Carey] and what Joanie Garratt’s fighting for, and what Collins-Williams is fighting for and the fashion teacher [Ivory] and the African American students,” Curtis said. “This is just the start. There needs to be more action taken by the board to either ask for resignations or remove part of the administrative team, if not all of the administrative team. The apple is rotten from the core.”

The Beverly Hills Education Foundation released a statement in response to Bregy’s resignation.

“Beverly Hills Education Foundation has enjoyed years of student success working closely with Dr. Bregy, and we wish him much success in his future endeavors,” said Tina Wiener, president of the BHEF Board of Directors.

In a school board meeting on Feb. 25, Horvath was absent from his usual post. No explanation was given during the meeting.

Students and parents continued to protest Carey’s administrative leave during the public comment period. Some parents also expressed concern over the district’s announcement of Bregy’s resignation, stating that the resignation was not transparent, and the community did not get to hear from Bregy directly.

Additionally, two parents took issue with a social media post made by board member Russell Stuart, which depicted the BHUSD logo edited to read “BHUS-DOGE,” a reference to Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency.

Stuart defended the post by stating that he believes the district is wasting money.

“That post that I made was not about an individual. It definitely was not speaking on behalf of the board. It was my own personal view,” Stuart said. “But it also showed a dedication to exactly what our job is, and that is to make sure that your tax dollars are properly spent.”

At times, the meeting became visibly tense.

Michael Risoli, a parent of a KBEV student, used his allotted two minutes to call on the district to issue a public apology to its students – specifically KBEV students and the two who said they were interrogated by Horvath.

“These students have done nothing

wrong. Those two girls have done nothing wrong,” Risoli said, before being escorted away from the microphone by security guards for exceeding the time limit.

Members of the public condemned the board’s action in limiting public comment and moving it to the end of the meeting.

“I don’t think you should change your policies so people don’t have the right to speak,” Curtis said. He said he had prepared a four-minute speech before being informed at the meeting that he only had two minutes to speak.

Resident Ilona Sherman – who was told by the board she could not comment because the 20-minute comment period had ended – protested, stating that she had signed up on the public comment list.

“You keep changing the rules, and you keep ignoring us,” she shouted from her seat. “It’s a slap in the face to everyone sitting here waiting to speak. This is wrong. Each one of you has a responsibility to listen to us.”

As Sherman protested, the board could be seen whispering to each other, while Hasty – who was in the meeting as acting superintendent for the first time since Bregy’s departure – instructed Marcus to adjourn the meeting and call a recess.

“She’s not going to let us talk, you’ve got to take a recess,” Hasty said to Marcus, off-microphone. Marcus then called a recess.

“Get up everybody,” Hasty said to the board as the recess was called.

“Each one of you who wants to run for something else will be remembered and we will not vote for you,” Sherman shouted as the board retreated to a private room.

“A board should never silence their community,” one student shouted from her seat.

During the recess, Hasty spoke with individual community members who were frustrated about the public comment rules, Curtis said.

“To his credit, Dr. Hasty then came out a few minutes later and spoke to several of us ... and several of the kids and said, ‘look, we know we may have messed things up. We want to get it right. How many people really need to speak?’” Curtis said in an interview.

After the Hasty’s conversation with community members during the recess, the board resumed the meeting and allowed Sherman and a student to make public comments.

Although two more individuals were allowed to speak, Curtis said the board meeting was overall a failure.

“It was the worst board meeting I can remember in watching board meetings over the last 30 years,” Curtis said.

Cyclists sought in violent attack on San Vicente

From page 4

large group that committed spontaneous flash mob takeovers at convenience stores last July. Approximately 50 teens rode up on bicycles, swarmed inside and ransacked a 7-Eleven store at 8500 Olympic Blvd. on Aug. 9 and Sept. 20, causing thousands of dollars in damage each time. Prior to the attack on Feb. 22, the group of cyclists rode to the same 7-Eleven store at Olympic and La Cienega boulevards, Ro said. When employees saw the bicyclists outside, they locked the doors and set off an alarm, causing the cyclists to ride away, he added.

“We are not sure if it’s the same group. We are trying to sort out who was involved to see if it’s the same people causing problems,” Ro added.

After the flash mob takeovers at the 7-Eleven last year, police

announced the arrest of four juveniles who were turned in by their parents. Authorities hope parents of the teens who attacked the man on San Vicente Boulevard will also cooperate with police and turn in the perpetrators.

