



Rain possible
through
Friday

BEVERLY PRESS

INSIDE

- Thousands attend Women's March pg. 3
- Beverly Hills for Choice ramps up campaign pg. 4

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March 13, 2025

Friedman blasts Republicans over spending package vote

■ Lawmakers refuse to include amendment

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) lambasted House Republicans on March 11 after they refused to consider an amendment she authored and sought to be included in a six-month budgeting plan approved to avoid a govern-

ment shutdown.

The amendment aimed to stop the Trump administration from illegally withholding or diverting funds appropriated in the legislation by reaffirming Congress' power to allocate funds. The amendment was co-sponsored by 60 Democratic

See Friedman page 25



photo by Edwin Folven

U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman held a press conference in February at the Wilshire/La Brea Metro subway station to outline how cuts by the Trump administration may impact Los Angeles.

BHUSD cuts administrative positions

■ Parents circulate petitions to recall Sabag, Stuart

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education eliminated 10 positions in its meeting on March 11. As a result of the unanimous vote, the jobs – which include administrative and executive positions – will no longer exist in the school district after the 2024-25 school year ends.

“We are committed to providing our students with the highest quality education while ensuring that our financial resources are allocated in a way that directly benefits their learning experience,” Board President Rachelle Marcus said in a statement. “These changes allow us to prioritize academic excellence while maintaining a strong and sustainable district.”

The cut positions include executive director of communications and strategic initiatives, director of purchasing, assistant director of fiscal services, executive director



photo by Tabor Brewster

Community members protested the board's unanimous decision to cut 10 administrative and executive positions from the district.

of construction and facilities, media director, two elementary assistant principal positions, executive director of school safety, executive director of athletics, executive director of information technology services and assistant superintendent of personnel services.

The eliminations do not constitute an immediate firing, as personnel involved will continue to

work in the roles until the end of the school year. However, it is not clear if the employees will return to the school district in different positions next year.

“These adjustments align with state regulations that require a significant portion of school funding be allocated directly to student programs and services,” the district wrote in a press release. “By

See BHUSD page 25

Woman injured in attack in Beverly Hills

■ Suspect had been released from custody one day before assault

BY TABOR BREWSTER

A woman was attacked and sexually assaulted on Feb. 20 on Santa Monica Boulevard in Beverly Hills, according to the Beverly Hills Police Department.

The attack occurred at 2:38 p.m. near the intersection of North Santa Monica Boulevard and Hillcrest Road – an area with a landscaped park and path that is frequented by

joggers, walkers and tourists.

“A female victim had exited the bus and was walking along North Santa Monica Boulevard when a male suspect approached her and physically assaulted her without provocation,” BHPD Lt. Kevin Orth said. “Beverly Hills police officers quickly arrived on the scene, stopped the attack and immediately detained the suspect.”

The victim sustained minor injuries and was transported to a hospital, according to the BHPD.

The suspect, 32-year-old Anthony Barrett, has a criminal record with previous arrests in

Beverly Hills, Los Angeles and Santa Monica. Most recently, he was arrested on Dec. 9 in Beverly Hills for an outstanding warrant for a parole violation. According to the criminal complaint from the Feb. 20 attack, Barrett was on parole from state prison.

However, according to Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department booking records, Barrett was released from custody on Feb. 19 – one day before the attack.

Barrett is currently being held on \$275,000 bail in Twin Towers Correctional Facility.

A preliminary hearing scheduled on March 11 was continued to March 12. However, according to the district attorney's office, Barrett failed to appear in court on March 12. As a result, the preliminary hearing was continued to March 13. The court issued an extraction order for his appearance.

Most crimes reported within Beverly Hills are usually available on the city's interactive crime map. However, the Feb. 20 assault was not listed on the map. Orth said that certain crimes, including sex crimes and crimes involving juveniles, are not included on the website.

This is a developing story and will be updated as more information becomes available.



photo by Tabor Brewster

The attack occurred near the intersection of North Santa Monica Boulevard and Hillcrest Road on Feb. 20.



photo courtesy of the city of West Hollywood

City staff is asking for community participation in the future of West Hollywood's zoning ordinances.

WeHo engages community in crafting future zoning rules

■ City seeks to meet state mandated goals in housing element

BY RANCE COLLINS

On March 5 and 11, West Hollywood hosted Zoom workshops for the community, informing the public on the city's

Zoning Improvement Program. ZIP will shape the future of housing development in West Hollywood. The meetings helped to explain how zoning relates to the state-certified housing element, which includes a mandate for the city to build 3,900 new housing units by 2029.

During the meetings, director

See WeHo page 26



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Jason Isbell

The LA Phil is holding “An Evening With Jason Isbell” on Friday, March 14, at 8 p.m. at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. The performance follows the release of the new album “Foxes In The Snow” and offers an intimate evening of fan-favorites, new music and hits such as “Cover Me Up” and “If We Were Vampires.” 111 S. Grand Ave. laphil.com.



‘One For My Baby’

All Roads Theatre Company’s kicks off its 2025 season with the world premiere of “One For My Baby” from Friday, March 14, through Sunday, March 23, at the El Portal Theatre. Broadway stars Lana Gordon and Luba Mason lead a cast of 28 performers in the new musical, which tells a tale of lust, heartbreak, greed and redemption. Set in 1947 in “Dreamland,” one of the sexiest night-clubs in town, “One For My Baby” features drama and intrigue in a glittering film-noir, jazz-filled world. Previews are at 8 p.m. on March 14 and 3 p.m. on March 15. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Thursday and Friday; 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., Saturday; and 3 p.m., Sunday. Tickets start at \$42. 5269 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood. elportaltheatre.com.

Classic rock at Saban Theatre

Don’t miss “Classic Albums Live: Eagles Hotel California + Hits” on

Friday, March 14, at the Saban Theatre. The Classic Albums Live show offers two distinct experiences: a faithful rendition of Hotel California played during the first half, followed by a dynamic set of The Eagles’ greatest hits. Doors open at 6 p.m.; headliner performs at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$28. 8440 Wilshire Blvd. wheremusictmeetsthesoul.com.

LAUNCH LA

LAUNCH LA presents David Otis Johnson’s “Body Heat,” a new collection of neon sculptures and text-based works running Saturday, March 15, through Saturday, March 29. Johnson’s pieces highlight the physicality of neon, from its dynamic interplay with space to the luminous energy that brings each work to life. The pieces range from a figure in movement to a neon gate and a sign that takes inspiration from shibari and reads “Practice Restraint.” An opening reception will be held on March 15 from 5-8 p.m. 170 S. La Brea Ave., Ste. 202. launch-la.org.



Louis Stern Fine Arts

Join Louis Stern Fine Arts for “Gabriele Evertz: Colors Make Light,” an exhibition running Saturday, March 15, through Saturday, May 3, marking the Brooklyn-based artist’s first solo presentation with the gallery. A key artist of the Hunter Color School along with Vincent Longo, Doug Ohlson, Robert Swain and Sanford Wurmfeld, Evertz is a member of the prestigious American Abstract Artists, nominated by the late artist Mac Wells in 1996. An opening reception will be held on March 15 from 5-7 p.m. 9002 Melrose Ave. (310)276-0147, louissternfinearts.com.

Harlem Quartet

BroadStage presents the Harlem Quartet with Aldo López-Gavilán on Saturday, March 15, at 7:30 p.m. Experience the mesmerizing combination of the Grammy Award-winning Harlem Quartet and Cuban pianist and composer López-Gavilán, who shares a special bond with the quartet as the brother of violinist Ilmar Gavilán. With a program blending jazz and classical influences, the performance includes López-Gavilán’s dynamic compositions alongside iconic jazz standards by Dizzy Gillespie and Billy Strayhorn. Tickets start at \$40. 1310 11th St., Santa Monica. broadstage.org.

Meet Mid City West council candidates

The Mid City West Neighborhood Council is holding a candidate meet-and-greet event on Sunday, March 16, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Picnic Pavilion 2 in Pan Pacific Park. The event offers an informal opportunity to meet candidates for the neighborhood council. The election will be held on April 15 and is vote-by mail only. People wishing to vote must request a ballot by April 7. For information on ballots, visit clerk.lacity.gov/clerk-services/elections/neighborhood-council-elections/how-vote. Pan Pacific Park is located at 7600 Beverly Blvd. midcitywest.org/calendar.

Holocaust book

Holocaust Museum L.A. welcomes author Pamela D. Toler for a discussion on her book “The Dragon from

Chicago: The Untold Story of an American Reporter in Nazi Germany” on Sunday, March 16, from 3-4 p.m. Toler’s new book offers a captivating look at Sigrid Schultz, of the Chicago Tribune, who was one of the earliest reporters to warn Americans about the rising threat of the Nazi regime. Admission is free but reservations are required. 100 The Grove Drive. holocaustmuseumla.org.

St. Patrick’s Day comedy

Don’t miss the annual St. Patrick’s Day Comedy Show with Bill Devlin on Monday, March 17, at the Hollywood Improv Lab. Devlin has performed with some of the top comedians in the country. The show will include special guests Frazier Smith, Elenor Kerrigan, Mary Gallagher, Jamie Kaler and Patrick Keane, as well as music and lots of shenanigans. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; the show starts at 7 p.m. General admission is \$15. 8162 Melrose Ave. improv.com.



Japan House L.A.

Japan House Los Angeles, in partnership with MUFG, is holding “Entertainment Without Borders: An Industry Perspective” on Tuesday, March 18, from 7-10 p.m. in the Japan House Salon, located on Level 5 of Ovation Hollywood. The evening of conversation explores the evolving dynamics of representation, dealmaking and entertainment production in Hollywood, bringing together distinguished industry leaders at the forefront of cross-cultural entertainment. Admission is \$20. 6801 Hollywood Blvd. japanhousela.com.

Jazz legend Ron Carter

The Catalina Jazz Club welcomes jazz legend Ron Carter and his “Foresight” Quartet for four performances from Thursday, March 20, through Sunday, March 23. Carter is among the most prolific and influential bassists in jazz. He has recorded more than 2,200 albums, which earned him a Guinness World Record for most-recorded jazz bassist. From 1963-68, he was a member of the Miles Davis Quintet. Carter has recorded with jazz greats such as Lena Horne, Bill Evans, B.B. King, Dexter Gordon, Wes Montgomery and Bobby Timmons. Doors open at 7 p.m.; showtimes are 8:30 p.m. 6725 W. Sunset Blvd. catalinajazzclub.com.



‘My Uterus: A Womb With A View’

Celebrate Women’s History Month with “My Uterus: A Womb With A View” written and performed by Dina Morrone on Saturday March 22, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 23, at 2 p.m. at Theatre West. Don’t miss the stimulatingly funny production by award-winner Morrone, who is also known for “The Italian In Me” and “Moose On The Loose.” Tickets are \$40. 3333 Cahuenga Blvd. West. (323)851-4839. theatrewest.org/on-stage/my-uterus-a-womb-with-a-view-2025.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills
Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman was joined by members of city commission at the final Mayor’s Cabinet Meeting during his term.

Beverly Hills Mayor Friedman hosts final cabinet meeting

Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman was joined by the city’s commission chairs and commissioners at the final mayor’s cabinet meeting on March 11, where they took a moment to express their deep gratitude for his dedicated service throughout his term.

County announces \$17 million in grants for job training programs

The Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity is launching a new High Road Training Partnerships Fund, a grant program with over \$17 million available to fund innovative workforce training models delivered by worker-centered organizations and employers. Applications will open on March 31. During the application window, technical assistance will be provided, including informational sessions and an application toolkit.

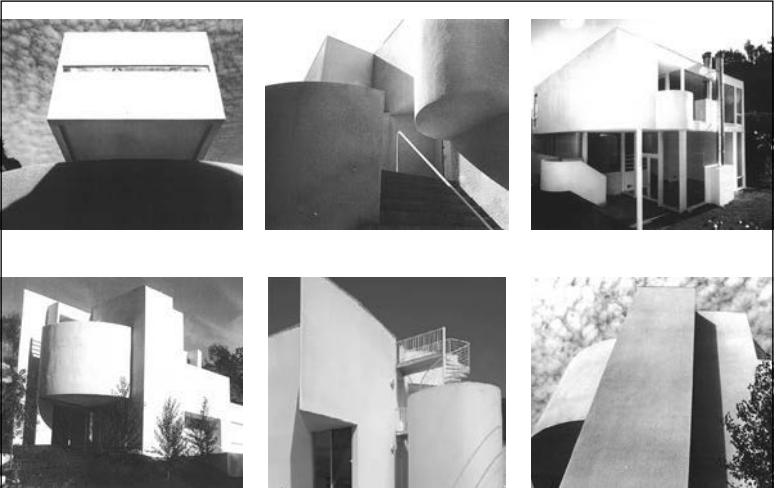
The grant opportunity is open to workforce organizations developing or expanding worker and industry-informed training programs that serve individuals most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and racial and economic inequities. The initiative prepares the workforce for the current job market and strengthens economic stability in the face of

future disruptions, such as the recent windstorm and wildfires.

Eligible partnerships include community-based organizations, organized labor, industry associations, employers, educational institutions, job centers, apprenticeship programs and industry-informed training providers.

Interested High Road Partnerships are encouraged to begin preparing now by reviewing existing H RTP models by the California Workforce Development Board’s framework and essential elements; prioritizing high-growth and high-opportunity industries; resolving a worker and employer occupational challenge; establishing employer and worker focused partnerships; and scoping projects for awards up to \$1 million.

For information, visit opportunity.lacounty.gov/hrtp.



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Thousands attend annual Women’s March

BY RANCE COLLINS

Roughly 20,000 people attended the annual Women’s March in Downtown Los Angeles on March 8, International Women’s Day. Rally attendees hoisted signs criticizing the Trump administration, with many alleging Russian collusion, calling the president fascist and questioning the role of Elon Musk in the government.

“The streets were filled with a sea of determined, powerful women and allies who are not backing down,” Women’s March Foundation president Emiliana Guereca said, adding that this year’s march, “felt like a both a battle cry and a reaffirmation of our collective power.”

Attendees at the event included attorney Gloria Allred, activist Dolores Huerta and Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Los Angeles).

“Women showed up in the thousands because we refuse to be erased and or silenced. The attacks on our rights – from reproductive freedom to voting access to basic bodily

autonomy – are relentless, but so are we,” Guereca said. “The energy in the crowd was fierce, defiant and deeply committed to fighting back ... This isn’t just about marching; it’s about mobilizing, organizing and making sure they hear us loud and clear, ‘Women’s rights are not up for debate.’”

Guereca said that the current administration is deliberately creating chaos in an effort to “distract, disempower and exhaust people.” Women’s March is focused on voter mobilization, lifting up candidates who support women’s rights and putting women at the forefront of political power.

“We are currently working on a flood the zone campaign to reject the SAVE Act, [which is] a voter suppression bill that specifically targets married women,” she said.

The SAVE Act, or the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, is a bill making its way through Congress that aims to block non-citizens from voting. It should be noted, that voting as a non-citizen is already

illegal. The act states that one’s last name must match the name of their birth certificate, as well, which could potentially create hurdles for married women and people who have legally changed their name.

Los Angeles resident Sebastian Zancanaro joined the march because he said it was the responsibility of men to support women.

“As I approached City Hall, the cracked pavement beneath me seemed to vibrate, charged with something restless. The air throbbed with anger, anxiety and a primal hunger – to hunt down those who, even in 2025, persist in persecuting women’s rights,” Zancanaro said. “Every banner, poster and sign bore the raw imprint of that fury, each one a vessel of hope against a system that refuses to budge – a system where men, especially white men in power, believe their rule is eternal. That the patriarchy must endure.”

“Seeing our community values represented so boldly and proudly in the streets of Los Angeles, West Hollywood, all across the country and around the world was a powerful reminder of the energy we make when we come together,” West Hollywood Mayor Chelsea Byers said. “We will need to continue to tap into this power to fuel our resilience in the months ahead.”

While thousands flooded downtown, Guereca said that the media coverage was nowhere near the level of the first march in 2017.

“They want us to think this movement is over. It’s not,” she said. “Media coverage often follows spectacle, and they think we’ve



photo by Sebastian Zancanaro

Attendees of the Women’s March on March 8 criticized Elon Musk’s role in the Trump administration.

Newsom criticized for podcast statement on trans athletes

BY RANCE COLLINS

The city of West Hollywood will be sending a letter to Gov. Gavin Newsom, condemning comments made by the governor on his podcast calling the participation of transgender women and girls in women’s sports “deeply unfair.”

“As mayor, I am preparing a letter on behalf of the city of West Hollywood to send to Gov. Newsom conveying our disappointment and concerns regarding his statements,” Mayor Chelsea Byers said. “West Hollywood stands with trans and nonbinary people and will continue to advocate for their dignity and respect in all facets of society.”

Trans athletes have been a hot button topic in politics the last year, with Republicans hammering the issue in campaign ads. President Donald Trump issued an executive order in February banning transgender women from participating in female sports. According to the NCAA, there are less than 10 transgender collegiate athletes.

The podcast “This is Gavin Newsom” posted its first episode, a conversation with Newsom and conservative media personality Charlie Kirk, on March 6, during which the transgender issue was broached. Newsom seemed to break from many of his Democratic colleagues, though when reached for a comment, his office pointed to the entirety of his initial quote.

“I think it’s an issue of fairness, I completely agree with you on that. It is an issue of fairness. It’s deeply unfair. I am not wrestling with the fairness issue. I totally agree with you,” Newsom began, but added, “There’s also humility and grace. You know that these poor people are more likely to commit suicide, have anxiety and depression. The way that people talk down to vulnerable communities is an issue that I have a hard time with. So, both things I can hold in my hand. How can we address this issue with the kind of decency that I think, you know, is inherent in you, but not always expressed on the issue, but at the same time, deal with the unfairness?”

