



Partly cloudy,
temps in the
mid-60s

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March 27, 2025

Hochman reinstates death penalty in L.A. County

■ State moratorium on executions remains in effect

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman announced on March 25 that he rescinded former District Attorney George Gascon's policy forbidding prosecutors from seeking the death penalty in L.A. County.

Prosecutors can now seek the death penalty under the district attorney's new "murder with special circumstances policy." The DA's office stated that the death penalty will only be sought in "exceedingly rare cases."

"These would be cases like the Sandy Hook case – where you had over 20 school children brutally gunned down by a vicious murderer – or you have the Las Vegas situation, where you had over 50 people gunned down by a sniper. In those situations, the death penalty will be on the table," Hochman said in an interview on March 26. "But then it will be subject to a rigorous and extensive analysis in which we will



photo by Tabor Brewster

Although District Attorney Nathan Hochman's policy allows prosecutors to seek the death penalty, no executions will take place while the governor's moratorium is in effect.

seek the input of defense counsel, we'll seek the input of murder victim survivors, and balance all the aggravating and mitigating factors to see whether in that particular

See Hochman page 21

Swastika found on Melrose building

■ Members of Jewish community condemn hate incident

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A swastika was discovered on the morning of March 23 on the side of a building at the northeast corner of Melrose and Laurel avenues owned by the rapper Ye, also known as Kanye West. West has faced criticism for antisemitic statements and selling clothing emblazoned with swastikas.

A check of the address with the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office revealed that the property is owned by OXPAHA LLC, in care of Bianca Censori. OXPAHA, sometimes referred to in media reports as Ox Paha Inc., is a company formed by West and Censori, West's wife.

A citizen called police around 7 a.m. on March 23 about the swastika on the building at 8025 Melrose Ave., and officers met with the caller at the scene, said Lt. Mark Ro, with the Los Angeles Police Department's Wilshire Division. Officers took a report for a hate incident and



photo courtesy of Sam Yebri via Instagram

A photo that circulated on social media shows a swastika on the Melrose Avenue building owned by Kanye West.

located an individual who identified themselves as a representative of the owner. Ro said the property owner's representative spoke with the person who called police, and the caller offered to immediately paint over the swastika. The lieutenant said the proper-

ty owner's representative agreed to it and the symbol was painted over, although it could still be seen under the new paint the following day.

Ro did not know who the property owner is and did not have the

See Hate symbol page 21

WeHo hosts Lizzo, Lil Nas X, Paris Hilton for Pride

■ City plans weekend of events for annual celebration

BY RANCE COLLINS

Passes are on sale for the OUTLOUD Music Festival, the anchor event for WeHo Pride, May 31-June 1. Lizzo, Lil Nas X, Paris Hilton, Honey Dijon and Kim Petras will headline the weekend.



photo by Jon Viscott

Kylie Minogue headlined WeHo's 2024 OUTLOUD Music Festival.

"Each year, Pride starts here and we have so much planned for WeHo Pride," West Hollywood Mayor Chelsea Byers said. "Right now, as adverse forces threaten our hard-fought rights, it's vitally important to create safe and affirming space for LGBTQ+ people and to celebrate artists and performers who embrace that love always wins."

The March 21 announcement came just days after several corpo-

rate sponsors had pulled support from San Francisco Pride, including high-profile companies like Comcast. The moves follow a litany of executive orders from the Trump administration that have targeted LGBTQ+ people, and especially the transgender community. West Hollywood officials said it is not a concern for them.

"At the city of West Hollywood, we're in regular communication with our event production team at JJLA, which is leading sponsorship efforts for WeHo Pride 2025," public information officer Sheri Lunn said. "Despite the political climate and hostilities unleashed by the presidential administration, which is an urgent and deeply concerning reality for LGBTQ+ people in communities across the nation, all indications at this time point to sponsorship interest remaining high for WeHo Pride. At this time, our production team is still sorting out sponsorship efforts, so it will remain to be seen if any impacts emerge."

Lunn said that Pride is an "excellent opportunity" for companies and organizations to support the LGBTQ+ community.

"Pride events everywhere are

See Festival page 22



photo by Edwin Folven

The approval of the early retirement plan for 33 employees was passed in a 5-0 vote.

BHUSD staff members accept early retirement

■ Recall effort against board members Stuart, Sabag paused

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Thirty-three Beverly Hills Unified School District employees accepted an early retirement plan offered by the district, which

was finalized and approved by the BHUSD Board of Education on March 25.

"This is an opportunity for us to maybe make some savings over the next five years, and hopefully let some people who want to retire or relax and take it easy or do something else – they get a chance to do something

See BHUSD page 22



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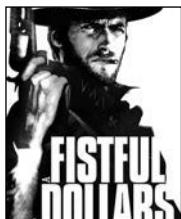
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**Culver Hotel
classic cinema**

The Culver Hotel has launched a six-month cinema series marking its centennial and the 100th anniversary of MGM, in partnership with the Culver Theater, located directly across from the hotel. "A Fistful of Dollars" (1964) will be shown on Thursday, March 27, at 7 p.m. Each screening is followed by an immersive gathering at the historic hotel's Velvet Lounge, where guests can enjoy signature cocktails and artfully crafted bites inspired by the evening's feature film. Tickets are \$56.25. See schedule for full lineup of films. 9400 Culver Blvd., Culver City. culverhotel.com/culver-city-california-events.

**Holocaust film**

The Museum of Tolerance is showing "For The Living" on Thursday, March 27, at 7 p.m. in conjunction with the Los Angeles Jewish Film Festival and Holocaust Museum L.A. "For the Living" connects the story of 10-year-old Holocaust survivor Marcel Zielinski's perilous 60-mile journey from Auschwitz-Birkenau to Krakow in 1945 and the story of 250 cyclists who, decades later, retraced his steps in the "Ride for the Living." A Q&A session with co-directors and co-writers Marc Bennett and Tim

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Roper, co-writer Rabbi Brett Kopin and executive producer Melinda Goldrich follows the film. General admission is \$12, \$8 for museum members. Reservations are required. 9786 W. Pico Blvd. give.wiesenthal.com/event/screening-for-the-living/e671212/register/new/select-tickets.**Control Gallery
art talk**

Control Gallery is holding an artist talk with Jasmine Monsegue, Paul Flores and Ozzie Juarez, founder of TLALOC Studios, on Thursday, March 27, at 7:30 p.m. The special event coincides with exhibitions on view by the artists. Doors open at 7 p.m. RSVP required. 434 N. La Brea Ave. control.gallery.com.

'One Jewish Boy'

Echo Theater Company presents the West Coast premiere of "One Jewish Boy" by British playwright Stephen Laughton from Friday, March 28, through Monday, April 28, at the Atwater Village Theatre. Echo artistic director Chris Fields directs the bitter-sweet story of two young people in love confronted by the world's unpredictable cruelty. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Friday and Monday; 7 p.m., Saturday; and 4 p.m., Sunday; plus three shows at 8 p.m. on April 10, 17 and 24. Tickets are \$20 on Thursdays; \$38 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday; and pay-what-you-can on Mondays. 3269 Casitas Ave. echotheatercompany.com.

Louise Reichlin & Dancers

Louise Reichlin & Dancers-Los Angeles Choreographers and Dancers returns with "A Jewish Child's Story," a joyous and moving dance performance on Saturday, March 29, at 1:30 p.m. at the Culver City Senior Center. "A Jewish Child's Story" is an autobiographical dance multimedia work reflecting Reichlin's early dreams as the granddaughter of Jewish immigrants. The performance also includes a discussion of the work and other dance pieces by Reichlin including "Heart" and "The Tennis Dances." Admission is free. 4095 Overland Ave. (310)253-6700, lachoreographersanddancers.org.

**Getty Center
'Selected Shorts'**

The Getty Center is hosting "Selected Shorts: Lost and Found" on Saturday, March 29, at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Part of the Selected Shorts series, the event connects the audience to stories through short live theater performances with a diversity of voices from literature, film, theater and comedy. Cast members from TV shows including "Seinfeld," "Ted Lasso," "The Office," "Shrinking," "Superstore" and "Criminal Minds" will be onstage for the program. Tickets are \$20. 1200 Getty Center Drive. getty.edu/whats-on/selected-shorts.

**Los Angeles
Children's Chorus**

Los Angeles Children's Chorus is holding "Every Child Sings," its annual spring benefit and celebration on Saturday, March 29, in the Colburn School's Zipper Hall. The evening features performances by LACC's Grammy Award-winning Concert Choir, Chorale, Chamber Singers and Young Men's Ensemble. This year's event honors the Young Men's Ensemble, which was formed 15 years ago under the leadership of then executive director Rachel Fine and artistic director Anne Tomlinson. A dinner for

sponsors begins at 5 p.m., followed by the concert at 7 p.m. Tickets for the dinner and concert are \$500; \$75 for concert-only. 200 S. Grand Ave. lachildrenschorus.org.

**Art talk at Schindler
House**

The MAK Center for Art and Architecture welcomes Neville Wakefield and Hilton Als for a public discussion in conjunction with the exhibition "Helmut Lang: What remains behind" on Sunday, March 30, from 3-5 p.m. at the Schindler House. The program brings together two influential voices in art and culture to discuss Lang's artwork and practice in the context of his first solo institutional exhibition in Los Angeles. Als and Wakefield, curator of the exhibition, will discuss the impact of Lang's artwork. Tickets are \$15. 835 N. Kings Road. makcenter.org.

**Beverly Hills
Chamber**

The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce is holding its April "Get to Know Your Chamber" event on Tuesday, April 1. Learn about the benefits and opportunities available to members and what the chamber is doing to assist them. New, current and future Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce members are welcome. Networking begins at 8:15 a.m. Participation is free. 9400 S. Santa Monica Blvd. members.beverlyhillschamber.com.