“We’ve seen how truly dangerous a large group can be,” Ro said. “We are hoping they do the right thing.”

“I know that this incident has shaken many in our community, and I want to assure you that we take these concerns very seriously,” Yaroslavsky added. “Violence has no place in our city, and those responsible must be held accountable.”

Anyone with information about the crimes is urged to call detectives with the Wilshire Division at (213)922-8205. Ro said people who see the group of cyclists are

encouraged to call the police station’s non-emergency number at (213)473-0476 to notify officers.

Beverly Hills expands surveillance program

From page 1

Level 2 requires the purchase of a FususCORE device – a piece of hardware that connects the private cameras to the Real Time Watch Center. The device ranges in price based on how many cameras are in a private security system – from approximately \$350-\$7,300.

Although the initiative will primarily link public-facing cameras, Friedman said residents also have the option to register and integrate cameras that monitor backyards.

Additionally, businesses have the option to register and integrate cameras that record the interior of the business.

“Let’s say there is an activity on a certain block, they have the ability to switch over and watch that area on their screen,” Friedman said. “An example would be, if there’s something going on and I felt uncomfortable about a prowler in my backyard, I could immediately call the police station.”

He said police would then be able to view the live security footage of the backyard in real-time.

In level 1, the BHPD must request access to video footage, and the resident has the right to deny a request. However, in level 2 – after the camera owner signs an initial agreement – the BHPD can access the live video feed of a private camera at any time, without

See BHPD page 26

WeHo looks at ways to speed up projects

From page 1

garage. That hole became something of a swamp, raising health concerns, and had to be drained. With no further development on the docket, the vacant lot will remain empty for the foreseeable future.

Stalled development has become a regular concern in West Hollywood, which has been tasked by the state of California with building close to 4,000 new housing units by 2029. With just four years to go, the city is behind schedule.

“We are doing our best to meet the housing goals established by the state. Keep in mind that the city didn’t decide that it wanted to build 3,900 new housing units,” Heilman said. “This number was imposed upon us by the state as a result of a process which is inequitable. Because West Hollywood is already a dense city, we are being forced to build more units than communities which are lower density. For instance, a city like Rancho Palos Verdes has to build approximately 600 units even though it is more than six times larger than West Hollywood.”

The Melrose Triangle development would have added 80 apartment units, making a small dent in the number needed.

“The city has limited ability to control [properties] that it doesn’t own,” assistant director community

development Jennifer Alkire said. “We do have a suitable sites inventory with our housing element that shows sites of the city where we foresee an ability to concentrate some of the housing, and this is not one of those sites. So, we have limited opportunities to compel them to do something.”

Many other developments have housing included, including projects along the Sunset Strip such as the multipurpose building approved for the block currently occupied by the Viper Room. But not all proposals currently include housing.

The stalled development on the site of the former French Market likewise included no housing in its plans. The Robertson Lane project, which is set to dominate much of Santa Monica Boulevard, will have a luxury hotel, retail space and an office tower – and progress on that development has yet to be visible since its approval in 2022. Faring, the retail firm behind the project, had no comment on its progress, though it was granted a project extension by the City Council in October. Last year, a mixed-use development – sans housing – set for the former Hustler building at 8920 Sunset Blvd. was also given a six-year extension on its project agreement.

In attempt to assist stalled developments continue progress, the West

Hollywood City Council passed an ordinance last March that established a process for renewing expired building projects.

“There were a number of projects, particularly on the city’s east side, that we saw getting kind of stalled out on the way through construction,” director of community development Nick Maricich said. “So, we have seen projects move forward now that had previously been sitting unfinished, and this is allowing them to get completed and get those units built.”

“Each project has a story – the city’s story must include a supportive climate for development that does not contribute to delays,” Mayor Chelsea Byers said. “This means evaluating our approach to development and the processes we have in place and perhaps retooling or refining these processes to ensure the city is not contributing to the barriers. Part of this work included the study session we held Monday night and I believe the outcome helps us move forward more in greater alignment with our goals.”

On Feb. 24, the City Council met with the West Hollywood Planning Commission to discuss the role that commission plays in developments, including its billboard approval process. The city has a program in which it shares the profits in certain

billboards, including on traffic-heavy Sunset Boulevard.