Newsom’s office also said that he rejected “the right wing’s cynical attempt to weaponize this debate as an excuse to vilify individual kids” and that he stands up to bullies. The office also pointed to the governor’s record on LGBTQ+ rights, including strengthening protections for transgender and nonbinary people, making it easier to update gender markers on official documents, expanding access to gender-inclusive restrooms in public spaces, protecting access to transgender health care, expanding mental health funding for LGBTQ+ youth and defending LGBTQ+ representation in schools.

Still, the League of California Cities LGBTQ+ Caucus and the Los Angeles County LGBTQ+ Elected Officials Association, have also condemned the position Newsom took on the podcast.

“His statements concerning the participation of transgender women and girls in female sports have not only concerned us, but also contradict the values of inclusivity and equality that we stand for and that the governor’s office has stood for in the past,” a joint statement read. “At a time when transgender individuals face increasing scrutiny and hostility from various sectors, it is disheartening and harmful to witness divisive rhetoric emanating from our state leadership. Such comments do not merely reflect a personal opinion – they carry wider societal implications, perpetuating stigma and reinforcing barriers against an already marginalized community.”

The groups’ statement went on to ask Newsom “to consider the impact of his words” and affirm his support for equality for all, regardless of gender identity.

West Hollywood Councilman Danny Hang said that while the governor was “right to raise these conversations,” fairness and inclusion are not at odds.

“Trans athletes deserve respect, dignity and the opportunity to compete – just like everyone else. We should be advancing policies that uplift all athletes rather than exclude some,” Hang said.

been marching for too long for it to be ‘newsworthy.’ But the truth is, they don’t want to amplify how strong we still are. They don’t want to acknowledge that women are still out here, still fighting, still demanding a better future. That’s why we need to keep showing up, keep making noise and keep staying loud.”

Guereca noted that the march was a representation of resistance, but that everyday choices are often


where the real differences are made.

“Have the tough conversations with your friends and family. Support organizations that are on the front lines of the fight for women’s rights. Show up where decisions are being made – at school board meetings, city councils and state legislatures – because policies that affect our lives are being written in those rooms. Use your economic power wisely – refuse to

See Women’s March page 26

CELEBRATE
WOMEN’S
HISTORY
MONTH

The City of West Hollywood will celebrate with events throughout March. More info at weho.org/news.



City of West Hollywood
California 1984



photo by Tabor Brewster

In December, a judge granted the city’s anti-SLAPP motion in the DuPont Clinic lawsuit.

Beverly Hills for Choice calls on city to take accountability

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Beverly Hills for Choice, a local pro-choice advocacy group, is reigniting a campaign calling on the city of Beverly Hills to take accountability for its alleged role in the 2023 rescission of a lease for the DuPont Clinic – a women’s reproductive health facility that never opened as planned.

The clinic would have offered reproductive health care during all trimesters of pregnancy, and was originally scheduled to open in fall 2023 at 8920 Wilshire Blvd. The company that owns the property, Douglas Emmett, rescinded the lease on June 12, 2023, following anti-abortion protests in the city. Some anti-abortion organizers communicated directly with city employees and council members. DuPont Clinic filed separate litigation against both the city and Douglas Emmett.

The city’s alleged involvement prompted an investigation by California Attorney General Rob Bonta, who concluded that the city violated the California Constitution and state laws in its actions.

“At a time when access to abortion care is under attack across this nation, it is now more critical than ever to double down on our commitment to protect those seeking reproductive health care in our state,” Bonta said. “It is troubling that, even here in California where access to reproductive health care is a constitutional right, Beverly Hills officials have taken actions reminiscent of those in extremist red states by illegally interfering with, and ultimately preventing a new reproductive health care clinic from opening.”

Bonta and the city filed an agreement on Oct. 31, 2024, mandating that the city train its employees on protecting abortion rights.

Although Bonta’s findings supported DuPont Clinic’s position that the city illegally interfered with its lease, in December 2024, a judge ruled partially in favor of the city. In the lawsuit filed by DuPont Clinic, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael Schultz granted the city’s anti-SLAPP motion, which dismissed evidence including a letter penned by the city and the police department that would be sent to the building’s existing tenants warning them of potential safety risks if DuPont Clinic were to open. While the city was drafting the letter, then-mayor Julian Gold said he did not “mind turning up the

heat a little,” and pushed that the letter should contain warnings of “bomb threats” and “lone wolf active shooters” if the clinic were to open. Bonta said the city did not have any basis or evidence that such threats would be made.

The city of Beverly Hills is now seeking to recover attorney fees from DuPont Clinic.

“The city is further crushing [DuPont] financially,” Beverly Hills for Choice co-founder Gay Abrams said. “[The anti-SLAPP motion] was very concerning to us for not only DuPont Clinic but for reproductive freedom.”

Abrams said the group is concerned that if the city is successful in recovering legal fees, it will negatively impact the clinic’s ability to open other facilities in California and throughout the U.S.

According to DuPont Clinic, it invested almost \$2 million in the planned location in Beverly Hills before it was preemptively shut down.

Beverly Hills for Choice, in collaboration with the Feminist Majority Foundation – a women’s equality nonprofit – is encouraging supporters to sign a petition and write letters to the city asking the city to settle the lawsuit with the clinic in a way that does not financially cripple the health care provider.

Additionally, Beverly Hills for Choice is calling on the city to take accountability for its actions, after the city maintained that it did not interfere with the planned opening of DuPont Clinic following Bonta’s findings.

“We disagree with the allegations in the attorney general’s complaint,” Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman said in a statement.

Abrams said she felt the city is trying to “rewrite history” in its response to the DuPont situation.

“We want to trust our representatives,” Abrams said. “We’re very disappointed. We just want them to take accountability, do the right thing. The city continues to claim they support reproductive freedom. If they support reproductive freedom, do the right thing and help DuPont open and operate and serve the needs of women in Beverly Hills, in L.A., in the state of California and across the country.”

Members of Beverly Hills for Choice, the Feminist Majority Foundation and residents plan to voice their concerns at the Beverly Hills City Council meeting on March 18.

State Democratic Party delegates chosen

BY RANCE COLLINS

Last month, the California Democratic Party chose its slate of delegates for the 2025 convention, which will be held May 30-June 1 in Anaheim.

Delegates vote for endorsements of Democratic candidates, vote for positions on ballot propositions, are voices for local districts when establishing the state Democratic platform and elect the party’s regional directors, which act as liaisons between the official state party, county central committees and local Democratic Party clubs.

A progressive slate proved dominate for Assembly District 51, which includes Hollywood, West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and Santa Monica. Dan Hall, Jon Katz, Danny Hang, Louis Abramson, Barry Snell, Erick Matos, Mike Rose, Angela D. Scott, Melissa Goodman, Julie Stromberg, Naomi Goldman, Cristina Navarro, Elvina Beck and Caroline M. Torosis – all backed by a progressive slate movement – were elected as delegates. Torosis was also named to the executive board, which holds two additional meetings each year to discuss business that occurs between conventions.

Hang, who is also a member of the West Hollywood City Council, said that being a delegate allows everyday folks to make an impact in the direction of the party.

“It’s about making sure the party reflects the values and issues that matter to me and my community,” he said. “It’s a way to be more than

just a voter. I get to be part of the decision-making process that shapes the future of the party.”

Matos also serves in West Hollywood as a planning commissioner, and he said he was grateful for the opportunity.

“I look forward to focusing on the issues that matter, including affordable housing, economic opportunity, health care access, climate change, homelessness and public safety,” he said.

Stromberg said that, as the only delegate representing the Greater Wilshire area, she felt her presence was of particular importance.

“I want to make sure that our neighborhood has representation and has a seat at the table,” Stromberg said. “Because some of our positions on certain issues may be different than other areas. Historically, it’s been mainly candidates from Santa Monica and West Hollywood who have been elected.”

While regular party members may not have the voting power of delegates, Stromberg said people should attend the convention.

“I encourage anyone who’s really interested in California Democratic Party, or learning more about how the California Democratic Party works, to join,” she said. “Before I



photo courtesy of Danny Hang

West Hollywood City Councilman Danny Hang was among the delegates chosen to represent Assembly District 51 for the California Democratic Party.

ran for delegate, I attended a convention, and that made me want to learn even more about the party. And it inspired me to run the next time the election was open.”

Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood) said he is excited to work with the winning delegates.

“I was proud to support these dedicated Democratic leaders and am thrilled to see their resounding victory in the ADEM elections,” Zbur said. “I look forward to working with them over the next two years to strengthen our party, advance our shared values and elect Democrats up and down the ballot in 2026.”

For information, visit adem.cadem.org.

Assessor offers clarification on fire zone rebuilding

Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang issued an advisory to clarify a point of confusion for property owners impacted by the recent fires regarding construction allowances that permit the rebuilding of a larger structure.

Prang emphasized that city and county programs that allow property owners to rebuild to 110% do not exempt the additional square footage from property assessment and the accompanying property taxes.

The city and county programs that allows a structure to be rebuilt to 110% are intended to expedite the permitting process. However, current property tax relief laws do not exempt that additional size from assessment.

Gov. Gavin Newsom issued an executive order that suspended the standard review process with respect to property damaged or lost due to the recent fires. To qualify for expedited review, a reconstruction project must not be larger than 110% of the size (footprint and height) of the property that existed before the fires.

Similarly, L.A. Mayor Karen Bass issued an emergency executive order that directed city departments to expedite the approval processes. For the assessor’s office, when a property is damaged or destroyed by a disaster, it may qualify for a lower property assessment under a program called “Misfortune and Calamity.” For information, visit assessor.lacounty.gov.



HANCOCK PARK
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Hancock Park HOA March 2025 Updates

Monday, March 17th our Parkway Trees between Melrose & Beverly and Rossmore & Highland will be trimmed to remove deadwood and dangerous branches. The HPHOA will also begin parkway tree replacement planting. Let us know if your parkway needs a new tree! Your annual dues and donations are not only funding the trimming but also the purchase of beautiful, healthy trees. Please remember to send in your annual dues! And a huge thank you to those who have already contributed!

Town Hall via zoom on Tuesday, March 25th at 6 PM. Topics we get the most feedback about - Security, Trees, Infrastructure Repair and Traffic Safety will all be discussed. Our LAPD Senior Lead Officer Tyler Shuck will give us an update - including information on the undercover burglary task force in our neighborhood and recent arrests. Contact Officer Shuck on his cell at: 213-793-0650.

GWNC 2025 Election! Submit your ballot request! **Right Now!** It is **very** important that Hancock Park have a representative on the GWNC who understands and can be a voice for the issues that concern our entire neighborhood.

The GWNC election is *entirely vote-by-mail*. You **must** request a ballot in order to be able to **vote for Jennifer DeVore Hancock Park GWNC rep**; ballots are NOT automatically mailed to every eligible voter. The ballot request period ends April 7th.

The application is linked below or contact **Cindy** or **Jen** so we can send you a PDF directly and answer any questions about the process. **Everyone** in your household who is over the age of 16 can request a ballot and vote! To download and print go to: [2025_NC_VBM_Paper_Application.pdf](#)

The City Elections clerk is planning to call EVERY person who submits a ballot to verify identity so there is no need to submit the “required documentation” of a photo ID with your HP address if you’d prefer not to. You can submit the PDF in one of three ways: **Mail:** City Clerk-NC Elections and Funding Division, 555 Ramirez Street, Space 300, Los Angeles, CA 90012 **Email:** clerk.electionvbm@lacity.org or **Fax:** (213) 978-0376

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photo courtesy of the LASD

Personnel from the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station were part of a task force operation focusing on suspects involved in retail theft.

Sheriff’s Department task force cracks down on retail theft

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Investigators with the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station recently participated in a sheriff’s department task force operation in February that resulted in the arrests of nine suspects for large-scale organized retail theft.

The LASD’s Organized Retail Crimes Task Force recovered stolen property valued at approximately \$4 million, some of it taken from retailers in West Hollywood, authorities said. The nine suspects, who were not identified, were booked for organized retail theft, grand theft and receiving stolen property. The operation was conducted at residences in the city of South Gate and around downtown Los Angeles. The merchandise recovered includes over-the-counter medications, cosmetics, hygiene products, clothing, handbags, household items, fragrances and scented candles.

The suspects are believed to be members of “booster crews” that target retailers throughout the city and then sell the stolen merchandise to others, who illegally resell it on the streets and on the black market. Authorities said the suspects targeted retailers such as CVS Pharmacy, Walgreens, Nordstrom, Bath & Body Works, Macy’s and T.J. Maxx. West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

detective Jason Duron said the suspects stole merchandise from Target and Ulta Beauty stores at the West Hollywood Gateway complex at Santa Monica Boulevard and La Brea Avenue.

“Ulta and Target are the main ones in our area. We do get regular reports about retail thefts at those stores,” Duron said. “We haven’t had any of the flash mob incidents at retailers. It’s more individuals who are part of organized groups that target specific locations.”

Personnel from the sheriff’s station are taking measures to address retail thefts, although specific details are not being released so thieves are not tipped off. Duron said Target has an extensive loss prevention program to deter thieves, but added that deputies are called to the store weekly about thefts.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department formed the Organized Retail Crimes Task Force in September 2023. It operates out of LASD’s Major Crimes Bureau and is dedicated to investigating, identifying and apprehending suspects involved in organized retail crimes. Anyone with information about retail theft is encouraged to call the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station at (310)855-8850 or the Organized Retail Crimes Task Force at (562)946-7270, or email tips to orctf@lasd.org.

D.A. opposes Menendez brothers’ resentencing

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman on March 10 announced that he opposes resentencing for Erik and Lyle Menendez, and requested that the previous district attorney’s motion for resentencing be withdrawn.

The brothers were sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole in 1996 for the double murder of their parents, Jose and Kitty Menendez. However, new evidence has opened the door for their possible release or resentencing, and calls for both have grown louder following a Netflix series and documentary about the case.

The 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, that recommendation was rejected by Hochman on March 10.

“The basis for that request is that the prior motion did not examine or consider whether the Menendez brothers have exhibited full insight and taken complete responsibility for their crimes by continuing for the past over 30 years to lie about their claims of self-defense, that is, their fear that their mother and father were going to kill them the night of Aug. 20, 1989, justifying the brutal murders of their parents with shotgun blasts through the back of their father’s head, a point-blank blast through their mother’s face and shots



photo by Tabor Brewster

District Attorney Nathan Hochman’s announcement on March 10 was his second formal position after he opposed a retrial on Feb. 21.

to their kneecaps to stage it as a mafia killing,” Hochman said in a statement. “As a full examination of the record reveals, the Menendez brothers have never come clean and admitted that they lied about their self-defense as well as suborned perjury and attempted to suborn perjury by their friends for the lies, among others, of their father violently raping Lyle’s girlfriend, their mother poisoning the family and their attempt to get a handgun the day before the murders.”

The brothers’ attorney Mark Geragos criticized Hochman’s announcement in an interview with TMZ. “There isn’t a single living family member or victim who endorses Hochman’s position ... there isn’t a single living family member or victim who was notified of what he was going to do [on March 10] – which is a violation of Marsy’s law – and he has completely misread the resentencing statute,” Geragos said.

Geragos also contested Hochman’s assertion that the brothers have not taken responsibility for their actions.

“[The brothers] were cross-examined for weeks and owned up to all the lies,” Geragos said. “Everything he talked about was pre-trial. I don’t even understand what he’s talking about. By the way, this isn’t a habeas [corpus petition]. Resentencing is focused on what have they done since, what are they doing now.”

Hochman separately opposed a habeas corpus petition – a petition for a new trial filed by the brothers’ lawyers – 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 of the group Menudo that he was also abused by José Menendez as a child.

Hochman’s latest action on the case followed an announcement by Gov. Gavin Newsom directing the California Board of Parole Hearings to conduct a risk assessment investigation for Erik and Lyle 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. Newsom announced on March 11 that the parole board will hold a hearing for each brother on June 13.

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

Although Hochman opposed resentencing of the brothers, a resentencing hearing scheduled for March 20 and 21 will proceed as planned.

Defendant charged in fatal WeHo crash found dead

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A former West Hollywood resident and social media influencer who was charged with murder and reckless driving for a fatal collision last October on Fountain Avenue was found dead on March 4 at his parents’ home in Florida.

Garrett Richard Bruno, 33, was driving an SUV on Oct. 10 that crashed into another vehicle at Fountain and Spaulding avenues, resulting in the death of Esther Abouab, 83, and injuring her husband Joe Abouab. The Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office charged Bruno on Nov. 15 with murder and reckless driving. Bruno posted \$1.2 million bail on Feb. 3 and was released pending trial in the criminal case.

Bruno was found dead in Mount Dora, Fla., and the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office has been coordinating with authorities in Lake County regarding the criminal case. Authorities in Florida conducted an autopsy on Bruno on March 5 but the cause of death has not been finalized pending toxicology tests.

“On Feb. 25, the court ordered the Florida Department of Health to deliver health records to the court on or before March 26, which is the next court date set for preliminary hearing setting,” read a statement from the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office. “Once the office has confirmed [the] death with the state of Florida, we will file to dismiss the case.”

Bruno was an influencer on social media known for his Instagram

account Garrett Travels, which has 61,000 followers. He was also a polarizing figure in West Hollywood known for his support for President Donald Trump.

Days after the fatal collision, footage was posted online by the Daily Mail showing Bruno snorting a white powder in public. Bruno later posted on social media that the powder was prescription ketamine that he was taking for mental health treatment. Officials with the medical examiner’s office in Lake County, Florida, said the autopsy was conducted because the decedent was a relatively young man with no medical conditions, and there were no visible indications of how he died. The final results of the autopsy and toxicology tests are expected to be complete within 6-8 weeks.

Man arrested for grand theft auto at Beverly Hills McLaren dealership

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A 22-year-old man was arrested on March 2 for allegedly stealing a car from the McLaren dealership at 8833 W. Olympic Blvd. in Beverly Hills.