**'Jewish and
Armenian Legacies'**

Holocaust Museum L.A. presents "Building Bridges: Jewish and Armenian Legacies After Genocide" on Thursday, April 3, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. In honor of Armenian Heritage Month, join a conversation with grandchildren of Armenian Genocide survivors and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors. Jennifer L. Rodgers, director of academic programs for the USC Shoah Foundation, moderates the discussion with Ara Oshagan, Jack Hadjinian, Jenna Schweitzer and Bobbye Tigerman. Admission is free but reservations are required. 100 The Grove Drive. holocaustmuseumla.org.

Camerata Pacifica

Camerata Pacifica continues its season with a program of works for percussion and piano on Thursday, April 3, at 8 p.m. in the Colburn School's Zipper Hall. The concert features performances by two sets of spouses. Pianists Ran Dank and his wife Soyeon Kate Lee perform Stravinsky's "The Rite of Spring for Piano Four Hands," "Poulenc's 'Elegie for Two Pianos" and J.S. Bach's "Three Chorale Preludes." Camerata Pacifica principal percussionist Ji Hye Jung and her husband, percussionist W. Lee Vinson, will join Dank and Lee on Bartók's landmark "Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion." Tickets are \$75. 200 S. Grand Ave. camerata-pacifica.org.

Spring Egg Hunt

Save the date for the Pan Pacific Park Spring Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 5, from 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The event includes egg hunts, games, crafts and a moon bounce. Food is available for purchase. Egg hunts will be separated by age: 3 and under at 11:30 a.m., 4-8 at 12:45 p.m. and 9-12 at 1 p.m. Bring your own basket. 7600 Beverly Blvd. (323) 939-8874, laparks.org/recenter/pan-pacific.



photo courtesy of Mayor Karen Bass' office

Mayor Karen Bass and members of the L.A. City Council met with state legislators on March 24 during a special trip to Sacramento.

**Bass, City Council seek help
from state leaders on budget**

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass and leaders from the Los Angeles City Council traveled to Sacramento on March 24 to meet with state legislative leadership.

The delegation included City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson, 8th District; Council President Pro Tempore Bob Blumenfield, 3rd District; Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, and Councilman Adrin Nazarian, 2nd District. Bass, Blumenfield and Nazarian previously served in the California Legislature.

Amid downward economic trends that have lowered revenues and rising costs due to liability payments, wildfires and personnel expenses, Bass is urgently advocating for funding for Los Angeles. Following a meeting on March 24, Assemblywoman Tina McKinnor (D-Inglewood), who chairs the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation, and 22 other members of the state Legislature sent a letter to the Assembly Budget Committee

requesting support for Los Angeles.

"Los Angeles is facing a budget crisis while recovering from devastating and unprecedented wildfires, and it's important that we advocate directly to state leaders for support," Bass said. "In a little more than a year we will host the World Cup and in 2028, we will welcome the world for the Olympic and Paralympic Games and we will be ready."

Bass and members of the City Council met with Gov. Gavin Newsom, McKinnor, Senate President Pro Tempore Mike McGuire, State Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas, Senate Budget Committee Chair Scott Wiener and State Sen. Maria Elena Durazo.

"Los Angeles is facing a nearly billion-dollar budget gap, driven by the recent wildfires, rising liability costs, declining revenues and years of short-term budgeting," Yaroslavsky said. "But this trip to Sacramento wasn't about a one-time fix, it was about laying the foundation for a stronger, more resilient city."

**City, county consider tighter reins
on homelessness services**

The Los Angeles City Council approved a motion on March 25 by Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, 7th District, to explore the possibility of directly contracting with homelessness service providers, bypassing the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

The city of Los Angeles is considering creating its own Department of Homelessness. Rodriguez has expressed concerns about LAHSA's operations and accountability.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors also plans to consider a motion on April 1 by Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, to potentially consolidate homelessness services across the county under a dedicated department, and to streamline LAHSA. In addition to concerns about accountability and transparency, city and county officials have cited a desire to reduce the bureaucracy of providing homelessness services.

The moves come at the same time that LAHSA has released preliminary unsheltered count data for the 2025 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count that shows a decline in homelessness. Based on

early numbers released on March 24, LAHSA expects unsheltered homelessness within the Los Angeles Continuum of Care to have decreased by 5-10% when full results are released later this year.

LAHSA used raw data from the 2025 Unsheltered Count to make the determination. The data does not include the annual multiplier developed by LAHSA's data partners at USC, which LAHSA officials said is crucial to developing the annual homeless count estimate. Compared to 2024, the 2025 raw data show approximately 3,600 fewer counts of people and dwellings (tents, makeshift shelters and vehicles). LAHSA will release the final 2025 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count results in late spring or early summer 2025.

Rodriguez's motion requested a report back from the Chief Legislative Analyst, Chief Administrative Officer and Los Angeles Housing Department on contracting directly with service providers. The Board of Supervisors will consider potentially redirecting how the county oversees Measure A funds for homelessness services.



Paley Center for Media CEO Maureen J. Reidy and Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman unveiled the archive at the Beverly Hills Public Library on March 20.

Paley Archive launches at Beverly Hills Library

BY Tabor Brewster

The Paley Center for Media – a nonprofit that chronicles the cultural impact of television, radio and other media – is expanding public access to its extensive archive. Visitors to the Beverly Hills Public Library can now browse more than 160,000 television programs, radio broadcasts and advertisements through the Paley Archive. The addition to the library's facilities includes laptop computers with direct access to television series such as "I Love Lucy" and "Seinfeld," and historical events, including the "Miracle on Ice" at the 1980 Olympics and global news coverage of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The Paley Center and the city of Beverly Hills held a ribbon cutting for the new archive on March 20.

The center – known for its museum in New York City – previously had a West Coast location at 465 N. Beverly Drive. However, in 2019, the center's lease was not renewed, and the center began looking for a new location in the region.

"As we looked at the different

See Paley Center page 21

U.S. Holocaust Museum hosts tribute dinner

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum held the "2025 Western Region Tribute Dinner: Together We Can Do More" on March 19 as nearly 350 guests raised approximately \$900,000 at the Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills. The Western Region Tribute Dinner honored Dr. Anita Friedman and David Wiener, a Holocaust survivor, with the museum's National Leadership Award for their long-standing work to keep Holocaust memory alive through education. The event featured Dr. Rebecca Erbelding, a museum historian who helped uncover the truth about a group of photographs showing how the Nazis at Auschwitz spent their leisure time. The acclaimed new play "Here There Are Blueberries" tells the true story of the rare photographs in the museum's collection – revealing a side of life at the notorious concentration camp kept secret for decades. She is the protagonist of the play, which is a 2024 Pulitzer Prize finalist,



photo courtesy of United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
Carol Stulberg, western regional senior advisor for leadership giving, presented the museum's National Leadership Award to Holocaust survivor David Wiener.

inspired by the photo album in the museum's collection. A nonpartisan federal educational institution, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is America's national

memorial to the victims of the Holocaust dedicated to ensuring the permanence of Holocaust memory, understanding and relevance. For information, visit ushmm.org.

Medical innovator honored for philanthropic work

Research!America, a nonprofit medical and health research alliance, recently presented inventor and philanthropist Dr. Gary K. Michelson with the Gordon and Llura Gund Leadership Award at its annual Advocacy Awards at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C.

The award honors individuals who have made a significant contribution to increasing advocacy for

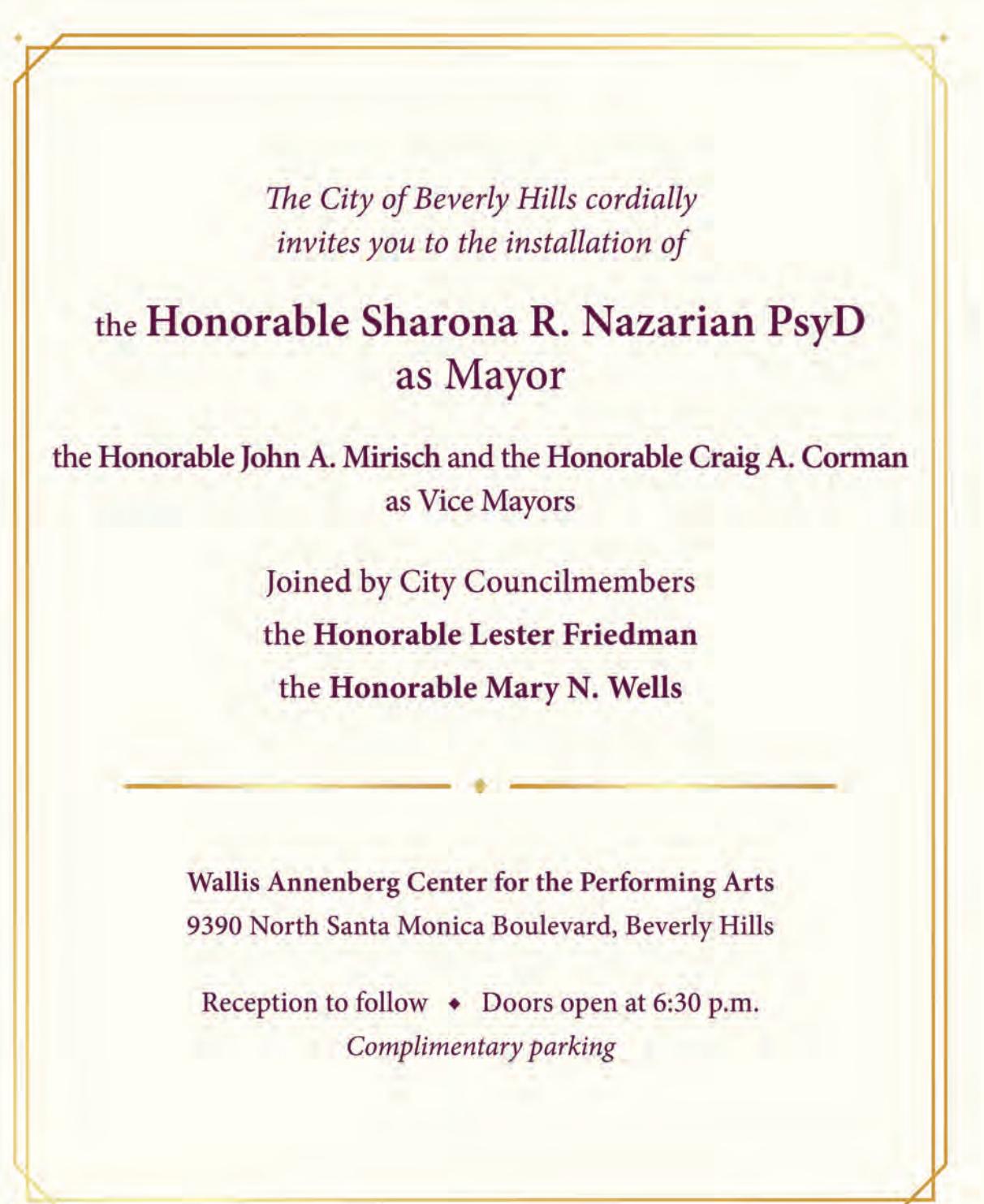
medical, public health and health-related research.