“The city has many development projects in the pipeline and ensuring we have clear processes in place that all interests understand – including, the City Council, planning commission, city staff, the development community and the broader public – helps set us up well for the work ahead,” Byers said.

“The meeting helped clarify the planning commission’s role in evaluating development agreements not just for billboards, but for other projects where a developer has requested a development agreement,” Heilman said.

Councilman John Erickson said that he’s bringing forth “a number of items” meant to cut through the red tape currently in place to get developments off the ground. He also said that the planning commission had been causing hindrances in the development process.

“We actually have to build housing,” Erickson said. “If there’s a planning commission that’s allowed to essentially make design comments that have nothing to with how we actually just need to build the housing, [then] I think we are actually wasting the public’s time. And we need to get on it.”

Erickson said that while “you will find opposition everywhere,” it is necessary for the city to say, “We value your input, but we’re going to build this.”

“At the end of the day, that’s all we should be doing – building housing. We’ve got to make it easier and

more affordable to do that,” he said.

The West Hollywood Planning Commission does not represent the city in media relations, and as such does not make comments to the press. Staff said that city expertise is left to the City Council. The divides on the planning commission have typically concerned the scale of housing projects and historic preservation.

“We are working on programs locally here in West Hollywood to implement our housing element, remove barriers that were identified – barriers to housing production in the city,” Maricich said.

Byers added that “116 strategies” had been identified in the housing element to help West Hollywood meet its housing goals.

“That is a lot of work to accomplish,” she said. “We just launched the Zoning Improvement Program, which I see as one of the most critical steps in deciding how more homes of different varieties will be built across the city and this work will happen over the course of the next year, starting with community engagement through the Engage WeHo platform and a series of community meetings in March.”

The Engage WeHo website, engage.weho.org, encourages resident participation in city projects. The Zoning Improvement Program for Housing seeks to reduce barriers to further housing being built. A community meeting on the topic will be held on March 5 at 6 p.m. at Plummer Park, Rooms 5 and 6, located at 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.

Council OKs sites for ‘no camping’ zones

From page 1

the VOA Interim Housing Facility at 1765 S. La Cienega Blvd. and the Pico-Midvale Interim Housing Facility, which is scheduled to open this spring at 2377 Midvale Ave. in West Los Angeles. Also designated are the Westwood Branch Library, Westwood Gardens Park, Westwood Recreation Center and the Bad News Bears Field, located at 1411 S. Sepulveda Blvd., near Westwood. In addition to the sites themselves, Los Angeles Municipal Ordinance 41.18 extends 500 feet around designated locations. Those who violate the city’s law can be cited, fined and jailed.

The 41.18 ordinance has been controversial, with opponents contending that it criminalizes homelessness. The ordinance was originally enacted decades ago to combat loitering and was amended in 2021 as part of an effort to preserve public safety near sensitive sites and keep locations clear of tents during the burgeoning homelessness crisis. As part of the motion to designate the sites, Yaroslavsky included a letter in the council file outlining steps that have been taken prior to implementing 41.18 in the 5th District to assist

unhoused people, including those who were previously staying at the sites. For example, an encampment was located on Poinsettia Place on the east side of Poinsettia Park for nearly a decade before an Inside Safe operation was held in January 2024 by Mayor Karen Bass and the Los Angeles County Homeless Authority, in conjunction with Yaroslavsky and Councilman Hugo Soto-Martinez’s office. People living in the encampment on Poinsettia Place, as well as a nearby encampment east of La Brea Avenue in Soto-Martinez’s 13th District, were moved into housing and the sites were cleared. The area near Poinsettia Park remains fenced and the encampments have not returned to the area. Yaroslavsky said there are no unhoused people currently staying at any of the seven locations designated on Feb. 25 for implementation of the 41.18 ordinance.

“I’ve been clear since day one that 41.18 should be used to protect sensitive locations like schools, libraries and interim housing sites,” Yaroslavsky said. “With [this] vote, the city is following through on that commitment, including my promise

to designate a 41.18 zone around the Midvale/Pico facility. At the same time, we have a responsibility to be transparent about what happens to the people affected by these policies. By including information about prior outreach and housing coordination in the council file, we’re ensuring this process is clear and accountable while making sure enforcement is tied to real housing solutions.”