The theft occurred at approximately 10:20 p.m. on March 1, said Lt. Orth, with the Beverly Hills Police Department. The suspect, who police identified as Julian Flake, broke into the dealership

while it was closed and stole keys to at least two vehicles. He then backed a vehicle through a gate at the rear of the building, abandoned the car and stole a second vehicle, Orth said. The suspect fled and drove out of the city, Orth added, but returned to the dealership the next day.

“We got a radio call about a suspicious person near the scene and he was recognized by people at the dealership as the person in the original report,” Orth said. “I don’t know how they put two and two together, but they were able to I.D. him.”

Orth did not have any further information about the theft. He said police are still searching for the vehicle that was stolen and he did not have any further information about its make or model. The investigation is ongoing.

Flake was booked for burglary and grand theft auto, and was held on outstanding warrants. His bail was set at \$50,200. Flake is scheduled to appear in court on March 19.

Anyone with information is urged to call the BHPD at (310)550-4951.



photo by Edwin Folven

The suspect allegedly backed one vehicle through the dealership’s gate, abandoned it and stole a second vehicle from the lot.

Man kills brother who was attacking mother in Beverly Grove

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A 58-year-old man shot and killed his 61-year-old brother on March 7 after the older brother assaulted their 80-year-old mother, striking her with a bat and choking the elderly woman, police said.

The shooting occurred around 1:25 p.m. in the 400 block of North Alfred Street in the Beverly Grove area. The Los Angeles Police Department received multiple calls about shots fired and officers from the Wilshire Division were dispatched to the scene. The man who shot his brother was detained and questioned, but not arrested. Police said it was a justifiable homicide and

the man will not face charges.

Investigators believe the deceased man was suffering from mental health issues and was armed with a baseball bat when he arrived at the residence on Alfred Street. The man smashed a window, entered the residence and began damaging property, police said. He also threatened to kill his mother.

The family owns a nearby business and the elderly woman called her younger son for help. He arrived minutes later with a shotgun and saw the older brother through a glass door, choking their mother on the ground, police said. He fired a warning shot and then shot the man once, killing him.

“In his mind, he had no other choice but to shoot his brother,” said Detective Sam Marullo, with the LAPD’s West Bureau Homicide Unit.

Marullo said the deceased man periodically stayed at the residence. Investigators learned there had been problems between the man and other family members in the past. The Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner identified the decedent as Robert Shrier.

Marullo did not disclose the name of the family’s business. The female victim survived the attack and is recovering.

“It’s very tragic,” Marullo added. “It’s horrible for everybody.”

HUD extends foreclosure relief for fire victims

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on March 6 announced a 90-day extension of its foreclosure moratorium on Federal Housing Administration-insured single-family mortgages in the areas of Los Angeles County devastated by the January 2025 wildfires.

HUD Secretary Scott Turner made the announcement while touring a disaster zone in Altadena with L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th District. The FHA-insured single family mortgage extension underscores HUD’s commitment to supporting Americans impacted by natural disasters by providing flexibility to families in the declared major disaster area.

There are over 100,000 FHA-insured mortgages in the Los Angeles County PDMDA. HUD is working with mortgage servicers and others to assess the extent of properties with FHA-insured mortgages in the designated areas that have been severely damaged or destroyed.

“It is heartbreaking to witness the devastation caused by the horrific wildfires in Altadena and the surrounding areas of Los Angeles County and the heavy toll of this tragedy on individuals, families and communities,” Turner said. “Empowering and supporting our neighbors so they can build or rebuild their future, including when disaster strikes, is a core part of HUD’s mission and we will continue providing help during hardship.”

“HUD’s extension of the foreclosure moratorium is a lifeline for wildfire survivors in Los Angeles County who are facing immense hardship,” Barger said. “I appreciate Secretary Turner’s leadership and commitment to ensuring that families impacted by these devastating fires have the time and support they need to recover. This critical relief will help stabilize our communities as we work together to rebuild and heal.”

The moratorium prohibits mortgage servicers from initiating or completing foreclosure actions on FHA-insured single-family forward or home equity conversion mortgages in the Los Angeles County PDMDA through July 7. The moratorium was originally set to expire on April 8.

Borrowers unable to make mortgage payments should contact their mortgage servicer for assistance. Borrowers may also contact the FHA Resource Center at (800)CALLFHA. For borrowers and renters who need immediate housing and disaster recovery assistance, call (800)569-4287.

For borrowers whose homes are destroyed or damaged to an extent that requires reconstruction or complete replacement, contact an FHA-approved lender about FHA’s Section 203(h) loan program. The program provides 100% financing for eligible homeowners to rebuild a home or purchase a new residence.

For information, visit hud.gov.

Deadline to apply for wildfire disaster aid extended to March 31

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has extended the deadline for survivors of the Los Angeles County fires to register for federal aid to Monday, March 31. The deadline to apply for Disaster Unemployment Insurance has also been extended.

Homeowners and renters who have incurred damage or losses from the Los Angeles County wildfires can apply for FEMA Individual Assistance and Small Business Administration assistance. The program provides financial help and other assistance to eligible individuals and households to meet basic needs and supplement wildfire recovery efforts.

FEMA assistance for individuals affected by the wildfire can cover rental assistance, temporary housing, home repairs, personal property losses and disaster-related needs not covered by insurance. FEMA grants do not have to be repaid. FEMA assistance is nontaxable and will not affect eligibility for Social Security, Medicaid or other federal benefits.

The previous deadline for registration for disaster aid was March 10. Gov. Gavin Newsom and California’s bipartisan congressional delegation requested an extension to allow more survivors to sign up for assistance.

Survivors who have insurance are encouraged to file a claim for disaster-caused damage with their insurance company before they apply for FEMA assistance. Survivors do not need to wait for an insurance settlement to apply. FEMA may provide financial assistance to eligible survivors who are uninsured and underinsured.

To apply for federal disaster assistance, call the FEMA Helpline at (800)621-3362, or visit disasterassistance.gov.

Applicants sought for L.A. Charter Reform Commission

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass has launched the Charter Reform Commission application process, with a deadline to submit applications on March 28. Bass is committed to filling the seats of the commission to prepare for the November 2026 ballot.

“This commission is a high priority to me, the City Council and Angelenos who deserve government reform,” Bass said. “While I continue the extensive and careful search for the best and most experienced appointees for the job, we are launching this application for commissioners ready to serve this important commission. I have been working closely with Council President [Marquee] Harris-Dawson and look forward to having all of the seats filled and to hiring an executive director for the commission in order to prepare for the November 2026 ballot.”

“This commission is about change for Los Angeles. Their work will shape the reforms voters could see on the 2026 ballot – changes that can make our city government more accountable and transparent,” Harris-Dawson said.

The Charter Reform Commission was established by Bass and the Los Angeles City Council in August 2024. The commission is tasked with reviewing the city charter and developing recommendations for amendments and revisions for consideration by the City Council and mayor. The civilian board will be composed of 13 commissioners, including four appointed by the mayor, two appointed by the council president, two appointed by the council president pro tempore and five appointed by the initial eight members through an application process.

All appointments are subject to confirmation by the City Council. The commission will have the authority to review the entire charter and specifically consider changes recommended by the council. Among the subjects suggested for review are improving the delivery of city services, revising the city’s contracting process, revising the city’s budgeting process, establishing a consistent procedure for filling vacancies in elected offices, defining rules for censure and suspension of elected officials and exploring an increase in the number of council districts. The commission’s recommendations will be submitted to the City Council in early 2026 for possible inclusion on the November 2026 ballot.

To apply or the commission, visit reformlachaarter.lacity.gov.

Notable Quotes

“He who permits himself to tell a lie once, finds it much easier to do it a second and third time, till at length it becomes habitual; he tells lies without attending to it, and truths without the world’s believing him. This falsehood of the tongue leads to that of the heart, and in time depraves all its good dispositions.”

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)
Letter to Peter Carr (August 19, 1785)

Yes, we have no tariffs today! Wait until tomorrow ...

Source: Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations

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photo courtesy of Sen. Ben Allen’s office
State Sen. Ben Allen honored Shari Davis at the state capitol.

Allen recognizes education leader as Woman of the Year

In celebration of Women’s History Month, Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) recognized Shari Davis as Woman of the Year in the 24th Senate District.

Davis has advocated for and empowered students, children and vulnerable families in the greater Los Angeles community for years. She currently serves as co-director of the Santa Monica College Public Policy Institute. Davis recently organized donation drives in the wake of the wildfires. She also served on the board of directors of The Children’s Partnership, a nonprofit for under-resourced families and children.

“Shari has been an incredible advocate for local students at all levels for many years now,” Allen said. “She is selfless, focused on improving our educational systems through advocacy and political change, and a great educator to boot.”

Davis has also been instrumental in advancing education initiatives. She supported 14 local ballot measures that have helped provide quality public schools and early childhood education.

“I have long worked to ensure that all students in our communities have access to quality educational opportunities, by identifying ways to generate adequate financial resources for our public schools,” Davis said. “Excellence in education from early childhood through high school and beyond can help prepare current and future generations for successful lives, civic engagement and to step into important roles of leadership. I am truly grateful for Sen. Allen’s recognition of my years of work.”

Sen. Allen, Assemblyman Kalra take action to protect state’s waters

To introduce Senate Bill 601 to protect California waters, State Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) hosted a press conference on March 5 with co-author Assemblyman Ash Kalra (D-San Jose), co-sponsors California Coastkeepers Alliance and Defenders of Wildlife, and SB 601 supporter EnviroVoters.

“Our now-vulnerable waters cannot afford any delay,” Allen said. “In the face of retreating federal policy, it now falls on us to make sure that our state’s waters continue to enjoy the same protections from pollution that we have long relied upon. This is about basic water safety for our communities and environment.”

Since 1948, federal standards have been in place to limit pollution into waters across the nation. The federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948 was later amended to the federal Clean Water Act of 1972, continuing to provide important safeguards for sensitive ecosystems and the water supply. Through a robust permitting process implemented by the state, the Clean Water Act regulates if, how and when municipalities, industrial and business facilities may discharge pollutants into “Waters of the United States,” or WOTUS.

However, in May 2023, the Supreme Court ruled in Sackett v. EPA that certain waters that are not “relatively permanent” should not be considered under the WOTUS definition needed to receive the protections. The ruling ignores the natural state of seasonal and drought-sensitive water systems especially prevalent in the West, stripping many waters from protections they had benefited from for decades, Allen said. Many of the now-vulnerable streams and wetlands remain vitally important to ecosystems, even during dry times.

“The 2023 Sackett decision has left California waters exposed to greater threats and worsening water quality and flow,” said Ashley Overhouse, water policy advisor for Defenders of Wildlife. “In response to diminishing federal protections, California must bolster the Clean Water Act with a rule like Sen. Allen’s proposal to ensure our state waters are safeguarded from these growing threats. This is not just about protecting today’s ecosystems – it’s about investing in a future where clean, healthy water is guaranteed for all communities and wildlife.”

SB 601 will address the vulnerabilities created by Sackett v. EPA by establishing new definitions and clarifications in state law to recapture all the locations that previously met the federal WOTUS definition prior to the U.S. Supreme Court decision. SB 601 will provide the same pollution protection standards for the areas offered by the federal Clean Water Act.

SB 601 will be referred to a relevant policy committee for a hearing this spring.

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

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Outdoor spaces come to life this summer at LACMA's new galleries

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art announced that the public can start exploring multiple features of the new David Geffen Galleries this summer as the museum prepares for the April 2026 opening of the new home of its permanent collection.

Major construction of the new building, designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Peter Zumthor, was completed at the end of 2024. LACMA has begun to move in key operating functions. While the process continues, the building and its surroundings will come to life with outdoor sculpture installations, dining and retail spaces and special preview events.

Named in recognition of David Geffen's extraordinary \$150 million gift, the new building crosses over Wilshire Boulevard and includes public access into the exhibition-level galleries from the north and south sides of the thoroughfare. Los Angeles County invested \$125 million in the project. The north wing is named for Elaine Wynn in recognition of the trustee and board co-chair's leadership contribution of \$50 million, which launched the Building LACMA campaign. The south wing of the galleries has not yet been named.

"The Geffen Galleries are both a stunningly beautiful work of architecture and a hub of the dynamic activity across LACMA's entire campus," LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director Michael Govan said. "Our board co-chair Elaine Wynn's significant pledge in 2016 was a meaningful catalyst for many others to throw their support behind the new LACMA. I am also grateful to our trustee Steve Tisch, whose generosity is helping LACMA create welcoming, accessible spaces on our campus for all of Los Angeles to enjoy. We're excited that visitors from both near and far can begin to experience the impact of this amazing building this year, as we ramp up toward the 2026 grand opening celebration.

Harnessing the power of art to console, we also hope to be a part of the spiritual healing of Los Angeles as it recovers from the recent unprecedented fires."

Amenities on the plaza level will begin to open this summer. The public will begin to see the plaza level take shape north of Wilshire Boulevard. Social amenities, including Ray's and Stark Bar, will re-open in a new space, and a new LACMA Store, made possible by a major campaign gift by LACMA trustee and donor Kelvin Davis and his wife Hana.

In 2026, a second restaurant will open on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard and will be named in honor of campaign gifts by LACMA trustee Ann Colgin, her husband Joe Wender and LACMA trustee Ryan Seacrest. A new cafe on the north side of Wilshire Boulevard named in recognition of a gift by LACMA trustee Ashley Merrill and her husband Marc will also open in 2026.

Protected and shaded by the galleries above, the exterior ground level will accommodate outdoor dining, educational programs, events and artwork. East West Bank Commons, located north of Wilshire Boulevard and named in recognition of a \$10 million gift by Pasadena-based East West Bank, can host events of up to 500 people outdoors and under cover. Other spaces are designed for outdoor concerts, films and lectures. The new W.M. Keck Education Center, a central destination on the W.M. Keck Plaza north of Wilshire Boulevard, will offer a broad range of educational and public programs for all ages.

Anchoring the plaza-level of the building is the state-of-the-art Steve Tisch Theater, located south of Wilshire Boulevard, which will be the new home for LACMA's film screenings, lectures, discussions, musical performances and public programs. The Steve Tisch Theater, named in recognition of the

LACMA trustee's gift to the campaign, will function as a gallery during the day, showcasing time-based media works.

The new Geffen Galleries has created 3.5-acres of public space on both sides of Wilshire Boulevard. The entire floor of the 75,000-square-foot W.M. Keck Plaza on the north side of Wilshire Boulevard will become a commissioned artwork by Mariana Castillo Deball titled "Feathered Changes," which will also extend to the south side of the street. One of the new restaurants will house a monumental textile piece, "Threading the Boundless: Omnidirectional Terrain," by Los Angeles-based artist Sarah Rosalena.

Outdoor works by artists will be installed over time around the galleries. Artists include Liz Glynn, Thomas Houseago, Shio Kusaka, Pedro Reyes and Diana Thater. LACMA will also begin to welcome back beloved sculptures that have become synonymous with the museum such as Tony Smith's monumental "Smoke (1967), followed later by Alexander Calder's iconic "Three Quintains (Hello Girls)" (1964), originally commissioned by the museum when it moved to Wilshire Boulevard in 1965. LACMA's collection of large-scale works by Auguste Rodin will also return in an 8,000-square-foot garden along the north side of Wilshire Boulevard. Funded by decades-long supporters Iris and Bernie Cantor and the Cantor Foundation, the new Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Sculpture Garden will feature Rodin's iconic works in a new setting.

Beginning in June, donors and members can preview the spaces inside the new building. LACMA will also activate the building with site-specific musical performances by Kamasi Washington on June 26-28. Tickets for the performances will be available this spring. Later this year, the intricate process of installing thousands of artworks from the permanent collections will begin.

LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit lacma.org.



photo by Gary Leonard, © Museum Associates/LACMA

The new David Geffen Galleries will include an expansive plaza north of Wilshire that will be used for public art and special outdoor events.



Watch Out! Pet Toxins at Home

Here are the most common toxic items I see pets get into and their possible effects:

- Chocolate, especially dark and baking chocolate (vomiting/diarrhea, heart rate elevations and seizures)
- Grapes and raisins (kidney failure)
- Xylitol found in sugar-free gum, candy, and baked goods (low blood sugar, liver issues)
- THC/Marijuana - (lethargy, incoordination, seizures and coma)
- Antiinflammatory/Antipyretics like ibuprofen, naproxen and acetaminophen (GI issues, liver disease and kidney disease)
- Antidepressant meds (vomiting, tremors, heart issues)
- Plants such as lilies (highly toxic kidney disease in cats)
- Cleaning products and chemicals, rodenticides (rat bait), insecticides (bug poisons), and other variable toxic plants

What to do
If you suspect your pet has ingested a toxin, remain calm and **immediately call your veterinarian**. With less common toxins or complicated cases, your veterinarian may instruct you to contact a pet poison control center with access to toxin databases.

What not to do
DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING AT HOME WITH HYDROGEN PEROXIDE. I see it so frequently - it can cause horrible GI ulcers and generally doesn't work. This significantly delays treatment and/or worsens prognosis and should be kept to a last resort when veterinary care is not at all accessible. **NEVER** induce vomiting in brachycephalic breeds (like Bulldogs, Bostons and Pugs) as they are more likely to aspirate their vomit and get severe pneumonias.

How do I treat these cases
We obtain a full history and physical exam and as efficiently as possible outline our major concerns and a treatment plan. We often decontaminate first by inducing vomiting with injectable meds followed by anti nausea meds. Depending on the severity and type of toxicity, additional treatments such as hospitalization, intravenous fluids, or further diagnostic tests might be recommended based on your pet's specific needs.

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.

Please email us with your pet-related questions and topics you'd like covered!