"Dr. Michelson's staunch advocacy efforts have been extremely effective, contributing to a multi-billion dollar increase in NIH funding. This shows a deep understanding of the public's sentiment regarding health research," Research!America president and CEO Mary Woolley said.

Michelson is a leading advocate

for increasing the annual budget of the NIH and other research agencies. He successfully advocated for a \$500 million appropriation by the state of California to establish the California Institute for Immunology and Immunotherapy, which will be based at the UCLA Research Park. Michelson is a surgical innovator with nearly 1,000 patents. For information, visit michelsonphilanthropies.org.

BEVERLY HILLS
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2025
7:00 P.M.



Man accused of WeHo sex assault in federal custody

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A 29-year-old man who was arrested for a March 7 sexual assault in West Hollywood is now in federal custody facing criminal charges of being in the country illegally after being previously deported for committing a felony.

Marvin Campos, who authorities said is a citizen of El Salvador with a lengthy criminal history in the United States, is among several defendants recently arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in Los Angeles after being accused of committing new crimes. Campos was convicted in 2014 for assault with a deadly weapon. He was sentenced to six years in California state prison and deported in October 2019, according to a federal criminal complaint. It is unclear when Campos returned to the United States.

Authorities said Campos was arrested by West Hollywood Sheriff's Station deputies in the 8400 block of Santa Monica Boulevard on March 7 and booked for sexual assault. Sgt. Belen Lemus, with the sheriff's department's Special Victims Unit, confirmed Campos' arrest but declined to provide any details about the crime in an effort to protect the victim. The case was submitted to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office but formal charges were not filed pending further investigation. Campos

was released from sheriff's department custody on March 11, law enforcement records show. When contacted on March 25, Lemus was unaware that Campos is now in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

It was not clear when and where Campos was arrested by ICE agents, and a spokesperson for the agency declined to provide any information. According to the federal criminal complaint, Campos was flagged after his fingerprints were entered into a law enforcement database following his arrest in West Hollywood. The fingerprints of all arrestees are entered into the system. ICE uses law enforcement databases to search for people who were previously deported after committing serious crimes and have been arrested for new crimes.

It is unclear what sentence Campos will face for the current federal charges. People found to be illegally in the United States after being deported for being convicted of a previous felony face a maximum 10 year sentence, and defendants deported from the country after being convicted of an aggravated felony, such as assault, face a maximum of 20 years in federal prison.

The criminal case against Campos was investigated by ICE and Homeland Security Investigations, and is being prosecuted by assistant U.S. attorneys in the Domestic Security and Immigration Crimes Section, and General Crimes Section.

Attack suspect set to appear in mental health court

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The suspect in a violent attack in Beverly Hills in February will undergo a psychological evaluation before criminal proceedings continue, after his attorney declared a doubt as to the man's mental competence.

Anthony Barrett, 32, is charged with one count of sexual assault "by means of force, violence duress, menace or fear" and two counts of assault with the intent to commit rape.

The attack occurred on Feb. 20 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 at 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.

Barrett is currently being held on \$275,000 bail, and is scheduled to appear in Hollywood Mental Health Court on April 2.

Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman said on March 26 that his office is treating the case and similar sexual assault cases "very seriously."



photo by Edwin Folven

The attack occurred on Feb. 20 at approximately 2:30 p.m. near the intersection of North Santa Monica Blvd. and Hillcrest Road.

"If [Barrett] is not mentally competent to stand trial, then he will spend the rest of his time in a state mental hospital until and unless he is eventually deemed mentally competent to stand trial," Hochman said.

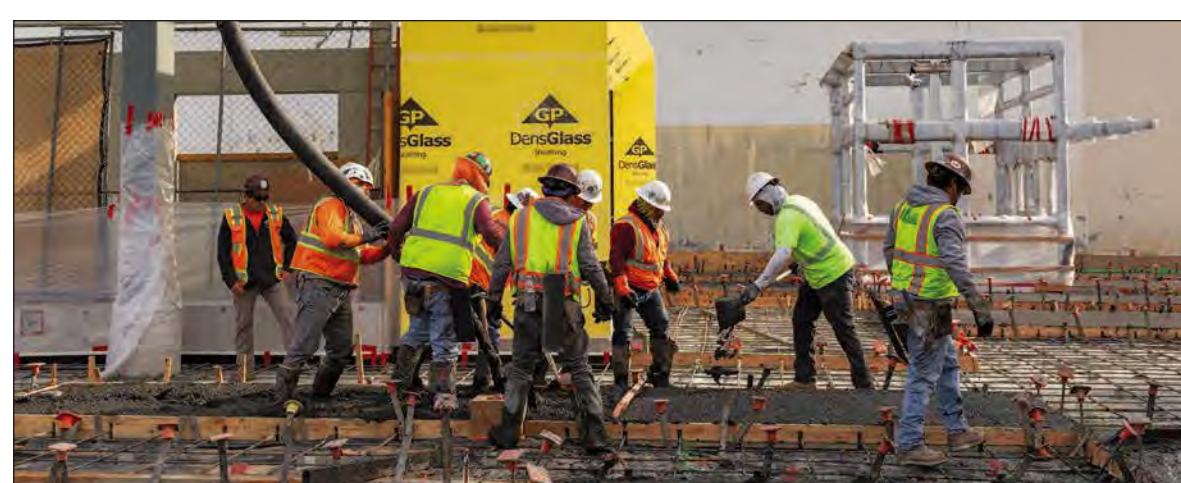
If Barrett is deemed fit to stand trial, he can either plead guilty or go to trial, Hochman added.

"I can tell you in a case like this, if he goes to trial and we convict him, we will seek a maximum punishment for these type of activities to make sure that both he is not in a position to harm anyone in the future, and others understand that the district attorney's office takes

these cases very seriously," Hochman said. "Hopefully that message will deter others from engaging in this type of conduct."

Barrett has a criminal record with previous arrests in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles and Santa Monica. Barrett was arrested in 2022 for a sexual assault in Santa Monica. Most recently, he was arrested on Dec. 9, 2024, in Beverly Hills for an outstanding warrant for a parole violation.

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



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Section 1 – Beverly Hills

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

March Updates

Work continues on the north side of Wilshire Bl and on the Plaza entrance.

N Hamilton Dr will be closed intermittently, and demobilization of the Gale yard continues.

WeHo honors first responders

The city of West Hollywood invites community members to the 2025 Public Safety Awards and Luncheon on Wednesday, March 26, at 11:30 a.m. at the City Council Chambers-Public Meeting Room.

The city is celebrating and recognizing partners in public safety. Awards will be presented to personnel from the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station, Los Angeles County Fire Department's Stations 7 and 8, and West Hollywood

Block by Block security ambassadors. Personnel in the city's Neighborhood and Business Safety Division/Code Enforcement will also be recognized.

The event begins with lunch served in the area outside the chambers, followed by the awards presentation. The West Hollywood City Council Chambers is located at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. For information, call (323)848-6446, or visit weho.org.



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Friedman aims to help wildfire victims with two bills

■ Legislation focuses on FEMA relief, price gouging

BY RANCE COLLINS

On March 20, Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) announced two pieces of legislation aimed at helping victims of the January wildfires in a press conference held at Runyon Canyon Park, the epicenter of the Sunset fire.

The Don't Penalize Victims Act already has bipartisan support, as the bill is co-led by Rep. Mike Ezell (R-Miss.). It would ensure donations from GoFundMe, other similar platforms and faith-based organizations would not be made disaster victims ineligible for FEMA relief benefits.

Additionally, Friedman has introduced the Stop Disaster Price Gouging Act, which seeks to rein in landlords and merchants who seek to take advantage of tragedies for financial gain.

"At a time that they're picking through the wreckage of their homes and livelihoods, disaster victims shouldn't also have to be aware of complex rules just to get the federal support they deserve, and they definitely should not be penalized for accepting charitable donations," Friedman said. "They shouldn't be punished for surviving a disaster, whether that's by the

government or by price gougers looking to make a quick buck. The bills I'm introducing ... give families the peace of mind they deserve during critical times like rebuilding after a disaster."

"Disaster victims shouldn't have to choose between accepting help from their neighbors and receiving the federal assistance they desperately need," Ezell said in a statement. "When disaster strikes, every dollar of assistance matters — we can't let bureaucracy stand in the way of recovery. I'm proud to partner with Rep. Friedman to address these issues and ensure FEMA works better for the people we serve."