Yaroslavsky introduced a motion last year directing the city to track enforcement more effectively, ensure that new 41.18 zones are paired with housing offers and provide more transparency on available shelter beds, according to a statement from her office. The designation of 41.18 sites ensures public spaces remain protected without undermining broader efforts to address the homelessness crisis.

Peter Nichols, co-founder of the advocacy group Melrose Action, was pleased that the City Council designated Poinsettia Park as a 41.18 zone.

“As far as we’re concerned at Melrose Action, this designation couldn’t come soon enough,”

Nichols said. “I’m glad the city is doing the right thing and preserving space and protecting health and safety for all.”

Phillip Ralph, a Melrose area resident who frequently walks his dogs at Poinsettia Park, said during a visit to the site on Feb. 24 that homelessness has not been an issue lately.

“It was a big problem before the encampment was cleared and I didn’t come here for a long time,” he said. “Now, it’s not a problem and we come here all the time. We feel safe. I’m glad the city is doing something to make sure it stays safe.”

Four City Council members voted against the designation of the seven sites in the 5th District, including Soto-Martinez and Councilwomen Eunisses Hernandez, 1st District; Nithya Raman, 4th District; and Ysabel Jurado, 14th District.

“Councilmember Soto-Martinez does not support 41.18 resolutions, as data shows that it is not a productive use of city resources in comparison to investing in housing and services,” the councilman’s spokesman Nick Barnes-Batista said.

In 2023, Soto-Martinez had a fence removed that closed off large sections of space at Echo Park Lake, where the city cleared a large homeless encampment two years earlier during the tenure of City Councilman Mitch O’Farrell. Thirty-

five tons of waste and debris were removed. The fence remained in place after the encampment was cleared and was locked at night from 10 p.m.-5 a.m. to keep people out of the park. The city completed extensive renovations to the park and it remains clear and safe for people to visit.

The 41.18 ordinance is also opposed by the Los Angeles Community Action Network, an organization that assists people living in poverty and advocates for effective policies and humane solutions to the homelessness crisis.

“We are opposed to 41.18 enforcement. It is something the Los Angeles Community Action Network has been fighting for decades,” said Adam Smith, a community organizer for LACAN. “We see 41.18 as criminalization of people who have no place to go and it’s a waste of resources. It’s a dead end. It gives political points to politicians potentially looking toward the next election, but it’s all about enforcement and it’s not about housing.”

Yaroslavsky’s spokesman Leo Daube said signs must be installed around the newly designated 41.18 sites notifying people about the law before the law is enforced. The city is currently working on an implementation plan, and no timeline has been established.

BHPD links private cameras to city’s system

From page 25

notice.

The initiative has prompted privacy concerns from some Beverly Hills residents.

“This would be highly intrusive and a possible gross invasion of privacy,” resident Andrea Grossman said. “We are in a time of declining trust in government, and we don’t need the police to have access to our systems. The police can request to see camera feeds when they think it’s necessary, but I don’t need to integrate

my camera system with BHPD.”

In response to privacy concerns, Friedman emphasized the voluntary nature of the program and said that police will not be monitoring individual camera feeds at all times, but instead only when a crime or suspicious activity is reported.

“Obviously everybody has to be within their comfort level,” Friedman said. “Our police have enough to do that they’re not going to waste their time on areas where

there is no crime. That doesn’t do anybody any good. It’s really a system that – especially Level 2 – if there is a crime occurring on the spot, then you’re going to cut the amount of wait time to get a police officer over there in half.”

Some residents and business owners have expressed appreciation of the new initiative.

“Some of my neighbors have cameras and if there’s an incident on the block, we always talk and say, ‘What happened, did you see

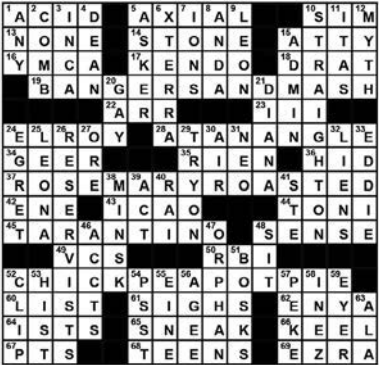
your cameras at 1:12 p.m.?’ And we’ll talk about it and we’ll share each others’ video,” resident Andy Licht said. “To have professionals do that, and the police involved – the technology is going to just make the city more and more safe.”