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Metro subway work to close Wilshire Boulevard in Beverly Hills

The Los Angeles County Transportation Authority is planning major subway construction in Beverly Hills including a three-week full closure of Wilshire Boulevard beginning on March 17. The closure facilitates deck removal and street restoration near the Wilshire/Rodeo station. Wilshire Boulevard will be closed from just west of Crescent Drive to just east of El Camino Drive. Pedestrian access will be maintained along Wilshire Boulevard and South Cañon, Beverly and Reeves drives. All commercial properties adjacent to the closure area will remain accessible. Bus stops along Wilshire Boulevard will be relocated and detour routes include Century Park East and Robertson, Olympic and Santa Monica boulevards. Underground station construction also continues

at Wilshire/Rodeo throughout 2025. Work is ongoing at the Wilshire/La Brea, Wilshire/Fairfax and Wilshire/La Cienega stations. Crews are restoring streets and sidewalks and working underground. 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. Farther west, cross passage work between the tunnels is ongoing in a K-rail work zone 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 direc-

tion in the area through March. A K-rail work zone is also in place in the center of the Wilshire/La Jolla intersection, where two lanes are open in each direction on Wilshire Boulevard. Metro work is ongoing at the Wilshire/ La Cienega station. Demobilization work within the Gale Drive 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. Through March 30, intermittent closures will be implemented on North Hamilton Drive at Wilshire Boulevard and on the east sidewalk. Access to businesses on the north side of Wilshire Boulevard will be maintained from San Vicente Boulevard to North Hamilton Drive. At the Century City/ Constellation station, crews are



photo by Edwin Folven

Crews are conducting preparatory work in Beverly Hills in advance of a three-week full closure of Wilshire Boulevard.

NCJW/LA hosts resource fair for expectant mothers

The National Council of Jewish Women Los Angeles hosted the PAID Mama Shower & Resource

Fair on Feb. 23 at Television City, providing essential resources, community support and a celebration

for expectant and new parents enrolled in the PAID (Pregnancy Assistance Income with Dignity) program. The event brought together more than 200 attendees, including program participants, their families and representatives from community organizations dedicated to maternal and infant health. Guests connected with 18 resource partners such as New Heart CPR, JVS SoCal, Brightlife Kids, Mama2Mama, Para Los Niños and Welcome Baby Program, gaining access to vital support services. “Our goal with the PAID Mama Shower & Resource Fair was to uplift and support pregnant individuals facing financial barriers by providing not only financial assistance but also essential resources to

ease their journey into parenthood,” said Maricruz Arzate, program director of cash programs for NCJW/LA. “We are incredibly grateful to Television City for their generosity in donating the space and to our incredible community partners who made this event a success.” The PAID Program is NCJ/LA’s groundbreaking initiative providing unconditional direct cash assistance to low-income pregnant individuals, helping to alleviate financial stress that impacts maternal and infant health outcomes. NCJ/LA remains committed to economic justice and equity for women in Los Angeles. For information, visit ncjwla.org.



photo courtesy of NCJW/LA

The fair offered resources and fun activities for pregnant women and their families.

Spring Civic Leadership Academy applications open

The city of West Hollywood invites community members to apply for the spring cohort of the Civic Leadership Academy, which will begin on Wednesday, April 9, and will run through Wednesday, June 11. Responding to a strong community desire for more insight into West Hollywood’s day-to-day operations and civic processes, this unique multi-session program launched in spring 2024. It provides each cohort of approximately 25

community members with an in-depth understanding about how West Hollywood’s local government operates and delivers services. The Civic Leadership Academy empowers participants to advance community priorities and shape the future of local governance. In spring 2025, the city will host its next Civic Leadership Academy cohort, enrolling community members in a curriculum of weekly in-person learning sessions. All sessions will take place in West

Hollywood and refreshments will be provided at each session. The city is currently accepting applications to join the Spring Civic Leadership Academy. Interested community members are urged to visit engage.weho.org/leadershipacademy for more information and to apply. Enrollment is limited and applications are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. The Civic Leadership Academy is designed to offer an in-depth exploration of the who, what and why behind city policies and operations, providing vital context to community stakeholders. Each week, attendees will interact with city leaders, staff, community ser-

vice organizations and city partners. Participants will work closely with like-minded peers in the academy cohort. Sessions will feature workshops, roundtables, lectures, tours and networking opportunities. Each session will include a Q&A period. The program is built upon a foundation of open discussions and knowledge-sharing. Civic Leadership Academy participants may be residents, employees, appointed officials, city staff or other community members. Attendees who participate in at least eight sessions will receive a certificate of completion. For information about the Civic Leadership Academy, contact Viana Parra, West Hollywood’s administrative specialist, at (323)848-6378 or academy@weho.org.

Letters to the Editor

Mirisch could run again for Beverly Hills City Council

Re “Beverly Hills addresses mayor and vice mayorship,” Feb. 27 issue

There was a recent article in the Beverly Press which referred to Beverly Hills City Council term limits and indicated that past mayor John Mirisch is now termed out. In fact, he has not been termed out because the recently passed Beverly Hills city term limits ordinance may only apply prospectively, not retroactively. California Government Code

§36502 (b) provides that a city’s proposal to limit the terms of City Council members shall apply prospectively only. And that state statute, which takes precedence over any city ordinance, was relied upon in the 2012 Attorney General Opinion of Kamala Harris, No. 11-401, in reinforcing the law that a city’s term limits apply prospectively only. So let’s not count out past mayor John Mirisch because he is legally entitled to serve additional terms if he chooses to run, and he has demonstrated more concern for residents’ views than any other recent Beverly Hills council member so far.

Darian Bojeaux
Beverly Hills

County Assessor’s Office hosts disaster relief webinar

The Los Angeles County Assessor’s Office is holding a webinar on wildfire disaster relief on Thursday, March 13, from 6-8 p.m., via Zoom. Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang remains committed to supporting property owners affected by the recent wildfires and is helping them access disaster relief. As residents begin to rebuild homes and businesses, the assessor’s office can provide information and answer questions. Prang will host the webinar focusing on disaster relief programs and resources available for impact-

ed property owners. The assessor’s office is partnering with the Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector’s Office, Auditor-Controller’s Office and the Department of Regional Planning to provide a comprehensive overview of disaster relief support. Topics include misfortune and calamity property tax relief, decline-in-value, reassessment information and rebuilding clarification. The webinar will be followed by a live Q&A session. To register, visit assessor.lacounty.gov/events.

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.

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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
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(323)964-7100

RESTAURANT NEWS

Godfrey ‘drags’ in St. Patty’s

With St. Patrick’s Day just around the corner, The Godfrey Hotel Hollywood is gearing up for a celebration that blends vibrant entertainment with elevated hospitality. Known for its sleek design, buzzing nightlife and immersive experiences, The Godfrey Hotel Hollywood is putting a playful twist on the holiday with St. Patty’s drag bingo, hosted by the charismatic Roxy Woods. On March 17, guests can expect a lively evening of high-energy performances, witty banter and competitive bingo rounds – all set against the hotel’s chic backdrop.

To complement the festivities, About Last Knife will debut an exclusive “Irish Hour” menu featuring inventive takes on classic flavors, including house pastrami and cheddar sliders, shamrock shepherd’s pie, Guinness-battered fish

and chips and Irish potato soup. The drink menu will showcase a curated selection of Irish beers alongside the Green Gobbler, a refreshing mix of Irish whiskey, basil syrup and Prosecco.

With its stylish rooftop, dynamic events and pulse on L.A.’s social scene, The Godfrey Hotel Hollywood continues to redefine holiday celebrations with a modern, inclusive and high-energy approach. For information, visit godfreyhotelhollywood.com or call (323)762-1000. The Godfrey Hotel Hollywood is located at 1400 Cahuenga Blvd.

It’s a lucky brunch at La Bohème

At La Bohème in West Hollywood, enjoy a lucky brunch all St. Patrick’s weekend, March 15-16, in partnership with Jameson, with bottomless golden

Wife and the Somm serves up an intimate L.A. destination

Tucked away in the vibrant neighborhood of Glassell Park, Wife and the Somm is more than just an intimate dining destination: it is a love letter to food, wine and warm hospitality, brought to life by owners and restaurateurs Christy and Chris Lucchese. Their journey from the world of film to the realm of culinary excellence is a testament to their shared passion for bringing people together over exceptional dining experiences.

Whether a seasoned wine connoisseur or simply seeking a cozy, memorable meal, Wife and the Somm promises a culinary adventure like no other. With its intimate setting, exceptional service and innovative approach to farm fresh seasonal cuisine, this neighborhood gem is a must-visit in Los Angeles.

Wife and the Somm is open for



photo courtesy of Wife and the Somm

Los Angeles has a hidden gem at Wife and the Somm in Glassell Park, with Christy and Chris Lucchese at the helm.

dinner every Wednesday and Thursday from 5-10 p.m., every Friday and Saturday from 3-10 p.m., and every Sunday from 3-9 p.m. Wife and the Somm is also

open for brunch every Sunday from 11-3 p.m. For information about Wife and the Somm or to make reservations, call (323)739-0058 or visit wifeandthesomm.com.

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mimosas, Jameson merch giveaways, classic brunch plates that locals know and love, and of course, Irish coffee. For information, visit labohemeweho.com or call (323)848-2360. La Bohème is located at 8400 Santa Monica Blvd.

Happy hour goes all night at 1212

Located in Downtown Santa Monica, 1212 has the ultimate, weekend-long St. Patrick’s Day celebration, from March 14-16. Enjoy green beer towers, all-night happy hour, Irish Car Bombs and plenty of Guinness to go around. 1212 is located at 1212 Third St. Promenade, Santa Monica. For information, visit 1212santamonica.com or call (310)576-9996.

Venture to Settecento

Settecento, the newest Global Dining Inc. venture in Downtown Los Angeles, is inviting guests to indulge in a weekend of green beer, all night happy hour and live music – the perfect way to feel the luck of the Irish. Settecento is located at 700 W. Fifth St. For information, visit settecentodtla.com or call (213)757-7765.

New members-only club has extra ‘Gravitas’

Gravitas Beverly Hills is an ultra-private club and luxury experience designed for those who demand nothing but the best. More than just a luxury private club, Gravitas is a curated world of exclusivity, bespoke services and world-class amenities, offering a level of privacy and sophistication unlike anything else in Beverly Hills. Its building was formerly a Wells Fargo bank, and Kelly Architects preserved the original bank vault, transforming it into a one-of-a-kind storage space for the club’s winery.

For information about Gravitas Beverly Hills, visit gravitasclub.com. The members-only club is located at 435 N. Camden Drive.

Homeboy pops-up for Women’s History Month

Homeboy Threads is hosting a pop-up sale Saturday, March 15, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m in honor of Women’s History Month.

Homegirl Cafe will also be open from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. to serve coffee, pastries and grab-n-go burritos. No dine-in is available, but this is still a great way to enjoy some Homegirl Café treats. Additionally, Homeboy Merch will be open from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., so guests can get some new Homeboy swag. Homeboy Industries is located at 130 W. Bruno St. For information, visit homeboyindustries.org.

Make March Matter at ‘Innovative’ eateries

Los Angeles Innovative Dining Group restaurants BOA, Sushi Roku and Katana are partnering with Children’s Hospital L.A. for the Make March Matter campaign. The goal of Make March Matter is to raise \$1 million or more during the month of March, and this is the campaign’s 10th year. For every dessert from the restaurants’ menus sold this month, IDG is donating \$2 to support CHLA. For information, visit boasteak.com, sushiroku.com and katanarobata.com. BOA is located at 9200 W. Sunset Blvd. in West Hollywood, Sushi Roku is located at 1401 Ocean Ave. in Santa Monica and Katana is located at 8439 W. Sunset Blvd. in West Hollywood.

Flamenco and tapas brings the passion to Teleferic

Teleferic Barcelona will again host Olé! Flamenco & Tapas Night on March 18. The evening includes live flamenco performances, featuring Caminos Flamencos with a bailaor and musician bringing the passion of Spain to life. Enjoy the show alongside Telefèric’s signature tapas and curated cocktails for the perfect midweek escape. For information, visit opentable.com/r/teleferic-barcelona-los-angeles. Teleferic Barcelona is located at 11930 San Vicente Blvd.

Pasta is ‘Too Good To Go’ at Eataly

On March 25, Too Good To Go and Eataly Los Angeles are teaming up for a special edition cooking class that blends sustainability with Italian culinary traditions. Attendees will learn how to turn often-wasted ingredients into delicious homemade pasta while discovering simple ways to cut down on food waste at home. Guests will make fresh orecchiette by hand; taste traditional Italian dishes repurposing left-

New York chef takes over The Peninsula

The Peninsula Beverly Hills has announced a new culinary pop-up that will allow diners to experience the artistry of acclaimed chef Wei Chen as he brings Omawei – a multi-course omakase menu blending modernism with tradition – to the hotel for a limited-time residency from March 26-April 18.

Diners can enjoy a private tasting experience led by Wei on the scenic terrace of The Belvedere, the hotel’s signature restaurant. With 15-16 courses, guests are promised to enjoy an exclusive experience complete with an array of small plates and seasonal nigiri, showcasing only the finest ingredients. Wei has cultivated his passion and culinary expertise throughout his journey, working in some of the most esteemed kitchens of New York City. Immersing himself in the art of sushi-making, Wei has meticu-

lously refined his craft of mastering the delicate flavors and textures that define the omakase experience, now offering discerning diners an intimate culinary journey as a private chef.

The Omawei Omakase experience will have two seatings per night, taking place Wednesday-Sunday from 6-8 p.m. and 8:30-10:30 p.m. The offer will be \$295 per tasting menu per person, not including alcohol, taxes or gratuity with a limit of 10 seats per seating. The Peninsula Beverly Hills is located at 9882 S. Santa Monica Blvd. For information, visit peninsula.com/en/beverly-hills/special-offers/dining/omawei-omakase-experience or call (310)551-2888.



photo courtesy of The Peninsula Beverly Hills

Chef Wei Chen is bringing Omawei to The Peninsula Beverly Hills.



photo courtesy of Descanso Restaurant

Descanso’s lime green margarita is 50% off for St. Patty’s

Descanso Restaurant, a modern Taqueria with a location in Costa Mesa and a newly opened location in Los Angeles, will be offering 50% off its popular cucumber y sal margarita all day on St. Patrick’s Day and Margarita Monday, March 16-17. The refreshing, lime green beverage is also available as a mocktail for 50% off. Descanso Los Angeles is located at 5773 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit descansorestaurant.com or call (213)672-2444.

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Eat + Drink West Hollywood all month long

The city of West Hollywood boasts some of the best dining, coffee and cocktail options in Southern California. The city is getting the word out that the West Hollywood Travel and Tourism Board, also known as Visit West Hollywood, is bringing back its celebrated Eat + Drink West Hollywood, featuring restaurants, lounges and clubs throughout West Hollywood this March. The vibrant celebration elevates culinary artistry, innovation and the diverse flavors that have long defined West Hollywood as a premier food and beverage destination and those newly emerging to make their impact.

In 2025, Eat + Drink West Hollywood has been extended from one week to more than three weeks. It will kick off on Friday, March 7 and will run through Monday,

March 31. Participants can expect creative cuisines and innovative craft cocktails to delight foodie tastebuds. All participating restaurants and bars are within the municipal boundaries of West Hollywood. Locals and visitors are encouraged to dine in West Hollywood through March to support hospitality workers hard hit by the L.A. wildfires. Visit West Hollywood will donate \$1 to Restaurants Care for any dine-in reservation made in West Hollywood during the celebration in March (up to \$10,000) to provide aid for food and beverage workers affected by recent wildfires.

West Hollywood is a mecca for foodies seeking unique dishes, crafty cocktails and uninhibited luxury. From the Sunset Strip to Santa Monica Boulevard to the

Design District, West Hollywood is home to Michelin-rated hot spots, bars offering world-class mixology and various other hidden gems around nearly every corner.

During Eat + Drink West Hollywood, businesses will dazzle taste buds with unique culinary creations and libations. It's the perfect opportunity to explore the diverse and eclectic food scene that has long made West Hollywood a foodie paradise. Eat + Drink West Hollywood is not-to-be-missed for dining enthusiasts, both visitors and locals alike.

Due to the popularity of Eat + Drink West Hollywood, reservations are strongly encouraged. Walk-ins are welcome but are not guaranteed. For information and to make reservations, visit eat-drinkweho.com.



photo courtesy of Craft Media Solutions

Culinary Wizards came together to raise money for Los Angeles wild-fire relief on Feb. 27.

Chefs bring L.A. \$850k of love

What began as an ambitious idea quickly turned into an extraordinary movement, proving that the culinary world's heart beats strongest in times of need. Chefs Love LA, a sold-out all-star fundraising benefit, brought together the biggest names in food at the legendary Lawry's The Prime Rib Beverly Hills. New York City's Daniel Boulud, Jonathan Waxman and Ruth Reichl joined L.A.'s top chefs including Curtis Stone, Michael Cimarusti, Suzanne Goin and Nyesha Arrington to raise over \$850,000 while honoring firefighters, first responders and community heroes on one spectacular evening.

The event was held on

Thursday, February 27, and was hosted by "Somebody Feed Phil" creator Phil Rosenthal, nine-time James Beard Award-winning journalist Reichl, Los Angeles Times food columnist Jenn Harris, Brad Metzger, Jacqui Leanza, along with esteemed auctioneer Billy Harris.

"Food has the power to bring people together, and the hospitality industry is built on community and giving back," Ryan Wilson, CEO of Lawry's Restaurants, Inc., said. "Being the host restaurant of this event was an absolute honor."

To donate directly or find ways to support World Central Kitchen or Restaurants Care, visit wck.org or restaurantscare.org.

New L.A. Arts District center honors Corita Kent

Corita Art Center enjoyed its official opening in the heart of the Los Angeles Arts District on March 8. The milestone marked a new chapter in bringing the legacy of Corita Kent – a groundbreaking artist, educator and social justice advocate – into the spotlight. Often referred to as the "Pop-Art Nun," Kent's artwork pushed the boundaries of art and social practice. The center's independence, new location, pro-

gramming and exhibitions are focused on ensuring Kent's place is embedded in the community and art history.