Altadena Town Councilwoman Dot Wang, whose home was destroyed by the Eaton fire, spoke of the struggles her family has had getting government relief.

"Every day I'm just looking for that next step, like many of our community members," Wang said. "Price gouging ... further hurts us financially. Even in the FEMA process, my husband and I — we have two dogs and cats, we don't have children — they will give us one bedroom. Imagine living with your spouse and everybody in one bedroom."

Wang has only received \$11,000 of a promised \$43,000 from FEMA.

"We're at a point where every dollar counts," she added.

The anti-price gouging act, just introduced by Friedman, does not yet have bipartisan support.

"Los Angeles County received nearly 1,000 complaints about price gouging, with nearly 90% related to rent increases," she said. "I do hope that we'll have bipartisan support, because I want to point out that one of the states that [already has] its own price gouging rule is Florida, so you have red states and blue states like California recognizing that after [a] disaster, this has unfortunately been a problem."

It would establish a \$25,000 penalty for those who violate the act. All proceeds from penalties would go into a fund to support disaster victims.

FEMA has been the subject of potential funding cuts from the Trump administration. On March 24, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said, "We're going to eliminate FEMA."

"We need a better FEMA," Friedman said. "We need better processes for victims. This is not the time to be getting rid of the part of government that helps people after natural disasters, but that's just what this administration is trying to do."

Friedman was also one of seven members of the Californian Congressional delegation to author a March 26 letter chastising FEMA for its refusal to conduct post-wildfire soil testing.



photo courtesy the office of Laura Friedman

Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) has been outspoken against proposed funding cuts to FEMA.

won't sit back while Trump upends our Social Security, access to affordable health care and makes our lives more expensive," Friedman said. "We've seen what happens when good people stay silent. We're done being quiet."

She also attended the Human Rights Campaign Los Angeles dinner.

"There's a concerted effort to demonize entire groups of people, particularly our transgender community and our LGBT community. So, it's very important that we are there to stand alongside them and say, 'We see you. We value you. We're going to protect you as best we can, and we are with you,'" she said.

Opt-in for free fire debris removal ends Monday

■ Owners encouraged to take advantage of program

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

City, county and federal officials are raising awareness about the March 31 deadline for residential property owners in the areas affected by the Palisades and Eaton fires to opt-in to a free debris clearance program offered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Public officials recommend people utilize the free program, which they said will speed up the recovery effort. Property owners who do not opt-in must have debris cleared by licensed contractors and must pay for it themselves. Those who have not enrolled or have previously opted out of the program but have not begun removing debris can still opt-in through March 31 at recovery.lacounty.gov.

The website also has extensive information about the free debris removal program. Property owners who opt-in must sign a right of entry waiver that allows the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers to work on their properties. The Army Corps of Engineers manages all permitting and final disposal of debris, and ensures compliance with all safety and environmental regulations, eliminating liability concerns for the homeowner.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is coordinating the debris removal effort with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Signing up for the debris removal program does not impact a property owner's eligibility to apply for other FEMA disaster assistance. If property owners have insurance, the government will ask the insurance providers for cost reimbursement up to the limits of the specific coverage. Residential property owners who opt-in to the free debris removal program will not be asked to cover any costs of debris removal.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass issued an emergency executive order on March 21 to help residents in the Pacific Palisades expedite rebuilding their homes in ways that better protect against wildfires. City departments will streamline permit

ting for owners who rebuild all-electric and more fire-resistant homes, use fire-resistant construction materials and make utilities more resilient to ensure power reliability during severe weather events.

"Getting residents home quickly and safely is my top priority — and we must rebuild with an eye toward the future," Bass said. "With [the] executive order, we are taking action to help residents harden their homes and businesses against wildfires, ensure our city's infrastructure can better withstand future disasters and protect communities for generations to come, all while ensuring the pace of rebuilding continues ahead of expectations."

The free debris removal program is currently only offered to residential private property owners, not commercial property owners. Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors chair Kathryn Barger, 5th District, is looking into ways to ensure commercial properties in the fire zones are also cleared quickly and at lower costs to owners.

"The devastating impact of these wildfires has left over 2,000 small businesses, apartment complexes, condominiums and mobile home communities struggling to recover. Debris removal is a critical first step in rebuilding these neighborhoods and ensuring the safety and economic stability of the affected communities," Barger said. "These businesses and housing units form the backbone of our local economy, and their recovery is essential to restoring normalcy for thousands of residents. We need all available resources to help clear the way literally and figuratively for our communities to rebuild as quickly as possible."

Public officials are also raising awareness about other services available for victims of the wildfires. The Los Angeles County

Department of Mental Health provides specialized mental health support. People are encouraged to call the department's Crisis Mental Health Line at (800)854-7771 or 988, a crisis helpline available for calls, texts and online chats.

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center is also offering help for families impacted by the fires and is offering tips on how to assist children during the recovery process. Parents can help by communicating and giving children and teens a sense of control, said Dr. Rebecca Hedrick, a child and adolescent psychiatrist at Cedars-Sinai. For information on resources, visit cedars-sinai.org.

"For very young children, use simple explanations when answering their questions. With older children, you want to be honest and open, directly answering questions

and using as simple language as possible," said Hedrick, who added that focusing on the positive aspects of knowing fire safety is a good way to help young people. "For children who haven't lost their homes but are affected by the fires, involve them in age-appropriate fire drills. Or allow other types of play to be related to the fire, because a lot of times it's easier for kids to express their feelings through play than by outwardly saying, 'I'm feeling scared.'"

Property owners seeking information can visit the Disaster Recovery Center at UCLA Research Park West, 10850 West Pico Blvd., or the Altadena Disaster Recovery Center at 540 W. Woodbury Road. Information and resources are also available by visiting recovery.lacounty.gov.

Miracle Mile Chamber gathers at Andre's Italian Restaurant



photo courtesy of Waymo

Waymo will offer a presentation on its driverless vehicles and expanded coverage area at the luncheon.

Join the Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce for a luncheon on Thursday, March 27, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Andre's Italian Restaurant.

The luncheon includes a presentation by the ride-hailing company Waymo, with information on its driverless vehicles and expanded coverage area. Also, learn about and sign up for Metro's free "Eat

Shop Play!" program benefitting businesses in the D Line Subway Extension Project construction areas. The luncheon includes networking and a raffle. Tickets are \$35 for members, \$45 for non-members.

Andre's Italian Restaurant is located at 5400 Wilshire Blvd. To RSVP, email info@miramilechamber.org.



photo by Tabor Brewster

People are encouraged to utilize the free program, which officials said will speed up the recovery effort.

WeHo mainstay to shutter March 31

■ Le Petit Four served the Sunset Strip for 44 years

BY RANCE COLLINS

Le Petit Four is one of West Hollywood's longest operating restaurants, opening in 1981. But now, after 44 years, it will close its doors on March 31.

In an Instagram post, the Sunset Strip mainstay made the announcement, saying owner Alexandre Morgenthaler did "everything possible to keep [the] doors open." The post blamed rising costs, a decline in foot traffic and West Hollywood's increased minimum wage as reasons for the closure.

"This is so sad. We have lost four businesses on the Sunset Strip in just the past two weeks," West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce president and CEO Genevieve Morrill said. "The owner of Le Petit rose the red flag of concern, as had all the businesses frankly for the past few years, that things were dire. This is not a problem exclusive to West Hollywood, it is happening all over our state, but West Hollywood is impacted more due to the highest wage policy with paid time off, including part time employees, unheard of anywhere else in the United States. This combined with [increased cost] in goods and services due to past inflation, high rents on the westside and increased in professional services such as insurance costs which are escalating."

A GoFundMe campaign, located at gofundme.com/f/save-le-petit-four-preserve-a-sunset-strip-icon, was launched last week in an attempt to save Le Petit Four, with a goal of raising \$150,000. As of press time, it had raised \$6,294 from 19 donations.

"Too many beloved Los Angeles spots have disappeared – let's come together to preserve this piece of our city's history," read the GoFundMe page.

Councilman Danny Hang said that Le Petit Four was not "just a restaurant – it was an institution."

"[It was] a place people returned to again and again for great French food and a real sense of community," he continued. "My parents and I eat at Le Petit Four almost once a month, it's become our family gathering spot in WeHo. Losing a place like this is tough."

Hang emphasized the economic measures the City Council is taking to help small businesses.

"In the short term the city is stepping up. We're actively working on a comprehensive small business plan that we'll be rolling out over the next couple of months. There's much more to come," Hang said. "In the long term, West Hollywood is positioning itself as a destination of choice for major national and international events like the World Cup, Super Bowl and the Olympic and Paralympic Games. We're making sure that when the world comes to L.A., our local businesses are ready to benefit. These are just some of the ways the city is moving forward with purpose."

"We should always be mindful when any business closes in our community, especially a business which has operated for a long time," Vice Mayor John Heilman said. "Our economic development staff reaches out to businesses to see if the closure is the result of particular policies and if we can help the business owner and employees as the business winds down. Unfortunately, this is just one of the restaurants we've lost. We have adopted several policies in an attempt to help the business community such as a rebate of business license taxes for businesses who renew their leases. Businesses on Sunset have been especially impacted by office workers now working remotely. And, of course some businesses continue to struggle with the after effects of COVID and fires."

Morrill noted recent initiatives supported by the city, including the new WeHappy program, which will provide free parking throughout West Hollywood from 4 p.m.-midnight every Wednesday.

"We are seeing a great response from the businesses," she added.

In its final days, Le Petit Four has been abuzz with customers. On March 25, the restaurant thanked its patrons.