Similar programs have been implemented by police departments in other municipalities nationwide, including Connect Atlanta and Connect Orange County.

According to the Beverly Hills Connect website, 173 cameras have been registered under Level 1, and 1,837 cameras have been integrated under Level 2. Residents and busi-

ness owners can register or integrate their cameras by visiting beverlyhillsconnect.org.

Answers From Page 27



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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

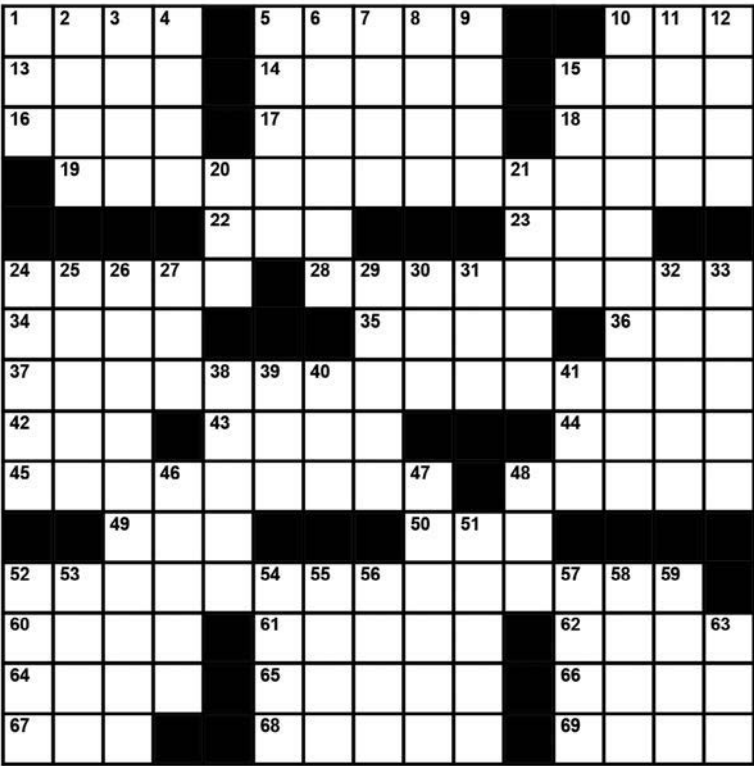
Across

1. Amino and nitric
5. Located along a central line
10. Kind of card in phones
13. Love in tennis
14. "J.F.K." director
15. Lawyer, abbr.
16. Fitness assoc.
17. Japanese martial art
18. Darn!
19. Super popular Brit. dish
22. Opposite of dep.
23. Junior's junior
24. N.F.L. Hall-of-Famer Hirsch
28. Diagonally
34. Grandpa Walton portrayer
35. French for nothing
36. Holed up
37. Potato dish version
42. Hurricane heading: abbr.
43. U.N. aviation agency
44. "Beloved" author Morrison
45. "Reservoir Dogs" director
48. Insight
49. Venture capitalists, abbr.
50. Baseball stat
52. Vegetarian dish
60. Enumerate
61. Makes a sad noise
62. Celtic singer
64. Followers
65. Skulk around

66. Ship part
67. Sports stat.
68. Many babysitters
69. Book after II Chronicles

Down

1. This, that or the other
2. Something to part with
3. Native Peruvian
4. Student overseer
5. Wedding proposer
6. Nissan SUV
7. Groups of atoms
8. Time ___ half
9. Classic keyman Russell
10. As the crow flies
11. "Take ___ a sign"
12. Don't believe it
15. Executive branch, informally
20. Jovial
21. Paul Anka's first hit
24. Everglades wader
25. First name in hoteliers
26. National Guard, for example
27. Bauxite, e.g.
29. Check for fit
30. Space
31. Prefix with romantic
32. Property claims
33. Murphy of "Shrek"
38. Belarus's capital
39. Do something



40. Bollywood film star
41. Office address part, abbr.
46. Bank holdings, abbr.
47. Jane Eyre, e.g.
48. Remain unused
51. Small wooded areas
52. Piece of jewelry
53. School subj.
54. "Hey, there!"
55. "___ kleine Nachtmusik"
56. Tommie of the "Miracle Mets"
57. Lap dog, for short

58. Don Juan's mother
59. Observer
63. As done by

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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