"Of the few single-artist spaces dedicated to women artists, this marks a significant milestone as Los Angeles welcomes its newest cultural space dedicated to one of its most important artists, Corita Kent. Corita was a pioneering artist who challenged societal norms, and

used her creativity to inspire reflection, connection and change," executive director Nellie Scott said. "We are honored to open our doors to serve others at a time when Los Angeles, the nation and the world need Corita's artwork, messages and social practice the most. This inaugural exhibition is one that Los Angeles has never, until now, experienced – one that inspires new generations to see themselves as artists and changemakers."

The inaugural exhibition, "Heroes and Sheroes," pays homage to important figures that Kent believed inspired and uplifted society. Between 1968 and 1969, Kent produced 29 prints that she identified as "a set of heroes and sheroes." The series represents a pivotal moment in her artistic journey, created shortly after she took a sabbatical from Immaculate Heart College and subsequently left the order of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. While Kent never directly participated in the radical activities associated with many of her contemporaries of the religious left –



rendering courtesy of Undisclosable Inc.

The gallery space at the Corita Art Center opened last weekend.

Butterflies are back at NHM

The Butterfly Pavilion will take flight at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County for the spring and summer months starting on Sunday, March 23, with previews for members beginning on March 21. Visitors can walk among hundreds of butterflies in NHM's outdoor, open-air netted enclosure. The seasonal experience also features colorful native plants and plenty of natural light to help guests see the creatures flutter and fly.

Visitors can expect to see the stages of the butterfly lifecycle – from eggs to caterpillars and chrysalises – for up to 30 different species, including California natives like the Mourning Cloak

(*Nymphalis antiopa*) and Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*). Exotic butterflies like the Malachite (*Siproeta stelenes*) and Blue Morpho (*Morpho peleides*) can also be seen fluttering in the pavilion space. Museum educators will be stationed inside the Butterfly Pavilion to answer questions and share what makes the winged creatures special.

The Butterfly Pavilion is open from March 23-Aug. 24 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Timed tickets are for 30-minute sessions and are free for members, \$10 for non-members with a general admission ticket. For tickets, visit nhm.org/butterflies.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is located at 900 Exposition Blvd.



photo courtesy of NHMLAC

Visitors can experience butterflies up close at NHM's seasonal Butterfly Pavilion.

Mardi Gras comes to L.A. with the Rev's Roots Revival

BroadStage presents "Blackbox: Rev's Roots Revival with Beaucoup Brass Band," curated by the Reverend Shawn Amos, on Saturday, March 22 at 8 p.m. on the plaza.

Experience an evening of roots music, circus performance and joyful blues. "The Rev" will be joined by the Los Angeles-based Beaucoup Brass Band, which pays

homage to the lively New Orleans jazz tradition of Mardi Gras with energetic tunes. The collaboration will infuse the plaza with contagious rhythms and vibrant melodies, blending jazz, funk and brass band music for an unforgettable experience.

Tickets start at \$30. 1310 11th St., Santa Monica. broadstage.org.



photo courtesy of BroadStage

The Reverend Shawn Amos and Beaucoup Brass Band bring the sounds of New Orleans to the BroadStage plaza on March 22.

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY HOSPITAL CLOSURE

Effective January 1, 2025

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

The three nearest facilities offering comparable services are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This notice is provided in compliance with California law.

Melrose Fashion Week celebrates local designers

The Melrose Trading Post is bringing together Los Angeles’ fashion community for the launch of Melrose Fashion Week, an event celebrating local designers, sustainable fashion and creative expression from March 15-23 at the Melrose Trading Post and venues along Melrose Avenue.

Since 1997, Melrose Trading Post has been a hub for emerging designers, vintage collectors and stylists. With Melrose Fashion Week, the community is invited to visit the trading post and experience an exciting lineup of events that spotlight fashion’s artistry and sustainability.

“Melrose Trading Post has always been a space where creativity thrives,” Melrose Trading Post co-founder Pierson Blaetz said.

WeHo welcomes new art installation to Plummer Park

The city of West Hollywood announces the installation of “Not every pearl has its oyster,” a temporary public artwork by artist Heimir Bjorgulfsson, as part of its Art on the Outside program at Plummer Park, located at 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. The art installation will remain on view through March 2026.

“Not every pearl has its oyster” is a ready-made outdoor sculpture in the form of a traffic sign depicting a man riding a donkey and holding a carrot on a stick to lead it. The work is installed in the center of Plummer Park, between Fiesta Hall and Long Hall.

The sign sculpture sets an unexpected, unrealistic and quite baffling scenario for viewers to observe and imagine. The intention behind the work is to prompt viewers to reflect on their relationship, expectations and experiences of the natural vs. man-made environments and how these perceptions are shaped according to varying cultural identities and personal characteristics. The artist wants the viewers to question their assumption of such a sign subjectively and to appreciate its awkwardness and the possibility that a narrative can take shape. In many ways, it is a tool to make the viewer imagine and put themselves into the shoes of others. The sculpture was exhibited once before, at the “Joshua Treenial: Event Horizon” in Joshua Tree in 2017.

Bjorgulfsson creates artworks that introduce questions rather than offer solutions. He is interested in mankind’s clash with nature, however subtle or absurd, and its unpredictable consequences, examining how animal species adapt to changing habitats and enduring the effects of urbanization and climate change.

The Art on the Outside Program is the city’s temporary art program that installs rotating artworks throughout the city.

For information about West Hollywood arts programming, visit weho.org/arts.

“Melrose Fashion Week is a natural extension of that spirit, giving our designers and stylists a new platform to showcase their work and connect with the community in an exciting way.”

The Melrose Trading Post is building momentum around the increasing popularity of local eco-conscious fashion by showcasing the designers and stylists who build their brands in the neighborhood.

“The creativity on Melrose Avenue is like nowhere else in the world,” Blaetz added. “We’re excited to bring the community together around the art of fashion.”

Melrose Fashion Week events include “To Los Angeles with Love: The Art of a Fashion Icon,” an exhibit celebrating the art of Dorothy Rice running through May 1 at 7811 Gallery, 7811 Melrose Ave.

A Community Re-Dye Workshop with Circular Fashion L.A. will be held on Sunday, March 23, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Melrose Trading Post. Learn the art of sustainable fashion by re-dyeing garments. The workshop includes a

selection of a dyeable garments, or participants can bring their own. Step-by-step re-dyeing instructions, on-site application, all necessary dyes, supplies, protective equipment and take-home instructions will be provided. Tickets are \$30 in person, \$25 online.

Melrose Fashion Week will culminate with the Local and Sustainable Runway Show on Sunday, March 23, from 1-3 p.m. at the Melrose Trading Post. The event showcases designers and stylists who are part of the vibrant Melrose community. The runway shows will take place in the middle of the trading post’s Blue Section.

The March 23 event includes a Melrose Designers Showcase with local designers and stylists; the Los Angeles Youth Showcase featuring student designers from Sage Hills High School and stylists from Fairfax High School debuting their collections; and the Infinite Expression Memorial Runway, a tribute to Josh Lobb of Infinite Expression, with a fundraiser supporting the Josh D. Lobb Infinite Expression Award for Creativity



photo courtesy of the Melrose Trading Post

Melrose Fashion Week will shine a spotlight on the work of artisans such as Rhianna Cooper, of Vidakush Jewelry.

Scholarship. Featured Designers are Shop Redemption, Rag Reserve, Eternal Return, Donamatrix, De Florencio, Sausalito Blue, Protruding Monkey, YourMomsClosett, I Am Muse + VidaKush, Cloven, Ipitemi, Chapter and Enna Le’ Uqar. The youth designers are from the Sage Hills High School Re-Imagined Club and Fairfax High School Fashion Club.

The Melrose Trading Post is a

program of the nonprofit Greenway Arts Alliance, which is dedicated to connecting communities through art, education and social entrepreneurship. The Melrose Trading Post is held every Sunday at Fairfax High School, 7850 Melrose Ave., and features more than 250 local creative small business vendors, food and live music. To view the complete list of Melrose Fashion Week events, visit melrosetrading-post.org.

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L.A. Community College District considers housing options for students

The Los Angeles Community College District has launched a comprehensive program to address student housing insecurity. The first of three requests for proposals was released on Feb. 3, marking the beginning of a strategic initiative to provide safe, affordable housing options for LACCD students.

Serving over 210,000 students, LACCD supports one of the most diverse student populations in the country, including first-generation, low-income and formerly homeless individuals. A recent housing strategy report determined that 67% of LACCD students experience housing insecurity, an increase of 12% since 2016. To address the urgent issue, the first RFP for Properties for Delivery of Housing to LACCD Students explores acquisition, master lease and investment opportunities to

secure low-cost housing.

“Stable housing is fundamental to student success. This is one of many major investments in our students, fulfilling our commitment to addressing housing challenges,” LACCD interim chancellor Dr. Alberto J. Román said. “The housing program takes a flexible, strategic approach to meet student needs while maintaining the district’s long-term financial health.”

“This RFP isn’t just about acquiring properties, it’s about developing a sustainable housing strategy with the right partners,” LACCD chief facilities executive Dr. Leigh Sata said. “By leveraging bond dollars and working with experts, we can act rapidly and strategically to secure the best housing solutions for our students.”

LACCD will release a second RFP later in March to establish a

list of pre-qualified housing providers, giving each of the district’s nine colleges greater flexibility to secure student housing solutions tailored to their campus populations.

“By cultivating a strong network of housing providers, we empower our colleges to identify the best partners for their students,” LACCD deputy chancellor Dr. Nicole Albo-Lopez added. “This institutional strategy broadens access to housing solutions, helping students secure safe, affordable housing that supports their academic and personal success.”

As LACCD expands the housing program, the district remains committed to innovative, student-centered solutions that address the growing housing crisis and enhance student success. For information, visit laccd.edu.

El Rodeo hosts career day

On March 5, El Rodeo Elementary School celebrated its annual career day, igniting the

imaginings of its students and providing them with the opportunity to learn more about the profes-



Officers from the Beverly Hills Police Department visited the school on March 5 to tell students about their careers.

sional world. More than 30 guest speakers from diverse fields participated including health care, law, aerospace and real estate. The event also featured Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman, officers from the Beverly Hills Police Department, Beverly Hills firefighters and esteemed professionals.

Career day at El Rodeo is a cornerstone event that embodies the school’s motto, “Soaring to Success.” It encourages students from TK-5th grade to explore their interests and consider how educational choices can impact their future careers. The day was dedicated not only to career exposure but also to inspiring students to dream big and work diligently toward achieving their dreams.

“Career day is about more than exploring jobs. It’s about inspiring our students to dream big and aim high,” El Rodeo Principal Sarah Kaber said. “We saw a lot of excitement and curiosity, and we are proud to help foster this early interest in career exploration. It’s truly a joy to see our students so engaged and to support them as they begin to think about how they can soar to success.”

For information, visit bhUSD.org.

Beverly Vista is a ‘School to Watch’



Assistant Principal Ashley Tomovich, Principal Richard Waters and Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Laura Collins-Williams accepted the acknowledgement on March 6.

Beverly Hills Unified School District announced that Beverly Vista Middle School officially received the “School to Watch” designation at a special ceremony on March 6 hosted by the California League of Middle Schools, the California Middle-Grades Alliance and the California Department of Education.

The prestigious acknowledgement was formally accepted on behalf of BVMS and BHUSD by Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Laura Collins-

Williams, Principal Richard Waters and Assistant Principal Ashley Tomovich.

“Receiving the ‘School to Watch’ designation at this year’s ceremony is a reflection of our enduring commitment to academic excellence and innovative educational practices,” Collins-Williams said. “It represents our collective dedication to ensuring a nurturing and effective learning environment for every student.”

For information, visit bhUSD.org.

Congressional Art Competition opens for high school students

U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) announced on March 11 that submissions from high school students are being accepted for the 2025 Congressional Art Competition.

Every spring, Congress accepts visual art entries from high school students across the nation. The winning art piece from each district is displayed in the U.S. Capitol tunnel and is seen by thousands of visitors and members of Congress each year. The winner and a family member are invited to attend a special ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The second-place winner’s art-

work will be displayed in Friedman’s Washington, D.C. office, and the third-place winner’s art will be displayed in the congresswoman’s district office in Burbank.

“This contest recognizes the vast artistic talents of our young students, as well as the diversity of art forms that exist,” Friedman said. The deadline for submission is April 4. The contest is limited to one entry per student. Applicants can submit artwork by visiting tinyurl.com/CA30-Art.

For information, email ca30-art-competition@mail.house.gov.

BHHS students are ‘Earnest’

Beverly Hills High School Theatre took the stage with “The Importance of Being Earnest,” delivering a production that highlighted the incredible talent, dedication and creativity of students.

Over four performances, the cast and crew transported audiences into Oscar Wilde’s world of wit and satire, showcasing their hard work on stage and behind the scenes. From the sharp comedic timing of

the actors to the immersive set design and production elements, the show was a testament to the strength of BHHS’s performing arts program.

A unique aspect of the production was that it was student-directed, giving BHHS performers and crew members the opportunity to take ownership of the creative process in a truly immersive way.

For information on future performances, visit bhhs.bhUSD.org/theatre.



Beverly Hills High School students directed and performed Oscar Wilde’s classic play.

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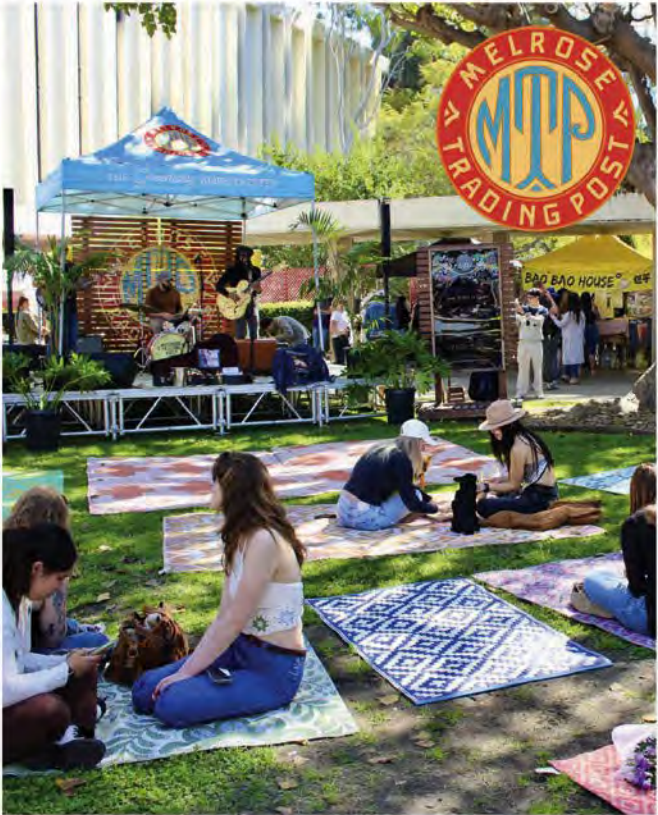
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California Credit Union opens internship applications

Applications are open for California Credit Union’s Summer Internship Program for college students. In its fourth year, the program offers paid internships to provide students with professional work experience and mentoring in multiple areas throughout the organization, including the accounting, electronic services, human resources, and treasury and finance departments.

“An important part of our educational support initiatives is providing hands-on work experience and mentoring local students to help open doors to a future career,” California Credit Union president and CEO Steve O’Connell said. “Our highly successful summer internship program integrates students into teams across the credit union so they can apply what they learn in the classroom to a hands-on setting in the business world.”

The California Credit Union internships will provide students with practical work experience across multiple departments, lead-



photo courtesy of California Credit Union

California Credit Union interns will have the opportunity to work in multiple departments with direct training and mentoring with managers.

ership development skills and school-to-career readiness, with direct training and mentoring with managers. All internships are paid, full-time (30-40 hours per week) opportunities at the credit union’s

Glendale headquarters office from June 16-Aug. 15.

College students can learn more and apply for the internships by visiting ccu.com/summer-internship-program.

Hop to The Grove for the Easter season

Spring is in the air, and Caruso’s Easter events are blooming with fun and “ear-resistable” excitement. From March 26-April 20, The Grove is inviting guests to embrace the season with family-friendly activities, including a festive petting zoo, brunch with the Easter Bunny and lively entertainment.

Meeting the Easter Bunny is a springtime tradition, and there is no

sweeter spot to make it happen than at The Grove. Step into a storybook spring setting filled with blooming flowers, painted eggs and pastel décor, and choose from three festive photo packages to capture the holiday moment. Reservations are open now and advance bookings are highly encouraged. Walk-ins are subject to availability.

Guests who purchase the premier “VIB” (Very Important Bunny)

photo package at The Grove’s Bunny Bungalow will receive complimentary access to an exclusive petting zoo from April 17-19 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Entry is valid for guests who purchase the VIB Photo Package at The Grove. Proof of purchase is required for admission.

For information, visit thegrove-ela.com. The Grove is located at 189 The Grove Drive.

Beverly High students showcase skills at state conference

From Feb. 27-March 2, 15 Beverly Hills High School students attended the DECA State Career Development Conference, where they competed against top chapters from across California. The event, held in Anaheim, provides a platform for students to demonstrate their expertise in a range of categories including marketing, entrepreneurship and finance.

During the conference, students engaged in exams and role-play scenarios designed to test problem-solving skills and business acumen. They tackled real-world business problems in front of judges, showcasing their ability to think critically and articulate solutions effectively.

A highlight of the event was the standout performance of Yael

Khalilian and Nora Nikfarjam, who were finalists in the business law and ethics team decision making category. Their achievement not only highlights individual excellence but also underscores the comprehensive education provided by BHHS in preparing students for professional success.