"Your visits, kind words and continued encouragement truly keep us going through these challenging times," the statement read. "Every little bit helps us continue serving the fresh, from-scratch French cuisine you love. Merci beaucoup for standing by us."



photo by Rance Collins

Diners supported Le Petit Four during its final week in business.



Heavy Truths: The Growing Problem of Pet Obesity

It's easy to love a chubby pup or a round little cat—those big eyes and soft bellies seem extra cuddly. But what we often call "cute" can actually be unhealthy. **Pet obesity is one of the most common and preventable health issues in veterinary medicine today.**

According to recent studies, **over 55% of dogs and 60% of cats in the U.S. are overweight or obese**. And it's not always obvious—extra weight is often hidden under thick fur, making it hard to spot until health problems start showing.

Veterinarians use a **Body Condition Score (BCS)** to evaluate a pet's weight. It's typically a scale from 1 to 9, where each point represents about a 10% difference in body weight from ideal:

- **BCS 1-3: Underweight** (ribs and spine easily seen)
- **BCS 4-5: Ideal** (visible waist, ribs easily felt but not seen)
- **BCS 6-7: Overweight** (ribs palpable with fat covering 10-20% over ideal)
- **BCS 8-9: Obese** (ribs hard to feel; 30-40%+ over ideal, with serious health risks)

So why does it matter? Overweight pets are much more prone to **arthritis, diabetes, heart disease, breathing issues, and even certain cancers**. Extra weight also shortens lifespan—some studies estimate by up to **two years**.

Here's my quick advice: this is basically a calorie math problem. Most commercial pet diets—especially the most heavily marketed ones—are extremely rich. Think *steak and cheesecake every night* rich. These brands focus more on taste and advertising than on long-term health.

The easiest change? **Pick a food labeled "Weight Control" or "Weight Management."** If you want to keep your current food, try reducing the portion by **20-25%** and re-weighing weekly. That said, a veterinarian should help set a goal weight and track progress.

A healthy rate of weight loss is 1-2% of body weight per week for dogs, and 0.5-1% per week for cats.

Want to give treats? Plain, unsalted, air-popped popcorn is a great low-calorie option – about **2 calories per piece**. Keep a jar of it handy and toss one as needed!

About Dr. Ameis

Dr. Ezra Ameis is an ER veterinarian and independently owns and operates Paw Priority in West Hollywood, which provides general practice, urgent care, and acupuncture.

Have a question or a topic you'd like covered next? Email hello@pp.vet and it might be featured in a future article.

More progress made on subway through end of March

Construction continues along Wilshire Boulevard for Metro's D Line Extension project, with street restoration and underground work on the subway stations and tunnels ongoing through the end of March and into April.

Lanes will be closed along Wilshire Boulevard between Sycamore Avenue and Detroit Street, and on La Brea Avenue between Sixth and Eighth streets through at least the end of March for work around the Wilshire/La Brea station. Cross passage work between the tunnels is ongoing in the Miracle Mile inside a K-rail work zone on Wilshire Boulevard between Courtyard Place and Masselin Avenue.

A K-Rail work zone is also in place in the middle of Wilshire Boulevard east of Fairfax Avenue, where street restoration work is ongoing through April. Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction between Wilshire Boulevard and Curson Avenue. A K-rail enclosure on the west side of the Wilshire/La Jolla intersection supports cross passage work in the tunnels. Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction at La Jolla Avenue.

At the Wilshire/ La Cienega station, 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. Intermittent closures will be implemented on North Hamilton Drive at Wilshire Boulevard through March 30.

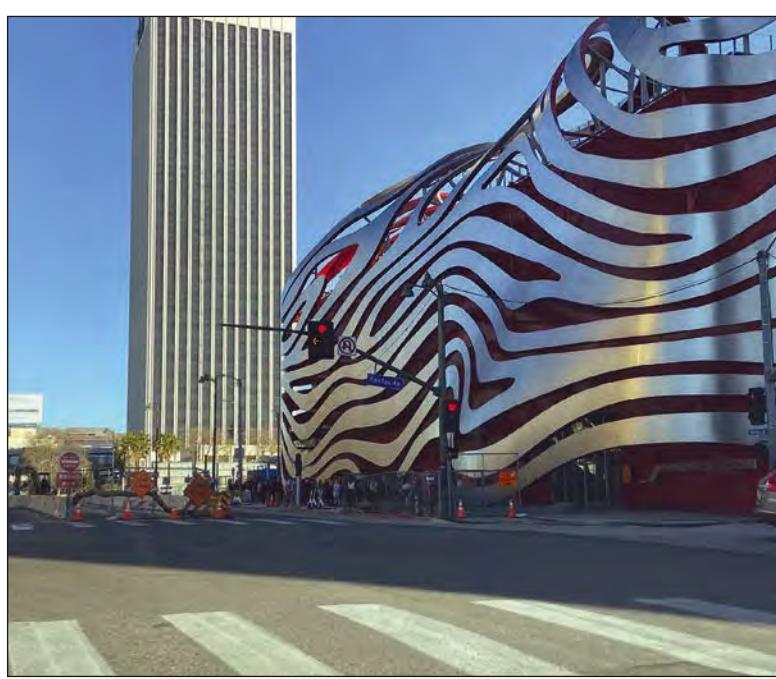
Wilshire Boulevard is closed for two additional weeks for deck removal work near the Wilshire/Rodeo subway station in Beverly Hills. The closure is located on Wilshire Boulevard between Crescent and El Camino drives. Detour routes include Century Park East and Robertson, Olympic and Santa Monica boulevards.

Preparations are underway for the removal of deck panels near the Century City/Constellation station, and the restoration of the streetscape along Constellation Boulevard between Century Park East and Solar Way. The work is anticipated to begin in May and is expected to last approximately two months.

Metro announced that a milestone was recently reached at the UCLA Station in Westwood, where crews finished pouring concrete for the concourse level in early March. The process began in January and required 3,410 cubic yards of concrete to be placed beneath Wilshire Boulevard. The concourse level, located above the train platform, will feature artwork, faregates and ticket vending machines.

Work is also progressing at the Westwood/ VA Station – the end of the D Line Extension Project – where concrete pouring for the lower exterior walls was completed on March 14. Since December, crews have poured 7,192 cubic yards of concrete in the main station box, forming essential structural support.

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



Street restoration work is ongoing near the Wilshire/Fairfax station in the Miracle Mile.

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Hancock Park crime, city services outlined in meeting

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Hancock Park Homeowners Association held a virtual town hall meeting on March 25. The meeting largely focused on crime, with burglaries being a significant concern during recent months. Senior Lead Officer Tyler Shuck, with the Los Angeles Police Department's Wilshire Division, updated community members about efforts to fight crime and said progress is being made.

Shuck said residential burglaries increased significantly in the Wilshire Division last summer, and police deployed additional resources to quell the problem. While fewer burglaries were reported toward the end of 2024 and during the first month of this year, the crimes are now on an upward trend.

"We got hit really hard in the end of January and into February," Shuck said.

In response, the Wilshire Division formed a taskforce with gang, vice and narcotics investigators to target burglary crews operating in Hancock Park. On Feb. 19, members of the task force located a sus-

picious parked vehicle occupied by a man who they believe was planning to commit a burglary. A pursuit occurred when officers tried to contact the driver. The man crashed near Beverly Boulevard and Wilton Place and was arrested. Police identified him as Kwentin Monk, 19. Officers found a handgun and stolen credit cards and identification cards inside Monk's vehicle.

The burglary task force was a short-term operation, but Shuck told members of the HPHOA that LAPD administrators are supportive of the effort and additional anti-burglary operations are planned in the future.

Shuck encouraged people to keep watch in their communities and report suspicious parked vehicles and unusual activity. Suspects often knock on doors first to see if anybody is home. Calling police in a timely manner is paramount, Shuck said.

"They send either a runner or someone to door knock, verify the property is empty, and then they return with three other suspects to the rear, break the rear window with a crowbar or some sort of tool," he

added. "They're [driving] high-end vehicles, rental cars, cars with paper plates. So anything where you see those vehicles casing the area or they're out of place, or you see them circling the block or they're parking, they're leaving, they're dropping someone off – all these things are worth calls."

To reach the Wilshire Division, call (213)473-0476. Shuck can be reached at (213)793-0650 and by email 40740@lapd.online.

Some residents attending the virtual meeting also complained about speeding and people running stop signs. HPHOA president Cindy Chvatal-Keane said she will gather addresses and information about the speeding problem and forward it to Shuck.

The meeting also included information on city services available from Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky's field deputy Michelle Flores, as well as information on voting in upcoming neighborhood council elections on April 15. Chvatal-Keane highlighted Senate Bill 79, introduced by state Sen Scott Wiener in January, which



photo by Edwin Folven

The association's virtual meeting focused on crime and community issues in Hancock Park.

would allow multi-family housing to be built anywhere within a quarter-mile of a dedicated bus lane or light rail line. Chvatal-Keane encouraged residents to write government representatives in opposition to the bill, which could change zoning in single-family neighborhoods.

"We have been working with

several of our council members on a resolution to oppose this bill and its impacts, because it will be enormous," she said. "It will trump everything, no pun intended – our specific plans, our community plans and all our local zoning."

The meeting was recorded and can be viewed by visiting hancock-parkhomeownersassociation.org.

Founder of Moishe's at the Farmers Market mourned

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

For more than three decades, visitors to the Original Farmers Market have enjoyed the Mediterranean cuisine at Moishe's Restaurant, known for delicious falafel, gyros, kebabs, chicken shawarma and lamb dishes.

Many in the community continue to mourn the restaurant's owner and patriarch Movses Aroyan, who died unexpectedly after falling and hitting his head outside the restaurant on Dec. 5. Aroyan's nephew Jack Karapetian has taken on operations and is running Moishe's, and plans to continue Aroyan's legacy. He said the loss has been very painful for the family, customers and acquaintances of Aroyan, who was a well-known figure for years at the Farmers Market.

"Everybody knew him and everybody loved him," Karapetian said. "He was a very good businessman, he was very disciplined. He was a man of God and a very religious person. He helped everybody. He had a very caring heart."

Aroyan was originally from Lebanon and moved to Montreal before coming to Los Angeles in the late 1980s. Karapetian said Aroyan spoke five languages – English, Armenian, Arabic,

French and German. He originally worked as an engraver and carpenter before starting a Mediterranean restaurant in Montreal and later opening a restaurant at the Farmers Market. Moishe's specialties are made from traditional recipes handed down in Aroyan's family. Karapetian said the falafel is a favorite among customers.

"We have people coming from all over the world, from Israel, France, Armenia, Lebanon – they love to try our food," he said. "They are looking for Mediterranean food that they would get back home, which is what we offer."

Funeral services for Aroyan were held on Dec. 26 and he was interred at Forest Lawn Memorial Park-Hollywood Hills. Aroyan is survived by his wife Ani Chatalian and niece Jasmine Chatalian, as well as Karapetian and two grandchildren.

"He had two grandchildren that he was crazy for. He loved his grandchildren," Karapetian added. "He was a very good man."

Moishe's Restaurant is located in stall 336 at the Original Farmers Market, 6333 W. Third St. For information, call (323)936-4998, or visit farmersmarketla.com/merchants/moishe-s-restaurant.



Movses Aroyan, shown with family members at a special celebration at the Farmers Market, opened Moishe's Restaurant in 1992.

Department of Mental Health launches awareness campaign for crisis support teams

The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health launched a new campaign to increase awareness of the department's Alternative Crisis Response Program and to foster trust in the program's Field Intervention Teams which serve as the county's first responders for mental health crisis support.

"Ensuring that individuals in mental health crises receive the proper care and support they need is essential for the well-being of our communities and is critical in supporting the county's commitment to

a care first approach," Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, 1st District, said. "The launch of the Alternative Crisis Response campaign will help raise awareness of our Field Intervention Teams, which provide immediate, compassionate and professional mental health assistance, 24/7. By expanding these services, we are creating a safer, more supportive environment for those in need and allowing law enforcement to focus on other public safety priorities."

Developed with IDEO, the media campaign consists of a public

awareness video, billboards, posters, social media assets and an updated webpage at dmh.lacounty.gov/acr, highlighting various FIT members who apply their skills and experience with mental health in helping individuals and families during a crisis.

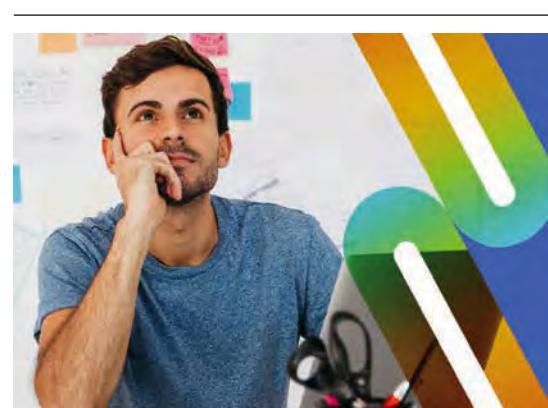
In L.A. County, mental health crisis support is accessible through the department's 24-hour help line at (800)854-7771. The help line offers local crisis support, appointments and referrals, substance use disorder services and veteran and military family support. After contact through the help line, call center team members will determine the best resource to help an individual, and, if appropriate, dispatch FIT members to the caller's location.

"FIT arrives in pairs with one mental health clinician and one community health worker – without sirens, in plain clothes and with an L.A. County ID badge," said Reuben Wilson, ACR program implementation manager. "Once on-site, the team engages with family members or loved ones and the person in crisis to better understand the situation, de-escalate the crisis and stabilize the scene. The team will determine the next steps for best keeping them safe."

After de-escalating a situation, the ACR Program provides care in the least restrictive level of care possible. If needed, people experiencing a mental health crisis may go to a psychiatric urgent care center for short-term stabilization or a crisis residential treatment program for rehabilitative and psychiatric support services.



photo courtesy of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
The county's mental health resources include support teams to assist people who are having a mental health crisis.



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NHM, La Brea Tar Pits workers announce plans to unionize

Following successful organizing drives among other cultural institutions, employees at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and La Brea Tar Pits have come together to form a union through AFSCME Council 36, becoming the Natural History Museum and Tar Pits Workers Union, or NHMTPWU. The new union will represent approximately 300 workers including performers, engineers, educators and guest relations associates.

In a letter circulated among staff, workers listed numerous long-standing issues they want to address through the union including better pay, benefits and compensation, transparency, safe working conditions, inclusion, diversity and accessibility.

"Uniting as a community of workers is the best way we can make our voices heard and truly make the museums welcoming places for everyone to visit," said Tyler Nicholas, of the museum's Community Science Program.



photo by Edwin Folven

Cedars-Sinai Medical center is providing tips to prevent measles infection.

Cedars-Sinai cautions about increase in measles cases

As measles cases rise, Cedars-Sinai infectious disease experts are warning people to be aware of symptoms and are urging vaccination. Once thought to be eradicated in the U.S., measles is making a comeback, according to the hospital. The number of U.S. measles cases continues to increase, caused by declining vaccination rates and vaccine hesitancy.

"Many people think that measles is just a rash, but it can be life threatening," Dr. Priya Soni, a pediatric infectious disease specialist at Cedars-Sinai Guerin Children's, said. "One in five children who develop measles end up in the hospital. One in 20 children develop pneumonia, and this is the leading cause of measles-related deaths. In addition, one in 1,000 children can develop a rare complication of brain swelling – encephalitis – that can cause permanent brain damage."

"Measles is one of the most infectious diseases that we know of, and it's spread very easily through the air, particularly for people who are not immune or have not received the vaccine," Dr. Jonathan Grein, director of hospital epidemiology, said. "It's so infectious that you don't even need to be in the same room at the same time with someone who has measles to potentially get infected."

The symptoms of measles include fever, muscle aches and headaches. Patients may then develop a cough, runny nose and sometimes redness

Another key factor driving the unionization effort is frustration over stagnant wages that fail to keep pace with Los Angeles' rising costs of living, organizers said.

"I think we all play such an important role in such an important space and deserve to feel properly supported," guest associate Ren Kascle added.

Other nonprofits and cultural institutions in Los Angeles County that have recognized employee unions include the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, Museum of Contemporary Art and Academy Foundation of Motion Pictures. The unions for those institutions are also organized under AFSCME Council 36 and are part of AFSCME Cultural Workers United.

"I'm supporting this union because I want workers at NHMLA to have a voice. I want folks to feel empowered to continue work in this field, not be discouraged from it, and to support by fellow workers with what they

need," said Maya Morales, a manager, school and teacher programs for NHMLAC.

A spokesperson for the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County provided a statement on the workers' effort to unionize.

"The Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History Foundation is aware of and acknowledges the recent decision by some employees to form a union. The foundation communicated with the union, the Natural History Museum and Tar Pits Workers Union [on March 25] to confirm receipt of their request and affirm that the foundation recognizes employees have the right to organize consistent with the National Labor Relations Act," the statement read.



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

Performers, engineers, educators and guest relations associates at the La Brea Tar Pits and NHMLAC are organizing under AFSCME Council 36.

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The food is good, not great. But those kids...

One person's tender kiss is another person's slobber.

I was reminded of this the other day when Penny Laine, my daughter's dog, knocked me into the dewy grass at the park on a Sunday morning, then insisted on kissing me full on the lips as I squirmed on the ground – wrapped in two leashes – like a man who'd harpooned himself. Fortunately there was no one around to witness this slide tackle and slobbery kiss, save the one passing SUV, which almost hit a light pole.

In the poor dog's defense, who doesn't regret a kiss or two?

FYI, our little town is much like all the little towns across America, Maine to Modesto.

If you leave a window open, a sparrow will dart in and steal the sandwich you just made. If a delivery truck shows up with a couch, folks run to the windows with fevered anticipation: "Did they get the sectional?"



by
Chris
Erskine

In our little town, most houses are packed tight together, so that if one person makes bacon for breakfast, the neighbor smells it and decides to make bacon for breakfast. This dominoes down the cul-de-sac till it reaches a sad vegan, who can only wish he could have bacon for breakfast.

Such is the tradeoff – the psychic toll – of choosing a healthy suburban lifestyle.

Similarly, if one wife argues with her husband, the other wives will overhear and start a chain-reaction of arguments with their husbands.

Please let that be a lesson: Don't

argue with your husband; he's doing his absolute best (at least in his own mind). And it's not really good for property values either.

Now, if you live in Paris, your neighbor might be the next Picasso. In Madrid, perhaps a sexy revolutionary. In our town, you have Kurt and Cindy, who are thinking about getting solar panels but are a little worried over what the in-laws might say.

Meanwhile, the vast majority of the arguments in our town are over money. If they're not over money, they're over the kids and how to raise them. Full disclosure: No one is quite sure how to do that.

The thing is, in our little town, everyone is cocktail-party smart about a lot of stuff. They know how to set up a Roth IRA. They know that George Lucas lifted the plot of "Star Wars" from Kurosawa ("Hidden Fortress," 1958). They know where to lease a Rivian so as not to have to pay the security deposit. In general, they know a guy who knows a guy who knows a guy.

But with their kids (Skylar and Poof), they are completely flummoxed. Just as parents have been flummoxed since the dawn of time.

To be honest, not much happens in our little town, which is just how we like it. As with all little villages, what happens here is nobody's business. So, naturally, it becomes everybody's business.

For instance, a new pizza place will be opening soon, in that corner location where – by tradition – new restaurants go to die, one after the other.