“The dedication and talent of our DECA team members have truly exemplified educational excellence,” BHHS Principal Drew Stewart said. “Their achievements at this year’s state conference highlight the commitment of our students to excel in competitive and complex environments. We are incredibly proud of all participants and especially congratulate Yael and Nora for their remarkable performance.”

For information, visit bhUSD.org.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Beverly Hills High School students demonstrated problem solving at the DECA State Career Development Conference from Feb. 27-March 2.



TUESDAY

APRIL

01

2025

7:00 P.M.

The City of Beverly Hills cordially invites you to the installation of

the Honorable Sharona R. Nazarian PsyD as Mayor

the Honorable John A. Mirisch and the Honorable Craig A. Corman as Vice Mayors

Joined by City Councilmembers

the Honorable Lester Friedman

the Honorable Mary N. Wells

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts

9390 North Santa Monica Boulevard, Beverly Hills

Reception to follow ♦ Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Complimentary parking

Getty acquires collection of work by Raymond Pettibon

The Getty has acquired the archive of American artist Raymond Pettibon, who became known in the 1980s for his work in the Southern California music scene, particularly through posters and album covers, and later gained widespread recognition in the fine art world.

Pettibon’s distinctive visual language incorporates an eclectic range of American cultural and historical references, blending elements from popular culture, literature, sports, politics and religion. His most iconic works synthesize crashing waves, surfers and sardonic text extracted and repurposed from literary sources.

The archive was donated to the

Getty Conservation Institute’s Reference Collection and Getty Research Institute Special Collections. The Reference Collection will house paint tubes and ink jars related to his materials and techniques, while the bulk of the archive will be housed at the Getty Research Institute. The archive includes handwritten notes, zine mockup pages, original screen prints and linocuts, screen printed skateboard decks and a surfboard, concert flyers and printed ephemera for exhibitions and events.

The collection significantly enhances the Getty’s collections of reference materials and archives relating to Pettibon, who has previously donated drawings, zines and

concert flyers. Overall, the archive builds on the Getty’s collections of Southern California art history, while also moving the collections chronologically forward with an artist whose works developed in the 1980s and 1990s. The materials will be particularly useful to conservators and scholars, as they reveal much about Pettibon’s working methods, processes and use of source materials. Pettibon was artist in residence at the GRI for its 2003-04 theme year “Markets and Value,” and the archive includes extensive notes and research conducted during the residency.

“This acquisition ensures that Pettibon’s legacy will be preserved and made accessible for future generations of scholars, curators and artists, allowing them to better understand the intersection of culture, politics and personal narrative in his work,” said Glenn Phillips, chief curator of the Getty Research Institute

Pettibon, whose birth name was Raymond Ginn, was born in 1957 in Tucson, Arizona, and primarily grew up in Hermosa Beach. The artist’s nom de plume, Pettibon, sometimes spelled Pettibone in very early works, was coined by his father.

Throughout the late 1970s, Pettibon immersed himself in drawing, reading and writing. He became involved with the music and bands associated with his brother, Greg Ginn, founder of the punk rock band Black Flag. Pettibon designed Black Flag’s iconic four bar logo and contributed drawings for the band’s concert flyers and album covers, as well as for other bands such as Sonic Youth and Minutemen. Working across media

including prints, drawings, paintings, video, zines and Xerox art, Pettibon is among the most prominent artists to emerge from Los Angeles in the 1980s and 1990s. In addition to the Getty, his work is in the collections of the Los Angeles

County Museum of Art and Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, as well as museum around the world.

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

The ‘Golden State’ and its landscape explored at LACMA



photo courtesy of LACMA

The natural landscape of California is highlighted in the “Zheng Chongbin: Golden State” exhibition.

Beginning March 23, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art is presenting “Zheng Chongbin: Golden State,” which spotlights artist Zheng Chongbin’s explorations of water, light, movement and California’s natural landscape. The exhibition marks the artist’s largest solo presentation in the U.S. to date and the first major showcase of his work with colored pigments.

Where previous presentations have contextualized his practice in

the canon of Chinese ink painting alone, LACMA’s exhibition situates Zheng as a distinctly Californian artist.

This exhibition is curated by Susanna Ferrell, Wynn Resorts Associate Curator of Chinese Art at LACMA. “Golden State” will remain on view through Jan. 4, 2026. For information, visit lacma.org/press/zheng-chongbin-golden-state. LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd.

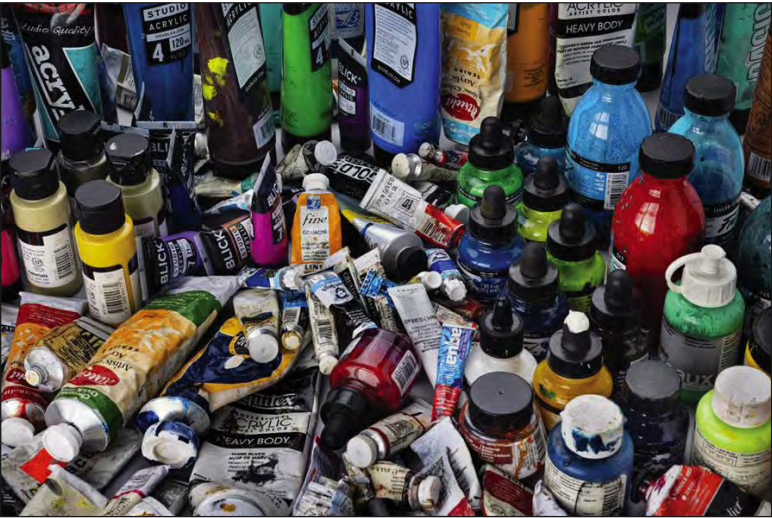


photo courtesy of The Getty

Paint tubes and ink jars related to the artist’s techniques will be housed in the museum’s Reference Collection.



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

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



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

WORK HOURS: 24/7

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT beverlyhills.org/purpleline

POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between March 2 and March 9. 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

March 2

At 3:50 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 9500 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 9:47 a.m.

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

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 1:15 p.m.

At 2:17 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1000 block of Chevy Chase.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 400 block of N. Rodeo at 3:10 p.m.

At 6 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 400 block of N. Doheny.

March 3

At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9800 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 8:21 a.m.

At 9:20 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 400 block of N. Camden.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of S. Hamilton at 10 p.m.

March 5

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9600 block of Wilshire at 12:20 p.m.

At 10:04 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 400 block of N. Cañon.

March 6

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near sunset and Camden at 4:20 a.m.

At 11:46 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of Carson.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 1:40 p.m.

At 8 p.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the 200 block of S. La Cienega.

March 8

At 2:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of N. Wetherly.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 7:30 p.m.

March 9

At 1:15 a.m., a suspect was arrest-

ed on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Rexford and Charleville.

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

March 2

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

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 9000 block of Sunset at 2:35 a.m.

An arson fire was reported in the 9000 block of Beverly at 6:30 p.m.

At 8:50 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8200 block of Santa Monica.

At 10:50 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 9200 block of Sunset at 11:30 p.m.

March 3

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Huntley and Santa Monica at 2:30 a.m.

At 9:25 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7900 block of Santa Monica.

A robbery occurred near Fairfax and Romaine at 9:38 a.m.

At 4:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

March 4

At 11:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

March 5

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1200 block of N. La Brea at 1:50 p.m.

At 4:50 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7900 block of Willoughby.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 8:30 p.m.

March 6

At 12:30 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7700 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7900 block of Santa Monica at 8:30 a.m.

At 8:45 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8200 block of Norton.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7600 block of Norton at 2:27 p.m.

March 7

At 7:50 a.m., an unknown suspect

assaulted a victim in the 8200 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7900 block of Norton at 11:45 a.m.

At 3:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

March 8

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9000 block of Sunset

at 1:30 a.m.

At 2:30 a.m., an unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1100 block of Larrabee at 2:40 a.m.

March 9

At 3 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1200 block of N. Crescent Heights.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 8200 block of Santa Monica at 4:30 a.m.

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.

Man behind extensive drug network sought

Ryan Wedding, 43, a former Olympic snowboarder and Canadian national, has been added to the FBI’s Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list.

Wedding is the alleged mastermind behind a transnational drug ring that transported hundreds of kilograms of cocaine from Colombia through Mexico and Los Angeles to Canada and locations throughout the United States. Akil Davis, assistant director in charge of the FBI’s Los Angeles Field Office, announced Wedding’s addition to the Ten Most Wanted List at a March 6 press conference in Westwood. In addition to drug trafficking charges, Wedding is wanted for multiple murders and attempted murders allegedly committed in furtherance of his criminal organization. Authorities are offering a \$10 million reward for information leading to Wedding’s arrest and conviction.

Wedding, whose aliases include “El Jefe,” “Giant,” “Public Enemy,” “James Conrad King” and “Jesse King,” competed in the giant slalom snowboarding competition during the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

In June 2024, Wedding and his second-in-command, Andrew Clark, 34, also Canadian, were charged in an indictment in California with running a continuing criminal enterprise; committing murder in connection with a continuing criminal enterprise and drug crimes; and con-



photo courtesy of the FBI

Ryan Wedding is wanted for numerous felonies in connection with drug trafficking.

spiring to possess, distribute and export cocaine. Clark, who was arrested last October by authorities in Mexico, was returned to the United States last week.

In September 2024, a federal grand jury in Los Angeles returned a superseding indictment naming 14 additional defendants and including an attempted murder charge against Wedding and Clark. The superseding indictment alleges that Wedding, Clark and others conspired to ship bulk quantities of cocaine from Southern California to Canada between January and August 2024. The cocaine shipments were transported from Mexico to the Los

Angeles area, where the cocaine trafficking organization’s operatives stored the drugs in stash houses before delivering it to transportation network couriers.

The superseding indictment also alleges that Wedding and Clark’s organization resorted to violence – including multiple murders. Wedding and Clark allegedly directed the Nov. 20, 2023, murders of two members of a family in Ontario, Canada, in retaliation for a stolen drug shipment that passed through Southern California. Another member of the same family survived the shooting but was left with serious injuries, authorities said. Wedding and Clark also allegedly ordered the murder of another victim over a drug debt on May 18, 2024.

Wedding and Clark face a mandatory minimum penalty of life in federal prison for running a continuing criminal enterprise. The murder and attempted murder charges carry a mandatory minimum penalty of 20 years in federal prison. The drug trafficking charges carry mandatory minimum penalties of 10 to 15 years in prison.

Wedding is white, 6 feet 3 inches tall and 240 pounds. He has brown hair and may have a beard and mustache

The FBI urges anyone with information to call (424)495-0614, or submit a tip online by visiting tips.fbi.gov.

WeHo hosts CPR, first aid training sessions

West Hollywood residents are encouraged to participate in a free American Red Cross CPR, First Aid and AED certification training session on Saturday, April 12. Two sessions will be held from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. at the West Hollywood Park Aquatic and Recreation Center, 8750 El Tovar Place.

Participants will learn how to respond to medical emergencies. The American Red Cross certification training will cover adult and pediatric CPR, First Aid and AED.

Prior to meeting in-person, participants will be enrolled in an online learning session that takes approximately two-and-a-half hours to complete. The sessions include in-person reviews and tests that will take approximately two hours per section for participants to receive certification. The online learning session link will be sent out seven days prior to the in-person training session. All online coursework must be completed before the in-person training session.

Space is limited; early enrollment is encouraged via the city of West Hollywood’s ActiveNet online reservations portal at anc.apm.activecommunities.com/weho/activity/search?onlineSiteId=0&activity_select_param=2&viewMode=list. Once the event reaches capacity, a waiting list will be created. The city plans to host additional American Red Cross training sessions. To join the waitlist for future sessions, call (323)848-6538 or email wehoaquatics@weho.org.

Commission selects new LAPD inspector general

The Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners on Feb. 25 appointed Matthew Barragan as inspector general for the Los Angeles Police Department.

Barragan has served as an assistant United States attorney since 2017 and has filed civil actions in the United States District Court to enforce federal civil rights laws. He has pursued civil rights matters under multiple statues including the Fair Housing Act, Americans with Disabilities Act and the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act. Barragan also works closely with leaders in the civil rights community, including advocates for religious, ethnic and racial minority groups.

“I am honored and excited to be

appointed as the next inspector general of the Los Angeles Police Department,” Barragan said. “I look forward to working with the department and connecting with community members to increase accountability and trust between Angelenos and their police department.”

Barragan began his legal career with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, working as a staff attorney from 2012-17. In 2017, he joined the



Matthew Barragan

United States Attorney’s Office for the Central District of California, serving in the Complex and Defensive Litigation Section from 2017-22 and the Civil Rights Section since 2022.

“Mr. Barragan is a dedicated public servant who brings a breadth of experience representing the people of the Central District in civil rights matters. We are excited to have someone of his caliber join our team and we look forward to his service in this role,” Commission President Dr. Erroll G. Southers said.

Barragan was born and raised in Delano, California. He received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, and holds a juris doctor degree from UCLA School of Law.

Pantages brings slate of Broadway favorites

Broadway in Hollywood has announced its new 2025-26 Season – consisting of four Los Angeles premieres direct from Broadway, three invigorated stage classics and the return of two blockbuster favorites from producer Cameron Mackintosh, both available for priority access to all who purchase or renew into this new season. All productions will play at the iconic Hollywood Pantages Theatre, located in the heart of Hollywood.

“Los Angeles is a city of dreamers, creators and storytellers – and nothing brings us together like the magic of live theatre,” president Jeff Loeb said. “This season as our beloved Hollywood Pantages celebrates 95 years in Hollywood, we invite audiences to experience unforgettable stories that will move, inspire and unite us in ways only Broadway can. With a lineup that blends bold new voices and timeless classics, our 2025-26 season promises to be an extraordinary celebration of community, connection and the power of shared experiences. Join us – because the best nights out are the ones we spend together.”

The 2025-26 Season at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre launches with the powerful and triumphant “Suffs,” the Tony-winning new musical that shines a light on the fearless women who fought for the right to vote. Next, the season turns up the volume with “Stereophonic,” the critically acclaimed and most-nominated play in Tony Award history that immerses audiences in the raw, behind-the-scenes world of a ‘70s rock band on the brink of stardom.

Then, hearts will soar with the L.A. premiere of “The Notebook: The Musical,” a deeply moving new production that brings Nicholas Sparks’ unforgettable love story to life with a lush, heartfelt score by Ingrid Michaelson. Following that show, comedy reigns supreme as the Knights of the Round Table ride into Hollywood for the gloriously absurd return of “Monty Python’s Spamalot,” a side-splitting sendup

in a revival direct from Broadway. Following this will be a timeless classic reborn: a fresh new production of Rodgers & Hammerstein’s “The Sound of Music,” bringing the beloved story and score to a whole new generation. From there, the season picks up the rhythm of the 90s with the L.A. premiere of “Hell’s Kitchen,” an electrifying coming-of-age musical, featuring an exhilarating score from 17-time Grammy winner Alicia Keys. Finally, the curtain will rise (before the last petal falls) on a spectacular new staging of Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast,” the beloved Broadway classic that proves true love – and true magic – never fades.

As previously announced, Hollywood Pantages Theatre will welcome back two Broadway Blockbusters to Los Angeles as Season Add-On productions: “Les Misérables” (beginning Oct 2025) and “The Phantom of the Opera” (beginning June 2026). Season ticket holders who purchase or renew into the new 2025-26 Season will



photo by Julieta Cervantes

“The Notebook: The Musical” will perform at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre Jan. 6-25, 2026.

have priority access to both productions. “The Phantom of the Opera” is available now and “Les Misérables” will be available starting March 25.

Season ticket packages are available now at broadwayinhollywood.com/seasonpackages or by phone at (866)755-2929. Current season ticket holders can renew their seats now. Season ticket holders lock in the best seats at the best prices and enjoy benefits such as complimentary ticket exchanges online and at the box office, lost ticket insurance, 24-hour account access and priority access to added events.

The Hollywood Pantages Theatre is located at 6233 Hollywood Blvd.



photo courtesy of the J. Paul Getty Trust

Kelly S. Moody will help oversee fundraising, donor engagement and institutional advancement.

Getty appoints new vice president to guide development, advancement

The J. Paul Getty Trust has appointed Kelly S. Moody as vice president of development and institutional advancement. She will lead fundraising and strategic partnership efforts to support Getty’s mission as a leading global art organization.

Moody brings more than 20 years of experience in fundraising, strategic partnerships and institutional growth, with a record of securing transformational gifts and expanding philanthropic support globally for major cultural and educational organizations. A dedicated advocate for the visual arts, she has championed inclusive approaches to philanthropy and donor engagement, broadening participation and deepening impact across the nonprofit sector. At Getty, she will work closely with leadership to cultivate new philanthropic opportuni-

ties, strengthen donor networks and enhance Getty’s role as a global leader in the arts.

“I am delighted to welcome Kelly to Getty,” Getty president and CEO Katherine E. Fleming said. “Her deep experience in fundraising, donor engagement and strategic partnerships will be invaluable as we expand Getty’s philanthropic reach and strengthen our ability to share art and cultural heritage with the world.”

Moody previously led a consulting firm advising nonprofit organizations on fundraising strategy, donor engagement and institutional advancement. As vice president of institutional advancement at Teachers College, Columbia University, she oversaw major fundraising efforts, achieving a 71% increase in philanthropic support and securing \$41 million in fis-

cal year 2023. She has also held leadership roles at the International Rescue Committee, New York University, Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management and Baruch College/CUNY.

“I am honored to join Getty and excited to bring my passion for the visual arts and cultural heritage to Getty,” Moody said. “For me, the visual arts are not only a repository of history and culture but also an active force for fostering inclusivity, understanding and connection. I look forward to working with the Getty team and its supporters to expand philanthropic partnerships and advance Getty’s important global work.”

Moody will begin her new role on March 31. The Getty Museum is located at 1200 Getty Center Drive. For information, visit getty.edu.