This is actually significant news in our little town. You could measure the level of excitement with a backhoe.

Secretly, everyone knows that the new pizza place will not be much good. Historically, the restaurants in our little town are neither very good nor very bad.



photo by Chris Erskine

One of the glories of our sleepy little town: children.

With the exception of one or two places, they are just OK, so much so that you wonder: Is there some grand conspiracy? Do the restauranteurs gather in private to ensure that no one raises the bar too high or overachieves? Because that would sure take all the fun out of running a restaurant.

For instance, the chefs would suddenly have to season the food, or serve the salmon directly out of the oven, or quit recycling the leftover chicken into salads and soups.

Obviously, that could be disastrous. In our little town, they've actually placed tariffs on incredible, cutting-edge food.

And nobody minds!

See, the magic in our little town doesn't happen on the streets or in the bistros, or even in the award-winning schools. All the magic in our town happens in the bedrooms, where they make all the babies, usually on Saturday nights after an extra glass or two of wine.

Through some combo of God and good fortune, the resulting children resemble Christmas ornaments – just as all kids do everywhere, since the dawn of time.

And we wouldn't change a thing. In them, we've found our souls.

The columnist posts twice a week, Wednesdays and Saturdays, at ChrisErskineLA.com



photo by Chris Erskine

In Penny Laine's defense, who doesn't regret a kiss or two?



photo by Aurelia Ventura/LA Metro

Free shuttles will transport fans between Union Station and Dodger Stadium.

Go Metro to catch a game during the 2025 season at Dodger Stadium

Metro and the Los Angeles Dodgers are encouraging fans to use public transportation to get to and from Dodger Stadium during the 2025 baseball season. People can access Dodger Stadium by connecting with the Stadium Express at Union Station.

The service is available for the Dodgers' regular season opener against the Detroit Tigers on March 27 and for all home games.

The Stadium Express service will operate out of Union Station West, in front of the Fred Harvey building, adjacent to Alameda Street. Service starts two-and-a-half hours before game time through the end of the second inning of all home games. Buses will drop off passengers

behind center field and at the top deck.

Service back to Union Station will pick up at the same stops after the game. Return service ends 45 minutes after the final out, or 20 minutes after post-game events.

Fans are encouraged to park at Union Station East or West. Parking starts at \$8. Fans can also use Metro's A, B, D or J subway lines to reach Union Station. The B and D lines will be temporarily out of service between Union Station and 7th St/Metro Center station from March 28-30. Connect to the Metro's A Line for DTLA service to and from Union Station. For information and to plan a trip, visit metro.net/riding/dodger-stadium-express.

The Grove hops into 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. Interact with rabbits, sheep, ducks and more furry friends just in time for Easter.



photo courtesy of Caruso

The Easter Bunny will make his annual appearance at The Grove.

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

The Easter Bunny is also making his grand return to the Bunny Brunch at the newly reimagined Trattoria Amici on Saturday, April 5, at 11 a.m. Guests are invited to

savor a selection of delectable brunch favorites, complete with bottomless mimosas for adults. The Easter Bunny will hop from table to table for special greetings and memorable photo moments.

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

foundation details to secure a building permit.

Additional options will be available as the city continues to review and accept ADU plans submitted by qualified professionals.

To view available plans and permit requirements, visit beverlyhills.org/preapprovedadu.

Beverly Hills streamlines ADU approval process

The city of Beverly Hills has launched its Preapproved Accessory Dwelling Unit Program, offering plans for a selection of detached ADUs that are 70% complete. The prechecked plans already meet the

Letters to the Editor

Zbur self-defense bill was a bad idea

Re "Assemblyman Zbur withdraws self-defense bill," March 20 issue

Following widespread public backlash, Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur amended and withdrew his bill mandating harsh legal penalties for currently law-abiding Californians if a criminal attacker dies as a result of a victim protecting home, family or personal safety. Zbur's district includes Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, Hollywood and West Los Angeles, but Assembly Bill 1333 would apply to crime victims throughout California.

In my view, amending and withdrawing his criminal-friendly bill hardly redeems Zbur, for three reasons. First, while Zbur's amended version removed one of the main objections to the bill, that it criminalized a victim for protecting [their] home and family during a home invasion, Zbur did not amend another major complaint: the legal requirement for a victim to run away from a criminal attack.

Second, Zbur made patently deceitful claims about AB 1333. For example, despite its initial wording (and subsequent amend-

ing), Zbur brazenly asserted AB 1333 was not intended to criminalize self-defense or defense of one's family or home. Yet law enforcement professionals and prosecuting and defense attorneys opposed the bill on exactly those grounds. Additionally, Zbur blamed "misleading information" about AB 1333 for the backlash and subsequent withdrawal. Perhaps I'm cynical, but I doubt those tasked with enforcing as well as prosecuting and defending AB 1333's legal penalties were somehow misled.

AB 1333 was far from Zbur's first effort to coddle criminals. In 2024, he attempted to block a law that increased penalties for child-sex traffickers and also tried to thwart Californians from voting on Proposition 36, which mandates tougher penalties for retail theft and drug abuse.

Now, with AB 1333, Zbur reckons severe criminal penalties against victims are appropriate because the victim should have run away. Predictably, alongside his inexplicable claim that "misleading information" tanked AB 1333, Zbur also gushed about his own unyielding commitment to public safety.

Unfortunately, however, it seems Zbur's legislative antics have only demonstrated a commitment to criminal attackers, child-sex traf-

ickers and shoplifters.

Peter DiChellis
Santa Monica

Saved in Beverly Hills

My family visited the Bella Vista estate, once home to Lionel Barrymore, in the summer of 1977. As a 10 year old, I was content to practice my swimming in the estate pool while my family went inside on an architectural tour led by Derek Walker.

The afternoon was warm and the splashes of water sparkled under the California sun. Treading water in the deep end, I remember losing my energy and realizing I was too far from the edge. My head went under and my arms and legs gave in to the weight of the water.

In those final moments, when all my strength gave out and I sank, I saw him – a kid, about my age, standing at the edge of the pool. He was motionless, watching, his face concerned. I waved. Then, everything went into light and natural peace.

Next thing I knew, I was on the deck, coughing up water, air returning to my lungs in desperate gasps. The boy was kneeling over me, his hands pressing against my chest.

Relief flooded his face as I sputtered and turned onto my side.

Before I could speak, he stood and ran. I watched him disappear through the estate's entrance gate, his silhouette swallowed by the bright afternoon light. I never got to thank him or catch his name. My family returned from the tour unaware of what had just happened and I never told them about the experience until I was a middle-aged man.

When I would tell the story, some believed the boy was an angel, others dismissed it as a trick of my fa-

ting consciousness. To me, somewhere in Los Angeles, still alive I trust, there is a Black man in his late 50s who, one afternoon in 1977, saved a drowning boy.

And if he ever happens to read this and remembers saving that struggling human, I hope he knows that I am forever grateful. If there was a haunting on the Barrymore estate as has been reported, there was also a heroic selfless compassionate act too.

Thomas Arnatt
Masset, British Columbia, Canada

Notable Quotes

"Most plagiarists, like the drone, have neither the taste to select, industry to acquire, nor skill to improve, but imprudently pilfer the honey ready prepared, from the hive."

Charles Caleb Colton (1777-1832)

"Lacon, or Many Things in a Few Words: Addressed to those who Think"

Source: A-Z Quotes



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

HEARING DATE:	Thursday, April 10, 2025
TIME:	1:30 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard
LOCATION:	Commission Meeting Room 280A
	Beverly Hills City Hall 455 North Rexford Drive Beverly Hills, CA 90210

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at a **REGULAR** meeting on **Thursday, April 10, 2025** will hold a public hearing beginning at **1:30 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider:

A DRAFT ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING SIGN REGULATIONS TO ALLOW PORTABLE SIGNAGE AND BLADE SIGNAGE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN CRITERIA ON COMMERCIALLY ZONED PROPERTIES, AND MAKING A DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

The Planning Commission will be discussing potential changes to the signage regulations applicable to commercial zones, as codified in Title 10 (Planning and Zoning), Chapter 4 (Zoning, Signs), Articles 1-9 of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC), to allow certain commercial businesses to use portable signs (including a-frame signs) and blade signs (projecting signs) upon meeting certain criteria. The Planning Commission and Architectural and Design Review Commission previously reviewed this topic at study sessions during their May 9, 2024 and June 17, 2024 meetings, respectively and formed a joint ad hoc committee that met in September and November 2024 to work further on portable signage regulations. Staff presented the draft regulations to the Architectural and Design Review Commission at its March 19, 2025 meeting. The regulations in the draft ordinance include but are not limited to the following:

- Allows ground floor restaurants, retail uses, and exercise clubs/private training centers the use of one portable sign with limitations on size, type and location;
- Allow one blade sign on certain streets in addition to signage otherwise allowed;
- Make clarifying changes to the existing blade sign and menu board regulations; and
- Create a pilot program for businesses to use these signs, with a requirement for an approximate one-year check-in after program commencement.

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission adopt a resolution recommending the draft ordinance to the City Council for adoption.

Environmental Review

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City. Since the project does not authorize construction, there is no possibility that it may have a significant effect on the environment. In addition, the project reflects minor changes in land use limitations, by allowing the installation of signs within previously developed commercially zoned areas of the city and do not result in changes to land use or density. Accordingly, the Planning Commission will consider a recommendation to find the project categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15305 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

How to Participate

Members of the public can participate in, watch or listen to the commission meetings through the following methods:

- In Person:** Submit a speaker card to the Recording Secretary at the meeting.
- Oral Comment:** Call (310) 288-2288, select Option 1 when prompted. You will be placed on a brief hold, and called upon to make a comment at the appropriate time.
- Video Comment:** <https://beverlyhills.org/BevPublic>, enter passcode: 90210 when prompted.
- Written Comment:** Email commentPC@beverlyhills.org
- Audio Only:** Call (310) 288-2288, select Option 2 when prompted.
- Watch LIVE:** BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable or www.beverlyhills.org/watchlive

It is recommended that written public comments be submitted to the Planning Commission Recording Secretary by 11:30 AM on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the Planning Commission. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item number or topic in the subject line of the email. In order to be read at the meeting, written comments will be allowed with a maximum of 350 words, which corresponds to approximately three (3) minutes of speaking time.