VINTAGE
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Runners return for annual
L.A. Marathon

Runners in the Los Angeles Marathon passed by Third Street and Rossmore Avenue on a rainy Sunday 30 years ago in this photograph from the March 9, 1995, issue of the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News. Thousands of runners will return to the local area on Sunday, March 16, for the 2025 Los Angeles Marathon, which starts at 7 a.m. and follows a route from Dodger Stadium to Century City, with the finish line at Santa Monica Boulevard and Avenue of the Stars. Participants will head through Hollywood, West Hollywood and Beverly Hills. Numerous streets will be closed for the event and motorists are cautioned to plan ahead. The marathon also features a two-day Lifestyle Expo on March 14 from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and March 15 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Dodger Stadium. For information, a course map and list of street closures, visit mccourtfoundation.org/event/los-angeles-marathon.

LA Opera’s resident conductor renews contract

LA Opera continues to refine its rich artistic profile and shape its future with the announcement that Lina González-Granados has renewed her contract as resident conductor, a position she has held since 2022. The three-year extension, following her original three-year contract that concludes this summer, will extend her affiliation with the company through the end of the 2027-28 season.

“I’m deeply honored to continue as LA Opera’s resident conductor, making music with the extraordinary artists of the orchestra and chorus,” González-Granados said. “Our work has never been more important than at this moment. I look with immense pride at all that we have achieved, from interpretations of classic works like Britten’s ‘The Rape of Lucretia’ and Donizetti’s ‘Lucia di Lammermoor,’ to new works like Gabriela Lena Frank’s ‘El último sueño de Frida y Diego,’ the world premiere of Joel Thompson’s ‘Fire and Blue Sky’ and the upcoming company premiere of Osvaldo Golijov’s ‘Ainadamar.’ It is a privilege to continue our mission to

expand the art form and to reach ever wider audiences.”

In addition to the works noted above, she has conducted LA Opera performances that include Gounod’s ‘Romeo and Juliet,’ the world premiere of Academy Award-winning composer Gustavo Santaolalla’s soundtrack score for the 1931 Spanish-language film ‘Dracula’ and the world premiere of Joel Thompson’s orchestral suite from his opera ‘The Snowy Day.’

Her upcoming LA Opera appearances include ‘Coming Home: Angel Blue in Concert’ on March 15 and next season’s production of ‘La Bohème.’

“From the first moment she stepped on the podium for Lucia di Lammermoor in 2022, Lina forged a palpable connection with our audiences,” said Christopher Koelsch, the company’s president and CEO. “That phenomenon has only grown throughout her leadership in a diverse range of projects, from the music of Benjamin Britten to Gabriela Lena Frank, and I have every confidence she will continue to demonstrate insight, intelligence and energy in her upcoming leader-

ship of ‘Coming Home’ with Angel Blue and ‘Ainadamar.’ Further, her commitment to the development of the future of the art form through community outreach, her work with our young artists and her commitment to new compositional voices have helped the company – and the field – advance its vision for a continuously vibrant environment for creative expression.”

For information, visit laopera.org.



photo by Eliza Logan

Lina González-Granados has served as resident conductor of LA Opera since 2022.

‘Mickey 17’ is political catharsis

Let’s get this out of the way now: science fiction romp “Mickey 17” is a fine film but hardly the capitalist eat-the-rich critique of Bong Joon-ho’s “Parasite.” The director’s follow-up to the 2020 best-pic winner is a touch clumsy, thematically all over the place. But as a cathartic political satire ripped from Western headlines, it’s comfort viewing all too relevant.

Mickey Barnes (Robert Pattinson replacing his British accent with a banger Steve Buscemi impression) makes poor decisions that draw the wrong attention. He needs to leave the planet now. Luckily, a spaceship

will soon launch to colonize an unexplored planet. One problem: Earth is trash, and everyone wants out. How will a kind but intelligent guy with no skills secure a spot?

So Mickey signs up for the one job nobody else wants. He’s an “expandable worker” whose mind can be uploaded to “reprinted” bodies. That means he often must undertake jobs that are fatal to anyone else. Scientists also love using him as a lab rat to test a planet’s habitability, radiation levels and even synthetic food that might not sit well.

This is all standard sci-fi fare, but

ON SCREEN

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TIM POSADA

it wouldn’t be a Joon-ho experience without some degree of madness. Say hi to the exhibition’s leader, Kenneth Marshall (Mark Ruffalo), a failed politician who craves media attention and speaks in a style that invites gagging more than inspiration. He knows nothing but talks about everything with laughable unearned confidence.

At first, this Kenneth Marshall guy feels like a straightforward fascist idiot, but Ruffalo seems to take a few stylistic cues from a certain imbecile in public office right now. Is this intentional? Perhaps. Or maybe obnoxious people share quite a bit in common, from dumb hair to defining reality (and life, in this case) regardless of what others know is true.

It ain’t subtle in its depiction of a mediocre man who fails upward because he will say whatever to ensure his dupes are appeased. He scores the space gig because he aligns with a religious institution that needs a zealot to distract folks, ensuring they don’t think too hard about issues like human rights or fair labor practices.

In this and various other ways, “Mickey 17” ventures far from Edward Ashton’s 2022 novel, “Mickey7.” That’s OK. Films do



photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

Robert Pattinson stars as Mickey Barnes in Bong Joon-ho’s “Mickey 17.”



photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

Mark Ruffalo appears as failed politician Kenneth Marshall in the new sci-fi film “Mickey 17.”

March 16 will make museums ‘Free-for-All’

SoCal Museums has announced that this year’s Museums Free-for-All, which celebrates free arts and culture in Southern California, will be held Sunday, March 16. Now a region-wide tradition, this year’s event includes more than 30 museums and cultural institutions presenting art, cultural heritage, film and natural history, offering something for everyone.

“As Los Angeles and Southern

California continue to recover after the devastating fires, we hope to offer a space of comfort and connection for people,” said Alexa Nishimoto, SoCal Museums president and marketing associate, Japanese American National Museum. “It is an honor for us to open our collective doors and welcome visitors in to experience the broad range of cultural experiences available in the region. The Museums Free-for-All has become

a touchstone for our community, a time to try something new or return to an old favorite.”

Participating museums include the Academy Museum, The Broad, The Getty Center, Hammer Museum, Museum of Tolerance and Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

SoCal Museums members offer myriad opportunities to experience arts and culture for free throughout the year. A calendar of free days can be found at socalmuseums.org/free.



photo by Japanese American National Museum

The Japanese American National Museum, located at 100 N. Central Ave., will be open for Museums Free-for-All Day on March 16.

Fine Arts Theatre raises curtain on classic film showcase

The Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills will present a special classic screening series with live entertainment before each film starting on Saturday, March 15, at 7:30 p.m. with “Singin’ in the Rain.” The series runs bi-monthly through Saturday, Dec. 20.

A highlight of the first program will be a special appearance by actor George Takei. The event also includes the Johnny Holiday Variety Show live on stage performing the greatest hits of the 1920s and featuring the Honey Taps

Dancers.

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

The Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills is located at 8556 Wilshire Blvd. For tickets and information, visit fineartstheatrebh.com.



photo by Edwin Folven

The Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills’s special screening series includes an appearance by actor George Takei on March 15.

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KCCLA showcases works by Korea’s National Theater

Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles is holding the “Performing Arts Content Screening Series-National Theater Series” over four sessions from March 20-July 10, in collaboration with the Seoul Arts Center.

Following an enthusiastic reception for last year’s classical music, ballet and opera entries, this year’s series showcases outstanding productions from Korea’s National Theater on a large screen. The screenings will take place on March 20, April 24, May 29 and July 10, offering an opportunity to enjoy performances by Korea’s National Theater.

On March 20, enjoy “Rabbit’s Eight Sufferings” by the National Changgeuk Company. The changgeuk (Korean traditional opera) adapts the pansori “Sugungga” into a theatrical production. The title symbolizes the turtle and rabbit characters and the

idea of “returning to the land.” Focusing on the rabbit’s trials and tribulations, the story parallels modern life’s challenges, delivering a hopeful message of finding strength. Featuring imaginative staging, the performance showcases renowned K-Gugak stars Kim Jun-su and Yoo Tae-pyeong in lead roles.

“Seven Beats” by the National Dance Company will be shown on April 24. It highlights the rhythmic seven beats traditionally used in Korean farmers’ music. The piece explores the dynamic interplay of rhythm and body, offering fresh perspectives on traditional movements. Critically acclaimed for energetic choreography and dynamic reinterpretation of traditional rhythms, the performance transforms traditional drum patterns into a modern and engaging experience.

The “Youth Concert” by the

National Orchestra of Korea will be shown on May 29, catering to a younger audience and blending traditional Korean music with contemporary pop trends. Featuring a 60-member orchestra with Korean traditional instruments, immersive visuals and lighting, the concert provides an experience comparable to a modern pop concert.

On July 10, KCCLA will show “Dance of Dreams” exploring a journey through hardships in the real world compared to an ideal utopia. Created by choreographer Cha Jin-yeob, the performance intertwines dance with multimedia art, music and costumes, creating a surreal blend of tradition and modernity. It is inspired by the 15th century painting “Dream Journey to the Peach Blossom Land” by Ahn Gyeon.

“Following the positive response to last year’s screening series featuring SAC productions, we are



photo courtesy of KCCLA

Audiences can experience the grandeur of Korea’s National Theater on the big screen on March 20, April 24, May 29 and July 10.

Women’s Theatre Festival readies for gala opening night

The 32nd annual Los Angeles Women’s Theatre Festival, Stronger Together, will honor six deserving women for their exceptional career and life achievements



photo courtesy of L.A. Women’s Theatre Festival

Mitzi Gaynor will posthumously be honored with the Infinity Award on March 27.

in the world of theatre at the opening night champagne gala and awards ceremony on March 27 at 8 p.m.

The evening will begin with a reception and red carpet at 6:30 p.m., at Barnsdall Gallery Theatre. This year’s theme for the catered gala is “A Toast To.” The evening will be hosted by celebrities Ted Lange (“The Love Boat”) and Margaret Avery (“The Color Purple”).

The 2025 Los Angeles Women’s Theatre Festival is directed by Fay Hauser-Price. The six worthy honorees who have made laudable contributions to the world of theatre include Mitzi Gaynor and Nancy Cheryll Davis Bellamy, who will receive the posthumous Infinity Award. Dawn Didawick will be bestowed with this year’s Eternity Award. Elisa Bocanegra will

receive the Maverick Award. Juanita Jennings will be the recipient of the Integrity Award. Juli Kim will receive the Rainbow Award.

There will be three performances at the gala, in addition to the Awards Ceremony. Performers include Vannia Ibarquen in “Path to Home,” Karen A. Clark in “Supervoman” and Ashley Gayle in “Actualization of a Dream.”

Co-founded by executive producer Adilah Barnes and Miriam Reed, the Los Angeles Women’s Theatre Festival is a longstanding and diverse annual event unique among Los Angeles cultural institutions.

Tickets to the gala are \$60 each or \$100 a pair (includes catered reception). Tickets to each of the weekend’s other five shows are \$25 for early birds (through March 15) and \$30 thereafter. A VIP all access pass for the entire weekend is \$150. Reservations are available at (818)760-0408 or lawtf.org.

The Barnsdall Gallery Theatre is located at 4800 Hollywood Blvd.

NHM launches free ‘Elephant in the Room’ discussion series

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County has launched a new free discussion series, “Elephant in the Room.”

The new series kicked off on Feb. 27, the first of three nights this spring – each featuring panels of experts tackling thought-provoking topics. “Dioramas: Art or Science?” will be followed by “Taxidermy: Challenges of a Lost Art” on March 13 and “The Many Faces of Conservation” on March 20.

“Elephant in the Room” is among the first evening programs to take place in the new Commons Theater, a new venue space that is also home to NHM’s latest daytime programming, including the performing arts offering “Ocean Encounters” and the film “T. REX 3D.” The dynamic new multipurpose theater recently opened in the museum’s new wing, NHM Commons, and will host films, discussions, musical performances and community events.

Aligned with NHM Commons remaining free for visitors and honoring the local community, “Elephant in the Room” events are

free for members and guests.

The series is also part of the celebration for NHM’s iconic 100-year-old diorama halls, which guests can explore after museum hours during future “Elephant in the Room” events. In conjunction with the centennial, this year’s theme pulls back the curtain on the artistry, science and controversies surrounding the museum’s beloved installations, providing a platform for dialogue and discovery.

Through the events, visitors can take an informed and critical look at the evolving role of dioramas in addressing important issues in biodiversity, ecology and conservation – and their lasting impact on those fields – as well as how dioramas combine immersive art and scientific accuracy to educate and inspire while focusing on the ethical issues surrounding dioramas.

For information, visit nhm.org/elephant-room-small-talk-big-issues.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is located at 900 Exposition Blvd.



photo courtesy of NHMLAC

The discussions will each focus on a specific topic, including dioramas, taxidermy and conservation.

‘Lightscape’ will shine longer at MAF

Marciano Art Foundation has announced the extension of Doug Aitken’s celebrated film installation “Lightscape” through May 17. A seven-channel artwork on view in MAF’s Theater Gallery, Aitken’s immersive project offers a panoramic view of the American West and the intersection of landscape, ecology and climate upon human systems of creativity, economic production and urban identity. Made in collaboration with the Los Angeles Master Chorale and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the installation has brought thousands of visitors to the foundation for a

series of free, weekend performances that will continue through the extended dates of the show.

Through May, the foundation will welcome performances from major musical talents such as the pioneering electronic musician Suzanne Ciani, rock musician Beck with LA LOM, Carlos Niño, and other groups. Dance and choreographic aspects of “Lightscape” will further be highlighted by performances from the L.A. Dance Project as well as the dancer Konkrete who will be joined by a collective of fellow Krump dancers. Additional performances will be

presented by the L.A. Master Chorale and L.A. Philharmonic.

On view at MAF through May 17 will also be the exhibitions “Transmissions: Selections” from the Marciano Art Collection on the foundation’s third floor, curated by Douglas Fogle and Hanneke Skerath, and the project “Quarternion” by Kristen Wentreck and Andrew Zebulon in the historic library space.

Tickets for admission to MAF as well as all associated events are free on a first-come, first-serve basis. Visit marcianoartfoundation.org/events for information and to reserve tickets. Marciano Art Foundation is located at 4357 Wilshire Blvd.



photo by Brica Wilcox, courtesy of MAF

Doug Aitken’s cinematic art piece will be on view through May 17.



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BHUSD makes cuts to administrative staff

From page 1

streamlining operations, BHUSD is directing more resources toward instructional programs, student support services and initiatives that enhance learning outcomes.”

The eliminations followed an audit from the 2023-24 school year that stated the district did not spend enough of its funding on students, while spending too much on its administration. According to Acting Superintendent Dr. Jason Hasty, the district was overstaffed administratively. In California, March 15 is the deadline for notifying school employees of potential layoffs due to lack of funding.

Several of the personnel in the roles eliminated were at the center of controversies and lawsuits facing the school district. The executive director of athletics, Tim Ellis, has been accused of sexual harassment in a wrongful termination lawsuit filed by former tennis coach Robbin Cafagna. Ellis has also been accused of racism in a separate claim filed by two Black teachers. The executive director of school safety, Mark Mead, was accused of putting his hands around a student’s neck during a pro-Trump student gathering on campus. The assistant superintendent of personnel services, Matt Horvath, has been accused of mishandling a school investigation and wrongfully terminating teachers. Former teacher Joanie Garratt said Horvath fired her after she criticized President Donald Trump and the pro-Trump student gathering on her private Facebook page.

According to a source in the school district, a crisis communications firm recently hired by the district was not involved in the board’s decision to cut the positions.

Parents and community members had previously voiced concerns over several of the individuals whose positions were eliminated. For

months, students, parents and alumni expressed outrage over the administrative leave of journalism teacher Romeo Carey – who returned to the district on March 6. Some expressed frustration that Carey was put on leave without reason while individuals including Ellis and Mead continued to work within the district.

However, one of Carey’s roles within the district – media director – was cut during the March 11 meeting, while his position as journalism instructor was not eliminated. Carey’s leave and subsequent investigation were characterized by journalism students, parents and the ACLU of Southern California as acts of retaliation by the school district for allowing his students to report on an incident on campus.

Robbie Curtis – a former BHUSD parent who led the charge in asking that the district reinstate Carey – protested the district’s decision to eliminate the media director position on March 11.

“Not two full days following Mr. Carey’s return to the classroom and his students, you placed an item on the agenda proposing the elimination of Mr. Carey’s media director position,” Curtis said. “In one fell swoop, this administration and board giveth and then they tooketh away. It simply isn’t acceptable. By proposing the removal of the media director’s position and unilaterally shifting Mr. Carey from an hourly to salaried status and converting his classified role into a stipend, you’re effectively diminishing his compensation, benefits and rightful pension entitlements.”

Although parents and community members had previously expressed concerns over a perceived waste of funding, many parents and community members attended the meeting on March 11 to voice concerns over

the district’s cuts.

Parents protesting the job cuts expressed the most concern over the district’s elimination of the elementary assistant principal positions. They alleged that the El Rodeo administration, including principal Sarah Kaber, had been “pink-slipped.” The role of elementary principal was not cut during the open meeting, but parents alleged that Kaber was fired during a closed session.

Kaber did not respond to a request for comment. The district did not confirm whether Kaber was terminated.

“This is not leadership. This is chaos. Elementary schools are the foundation of our district. You just took an axe right into that foundation,” parent Romi Azevedo said. “If the district is in financial distress, mass firings should be part of a carefully communicated restructuring plan. Not a sudden unexplained move. If the issue is performance, then conversations should have happened first, not termination notices. If this board is truly prioritizing student success, why is it making drastic decisions without a clear strategic plan or transparency?”

Parent Jackie Kruger introduced two petitions to recall board members Russell Stuart and Sigalie Sabag. The petitions allege that the two board members violated the district’s code of conduct and bylaws, undermined the board’s mission of educational excellence and failed to uphold BHUSD governance core values. The petitions allege several examples of such actions including “making consequential decisions without adequate understanding of school board governance,” “restructuring critical roles without transparency” and “actively working to remove effective administrators.” However, the petitions do not list the



photo by Edwin Folven

The district is facing many controversies and lawsuits, including allegations of racism and wrongful termination.

specific actions taken by Sabag and Stuart.

The petition to recall Sabag also alleges that she “demonstrate[d] a conflict of interest by participating in district decisions potentially influenced by personal business interests and considerations.”

Additionally, the petition to recall Stuart alleges that he “compromise[d] board impartiality by publicly expressing personal political views in an official capacity.”

Several parents have expressed concern over a social media post made by Stuart in which the BHUSD logo was edited to read “BHUSDOGE,” a reference to Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency.

“This board forced out our superintendent under questionable circumstances,” Azevedo said. “Then, in an embarrassing and unprofessional move we saw the word DOGE blasted next to the BHUSD logo, making a mockery of our district’s reputation.”

In an interview with the Beverly Press, Stuart defended his social media post and said he was disappointed in seeing the recall effort.

“I’m very disappointed that there are members of our community who have skewed my words and a social media post into something that it was never [meant] to be. A social

media post was to promote fiscal responsibility and my dedication to the school district to make sure that we are spending our tax dollars wisely for the betterment of our kids,” Stuart said.

Stuart strongly opposed the recall petitions, arguing that he and Sabag are working to increase school district academic standing and ensure fiscal responsibility after inheriting a situation that he described as a “dumpster fire.”

Sabag did not respond to a request for comment. However, she responded to the recall petition at the end of the board meeting.

“I as a board member cannot make these decisions by myself. I am just one person and the only way we can work is by all of us together. The only way we make decisions is by a majority vote,” Sabag said. “We share to elevate BHUSD to the highest standards of academic excellence. There has been a great deal of chatter and while some have chosen to focus their energy on division and disruption, our focus as a board remains steadfast and laser-focused – doing what is right for our students. That is what I am here for.”

Although the petitions aim to recall only Stuart and Sabag, the job eliminations were passed by the board unanimously, in two 5-0 votes.

Freidman raises concerns about spending cuts

From page 1

members of the House of Representatives.

“It is the sense of Congress that in signing legislation, the president recognizes, and states that they will uphold, Congress’ constitutional authority to authorize and appropriate funds and will disburse those funds faithfully and in full as directed in such legislation and in accordance with article II, section 3 of the Constitution. This may not be superseded by any signing statement, public statement or other presidential communication,” Friedman’s amendment read.

The House approved the spending package – without Friedman’s amendment – on March 11 by a 217-213 vote and sent it to the U.S. Senate. Friedman said the failure by House Republicans to even consider the amendment will embolden the Trump administration to cut or reduce more spending for programs and projects.

“Elon Musk and Donald Trump broadly canceling spending that had been appropriated by Congress is unconstitutional. The Constitution very clearly says that Congress, not the president, controls federal spending. That is part of the separation of powers. That’s what the Founding Fathers designed so that we didn’t have one branch making all the important decisions. Presidents cannot

pick and choose which Congressionally approved funds they want to spend. And, the Supreme Court has affirmed this in the past,” Friedman said in an interview with the Beverly Press after the vote. “But Trump now is illegally withholding or redirecting taxpayer money without Congress. So my amendment was simply for Congress to state that the president would recognize that this is Congress’ authority and that he will uphold Congress’ authority to authorize and appropriate funds. To me, this would be a no brainer. But this Republican Congress refused to allow that to be brought up for a vote, because they know it will expose Trump as the law breaker that he is.”

Friedman said Trump’s potential cuts to spending will have many impacts, from hospital patients and those who use public transportation to students, seniors and veterans.

“The Republicans are, [and] have been for the past several months, dismantling the government. And when I say the government, I want people to understand what that means. When you go to the hospital and receive advanced cancer treatment, usually that’s through a federally funded study. That money is now gone,” Friedman said. “The list goes on

and on. It goes from medical care to education to Head Start programs which give low-income kids a chance to be in a quality preschool while their parents are at work. This isn’t an abstract issue about whether we like or don’t like the government. These are actual services that people in our district receive.”

Friedman held a press conference in February at a subway station on Metro’s D Line subway extension and warned about potential cuts to public transportation projects. While the first two segments of the D Line from Wilshire/Western to Century City/Constellation are fully funded and cannot be cut, there is a potential for funding cuts to impact the third segment of the line to Westwood. Friedman also cited the Trump administration cuts to the Department of Education and the Environmental Protection Agency.

“They’re defunding the EPA – a 65% cut to the EPA budget. That’s the group that’s responsible for keeping pollution out of our water supply,” she added. “And why are they doing this? Not because we’re bankrupt. It’s because they want to give tax breaks to Elon Musk and his billionaire friends.”

The U.S. Senate considered the legislation on March 12 but did not vote on it by press time.

Vintage motorcycle exhibition rolls into The Petersen

The Petersen Automotive Museum presents “The American Motorcycle: Pioneering Machines from the Bunch Family Collection” opening on Saturday, March 15.

The new exhibit showcases more than 25 rare motorbikes from the turn of the century to the 1930s. The motorcycles are from the Bunch Family Collection, one of the most extensive and internationally renowned collections in the world. The exhibition will be on display in the Richard Varner Family Gallery on the museum’s second floor. Some of the rarest and most historically significant motorcycles ever produced are included, exploring contributions by American motorcycling pioneers.

Featured motorcycles include a 1898 Cleveland Tricycle, one of America’s oldest motorized cycles from a pioneering manufacturer, featuring the first front spring fork suspension. A 1904 Thomas Auto-Bi, created by the E.R. Thomas Company, is also included. The E.R. Thomas Company was the first motorcycle manufacturer in America to design and build its own bikes.

Also features is a 1905 Nelk, one of the few surviving models



photo courtesy of Kahn Media

The exhibition features a rare 1936 Crocker Speedway Racer.

from the Palo Alto manufacturer, featuring advanced technology for its time such as a rubber-mounted engine, water-cooling and an overhead camshaft. The exhibit from the Bunch Family Collection also includes a 1911 Marvel, designed by the legendary Glenn Curtiss; a 1908 Indian Single, a purpose-built motorcycle owned by stuntwoman CeDora, famous for performances in the “Globe of Death”; and a 1936 Crocker Speedway Racer, produced by Crocker, a legendary motorcycle manufacturer in Los Angeles. Crockers are among the most valuable and rare motorcycles in existence.

The Petersen Automotive Museum is located at 6060 Wilshire Blvd. For information, call (323)930-CARS, or visit petersen.org.

WeHo considers future zoning for housing

From page 1

of community development Nicholas P. Maricich said city staff also gathered “meaningful input to ensure that any future policy recommendations are community-informed, reflecting local priorities while also addressing state housing requirements.”

“While the city has conducted extensive technical analysis – ranging from lot-specific reviews to broader neighborhood development trends – the lived experiences of residents, workers and business owners provide critical insights that data alone cannot capture,” Maricich said. “Residents worked in groups to identify key priorities and strategies for increasing housing capacity to ensure that city and state housing goals are met. Their input will directly shape the next phase of technical analysis, ensuring that any potential zoning adjustments reflect the community’s housing values and needs.”

Maricich said that West Hollywood’s current goals involve expanding affordable housing options, preserving and enhancing the quality of existing neighborhoods, supporting a diverse range of housing types, maintaining the city’s unique character while

encouraging “responsible housing growth” and ensuring that its zoning regulations are effective and modernized. Much of the modernization relates to removing red tape that has prevented new builds from proceeding quickly – or sometimes even being built at all.

“Housing production is a problem throughout California,” Vice Mayor John Heilman said. “Making improvements to our zoning ordinance to ensure we have sufficient housing for the future is a priority for the city. The goal of the public meetings is to solicit input and ideas from members of the community about possible changes or improvements which will further the goal of providing for the future housing needs of West Hollywood.”

“The ZIP meetings are really about bringing the community into the conversation about West Hollywood’s housing future,” Councilman Danny Hang said. “The goal is simple – make sure the city’s housing policies reflect what the community needs. It’s a way to make housing policies more inclusive, sustainable and effective while keeping residents engaged in the process.”

Community members can stay

involved in shaping West Hollywood’s housing policies through the Engage WeHo community engagement platform, located at engage.weho.org/zip.

“There they’ll find background information on ZIP, an up-to-date timeline, an active survey and contact information for one-on-one discussions with the project team,” Maricich said. “The city will be organizing focus groups and targeted outreach to harder-to-reach populations, but hopes that the larger community can provide their continued feedback throughout the program’s timeline. We invite community members to join in the next round of engagement in summer 2025, when the city will present initial policy recommendations shaped by community input and technical analysis.”

“The zoning improvement meetings are part of our overall housing element and items we agreed to, in order to not only build the amount of housing needed but also continue to build much needed housing to combat the crisis we’re currently in,” Councilman John Erickson said. “This long, thoughtful process will come back to us in January 2026 for adoption and will have community



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

The city of West Hollywood has been tasked with building 3,900 new housing units by 2029.

input at many levels, and it’s been great to see such robust participation.”

Maricich said that he recognized that “zoning changes can be a sensitive topic,” but emphasized that no zoning changes had yet been proposed and that community input is vital.

“Any proposed recommendations will be shaped by extensive community feedback, backed by data and economic feasibility studies and designed to reflect the diverse needs of West Hollywood.

We encourage everyone to stay involved, ask questions and share their perspectives so that West Hollywood’s housing policies reflect the collective vision of its residents,” Maricich added.

“As work to address our housing shortage and affordability challenges continues, the role of community engagement is so critical,” Mayor Chelsea Byers said. “I’m grateful to see so many people involved in the work of building a more attainable future for housing in West Hollywood.”

Cedars-Sinai performs groundbreaking microsurgery

Cedars-Sinai has successfully performed the first robot-assisted microsurgical head and neck cancer reconstructive surgery in the United States after the robot device received Food and Drug Administration approval for the procedure, marking a significant milestone in surgical advancements.

This procedure underscores Cedars-Sinai’s commitment to staying at the forefront of medical innovation and adopting leading surgical techniques that positively enhance patient care and improve outcomes.

The surgery was performed by Dr. Victor Chien, who utilized the Symani Surgical System. Chien said the robot enabled him and his team to perform a complex microsurgical procedure with a higher level of precision and control than conventional methods to operate on micro blood vessels thinner than a human hair.

“The surgery demonstrates the microsurgical platform’s remarkable ability in lending greater precision and care when handling tissue in small and diseased vessels,” said Chien, a plastic surgeon in the Jim and Eleanor Randall Department of Surgery at Cedars-Sinai. “By removing the limitations that come with natural tremor in a human hand, the robot helped us execute this procedure



photo courtesy of Cedars-Sinai

Dr. Victor Chien performed a microsurgical head and neck cancer reconstructive surgery with the help of a robot.

in an efficient manner.”

Microsurgery is a highly specialized technique that involves connecting tiny vessels to restore blood flow or redirect fluid during surgical procedures. The microsurgery robot is designed to augment a microsurgeon’s capability to carry out surgery at the micro level by adding precision and control for extremely delicate procedures where surgical options may otherwise be limited. Additionally, Chien noted that robotic assistance greatly enhances three-dimensional visualization and dexterity, enabling skilled microsurgeons to navigate complex areas more easily.

“Enlisting the technology potentially minimizes scarring

and tissue damage, and I expect the added precision will ultimately increase operative efficiency,” Chien said.

Besides head and neck reconstruction surgery, the robot can be utilized for other complex procedures, such as breast reconstruction following cancer treatment; lower extremity microsurgical reconstruction – which involves microsurgery to repair tissues in the lower limbs following injury, disease or congenital defects; and lymphovenous bypass procedure for lymphedema – a procedure involving rerouting blocked lymphatic vessels to reduce fluid buildup caused by complications from radiation therapy.

“We are the first program in the Western U.S. to have microsurgical robotic capabilities and to perform a wide variety of successful cases using the device,” said Dr. Curtis L. Cetrulo Jr., vice chair of research in the Jim and Eleanor Randall Department of Surgery and director of the Division of Plastic Surgery at Cedars-Sinai. “We are building a robust corps of highly skilled surgeons and fellows trained in robot-assisted microsurgical technique, and we are excited to provide these innovative treatment options to our patients.”

For information, visit cedars-sinai.org.



photo by Sebastian Zancanaro

Thousands of people converged on City Hall in downtown Los Angeles for the annual Women’s March on March 8.

Women’s March focuses on resistance to oppression

From page 3

spend your dollars with companies that abandon diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, knowing that DEI is a direct pathway to upward mobility for women. Most importantly, refuse to be silenced. The greatest act of resistance is persistence, and we need every single person to stay in this fight for the long haul.”

Guereca also said that the movement extends to other mar-

ginalized communities, including immigrants, people of color and the LGBTQ+ community.

“This isn’t just about resisting one administration – it’s about confronting the reality that our youth are inheriting a country with fewer rights than the generation before them. And we refuse to let that stand,” Guereca said.

For information, visit womensmarchfoundation.org.

L.A. County launches sidewalk vending fund

With L.A. County’s Sidewalk Vending Ordinance in effect, Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity is announcing the launch of the Small Business Mobility Fund Formalization Grants, a program to help sidewalk vendors meet permitting and compliance requirements needed to operate a business in the unincorporated areas of the county and partic-

ipate in the open-air economy.

Applications are open, with grants ranging from \$500-\$5,000 available through payments made toward permitting expenses, requirements needed to comply with vending regulations and essential business costs. Eligible uses include permitting fees, such as the required Sidewalk Vending Registration Certificate; costs associated with attaining a

Compact Mobile Food Operations, including food handler’s training and lease of commissary space; compliant vending carts that meet California state health and safety standards; and business equipment and tools to support operations.

The grant program is part of DEO’s Economic Mobility Initiative, which provides education, access to capital and resources to

help entrepreneurs and small businesses grow, thrive and build generational wealth in communities.

Funded through the American Rescue Plan Act and administered in partnership with Inclusive Action for the City, the program will provide virtual webinars and in-person workshops across all five supervisorial districts to guide vendors through the application process and connect them to business support services For information and to apply, visit bit.ly/SmallBusinessMobilityFund.

Answers From Page 27



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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

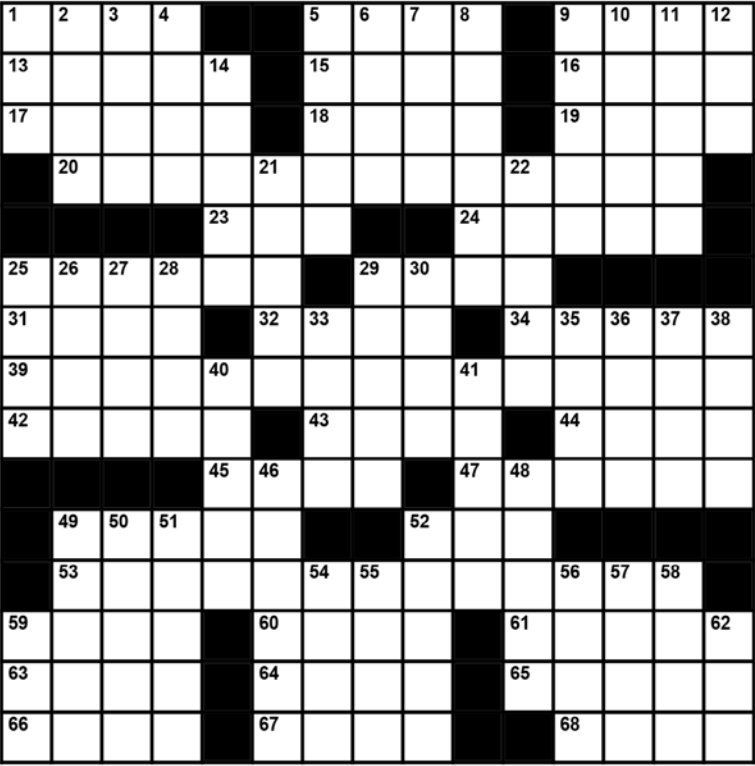
Across

1. Speaker's place
5. Low-skilled worker
9. Alitalia destination
13. Azalea, for one
15. City in "Slumdog Millionaire"
16. From the top
17. Tiny part
18. Particles with a charge
19. Use a telephone
20. Can you hear me now? cause
23. Director's cry
24. "I can take ___!"
25. Breakfast choice
29. Salmon
31. NBC's peacock, e.g.
32. Acts
34. One half of the "Maneater"
39. Like crosswords and sudokus
42. On the Pacific
43. Underworld river
44. "Me neither"
45. Home to Helen
47. Radio button, e.g.
49. Giant rival
52. "Understand?"
53. Future swans
59. Plane measure
60. Genesis twin
61. Bank contents
63. Our boys
64. Nobleman
65. Plight
66. Followers
67. Bog lime

68. Jazzy James

Down

1. U.S. Army medal
2. Captain with a whalebone leg
3. "Joy of Cooking" author Rombauer
4. Took to court
5. Color the walls
6. Bespectacled Ghostbuster
7. French river
8. Gp. with tracks and pits
9. Half diameters
10. Shallot
11. Implied
12. Legal departure, abbr.
14. Kind of ball
21. Best
22. Beat
25. Russian saint
26. Debatable
27. Prima donna problems
28. Pot of gold
29. Small-minded
30. Wan
33. Estimator's phrase
35. Rule Britannia composer
36. Art colony in New Mexico
37. Galway country
38. Pique
40. Ponderously
41. Bounce from school
46. Make good
48. Champagne-producing city
49. European bucks



50. G-man
51. Tiffany art medium
52. Cranium
54. Insurer for military personnel
55. "The Alienist" novelist
56. Memo
57. Bothersome bug
58. Rectangular paving stone
59. "___ was saying . . ."
62. Indeed!

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.

Gary A. Dordick

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