If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record. Any written comments received by end of the day on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, will be attached to the agenda report regarding this item. Any comments received after Tuesday, April 1, 2025, but prior to the public hearing, will be distributed to the Commission under separate cover. According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the City's action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing. Please note that any comments received prior to or during the public hearing will be considered as part of the public record.

If there are any questions regarding this notice or if you would like to be added to the interested parties list for this topic, please contact **Chloe Chen, Principal Planner** in the Planning Division at (310) 285-1194, or by email at cchen@beverlyhills.org. Copies of the project materials are on file in the Community Development Department, and can be reviewed by any interested person at 455 North Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210.



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

RESTAURANT NEWS

Barney's ready for the first pitch

Cheer on the Dodgers' opening day – Thursday, March 27 from 3-7 p.m. – at Barney's Beanery with Juicy Lucy cheese stuffed burgers, Jack Daniels cocktails, a pickle beer tasting, a live DJ and a raffle with prizes ranging from Dodgers tickets, a signed jersey, to a TaylorMade driver and a Gozney pizza oven. Barney's Beanery is located at 8447 Santa Monica Blvd. For information, visit barneysbeanery.com or call (323)654-2287.

Dodgers get a grand 'Ovation'

Dodgers fans are invited to celebrate opening day in grand style at Ovation Hollywood. On Thursday, March 27, from 3-7 p.m., the iconic entertainment hub in the

heart of Hollywood will transform its Center Courtyard into a high-energy gathering space for fans to cheer on the Dodgers' home opener.

Fans can enjoy giveaways and interactive fan experiences from Dave & Busters, Bopomofo, Dodgers Clubhouse and the official Ovation Hollywood spirit sponsor NEFT Vodka.

To RSVP, visit eventbrite.com/e/dodgers-opening-day-watch-party-tickets-1263106548689. Ovation Hollywood is located at 6801 Hollywood Blvd. For information, visit ovationhollywood.com or call (323)817-0200.

Nobu offers a new kind of a happy hour

Nobu Los Angeles' Tanoshi Hour, a unique take on happy hour, has officially launched with cocktail favorites like Lychee &

Opening day is 'Booming' Downtown

Boomtown Brewery, L.A.'s iconic craft beer haven located in the Arts District in Downtown Los Angeles, bleeds blue for all things Dodgers as they get ready for its Dodgers opening day party coming up on Thursday, March 27, with the first pitch at 4 p.m.

As the Dodgers gear up for an exciting season, Boomtown Brewery invites Dodger fans, beer enthusiasts, locals and visitors alike to join the party at their sprawling Boomtown tap room and event space in the DTLA Arts District. Fans will enjoy L.A.'s top food vendors and locally made craft beer in an unforgettable atmosphere all season long with live screenings of every Dodger game on its indoor and outdoor screens with full audio.

Boomtown Brewery's Dodgers Opening Day Party will be held all day from 11 a.m.-9 p.m.



photo courtesy of Boomtown Brewery

Enjoy locally made craft beer at Boomtown Brewery on the Dodgers' opening day.

The event is a 21+ event after 8 p.m. boomtownbrew.com or call (213)617-8497. Boomtown Brewery is located at 700 Jackson St.



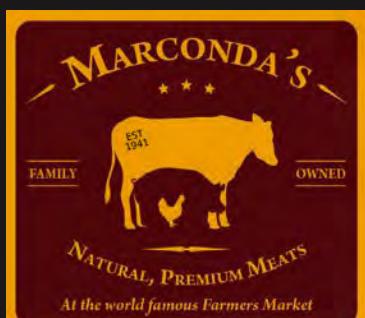
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Elderflower martini, Nobu old fashioned, Mia margarita and its rotating cocktail of the month in addition to wines by the glass, sake and beer. Dishes include yellowtail tartar with caviar, yellowtail jalapeno, salmon wasabi salsa, king crab sliders, aka miso chicken wings, tuna nigiri and torot scallion cut roll. The new happy hour is offered Monday-Friday from 5:30-7 p.m. Nobu Los Angeles is located at 903 N. La Cienega. For information, visit noburestaurants.com or call (310)657-5711.

'Noodle Madness' invades Crustacean

Crustacean Beverly Hills, an L.A. cornerstone of modern Vietnamese cuisine since 1995, is bringing its own version of March Madness to the table with Noodle Madness – a two-week-long culinary showdown celebrating the art of noodles, while getting fellow diners involved. Heralded as the "mother of fusion" cuisine, Crustacean's chef Helene An is also well known for creating the world-famous garlic noodles and the An

family decided it's time to introduce a new noodle dish, in anticipation of a new lunch concept launching this May at Crustacean Beverly Hills.

For "Noodle Madness", the An family decided to let the new Crustacean culinary team of three chefs partake in a friendly "noodle off" showdown where each chef was asked to create his own noodle dish reflective of his heritage. An took the same approach decades ago when she created the garlic noodles in San Francisco by infusing Vietnamese and Asian ingredients to a more westernized dish.

Through April 4, Crustacean is treating guests to complimentary tastings of the three featured noodle dishes with every \$39 Power Lunch Menu order. The signature AN Sum cart will circulate the restaurant, serving fresh-from-the-kitchen noodle tastings every 30 minutes from noon-3 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, stopping tableside so guests can experience each dish at its peak. Having sampled the trio of noodles, diners are asked to vote for their favorite with the provided ballot and help crown the winning dish.

See page 14

Observe Passover Seder at JAR

Chef Suzanne Tracht's highly acclaimed restaurant JAR, with its warm and rich interior decorated in soft shades and textures reminiscent of supper clubs from the golden days of Hollywood, presents their annual Passover dinner designed to bring families and friends together to celebrate the Jewish holiday on Sunday, April 13. The four-course dinner merges Tracht's family Seder traditions with the flavors of Jar's modern chophouse.

After an informal Seder service, officiated by Rabbi Ellen Nemhauser at 5 p.m., JAR's Passover Seder dinner begins passed appetizers of Auntie's chopped liver; English pea purée with radish and feta; and smoked salmon on potato pancake with crème fraîche and chives.

Begin with a first-course choice of Tracht's flavorful matzo ball soup with lemongrass broth followed by chilled asparagus with spring radish, hard cooked egg and pickled-ramp vinaigrette.

For the main course, guests



photo by Anne Fishbein

Suzanne Tracht is planning JAR's annual Passover dinner.

may choose from JAR's signature pot roast with carrots, caramelized onions, prunes and fingerling potatoes; or sautéed Alaskan halibut with favas, celery root mash and scallion butter. The evening is complete with a choice of desserts: almond tangerine cake with fresh berries and whipped cream; and decadent chocolate covered matzah. Vegetarian and vegan options are available on request

and will be determined by the chef on the day of the event.

Reservations can be made by calling (323)655-6566 or visiting exploretock.com/jarrestaurant/eve nt/541182/passover-2025. Pricing is \$275 per person. Price includes menu, coffee, tea and Passover wines. Traditional JAR menu is not available.

JAR is located at 8225 Beverly Blvd.

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The dish with the most votes will be announced on April 4 and added to the Little C menu.

For information and to make a reservation, visit crustaceanbh.com or call (310)205-8990. Crustacean is located at 468 N. Bedford Drive.

Jeni's makes spring 'Splendid'

Spring is around the corner and it's time to celebrate with our favorite dessert – ice cream. Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams is unveiling its highly anticipated spring collection, designed to whisk guests away to a whimsical, sun-drenched oasis with every scoop. Launching March 27 at Jeni's Scoop Shops around Los Angeles, the exclusive collection draws inspiration from historic pleasure gardens – where ice cream was the centerpiece of lively, golden-hour gatherings. Now, Jeni's is reimagining that tradition with a dazzling array of flavors and enchanting ingredients, creating a modern-day wonderland of indulgence.

From the bright, tangy burst of raspberry to the decadence of glazed pound cake bites, each flavor is crafted to evoke pure joy, awaken the senses and bring people together in the most magical way. This isn't just ice cream – it's an invitation to step into a dreamy, sun-kissed escape, one delightful bite at a time.

For information, visit jenis.com. Jeni's Beverly Hills shop is located at 445 N. Beverly Drive.

@theialosangeles on Instagram for updates.

Third Street favorite eyes WeHo return

Thefa will make its grand return at a new location on Melrose Avenue this spring. This next chapter gives "dinner and a show" a whole new meaning. The West Hollywood hotspot has been reimagined into a new upscale dining-meets-entertainment concept featuring an overhauled culinary and beverage program. Guests can expect elevated Mediterranean fusion cuisine from local chef Justin Abram alongside creative cocktails in a lively ambiance. Hailing from Michelin-starred kitchens, Abram has created an upscale yet approachable menu featuring Mediterranean-inspired dishes complemented by fresh, locally-sourced ingredients. The accompanying beverage list includes creative and photo-worthy cocktails, as well as a curated selection of wines from California and the Mediterranean.

Having been known for its party-like atmosphere that brought life to West Third Street, the new Thefa will continue to uphold the same energy with live entertainment, musical performances and nightly hookah any day of the week. The exact address and opening date will be announced soon. Follow

WeHo's GYM debuts elevated menu

GYM Bar WeHo, a beloved institution in West Hollywood's vibrant Rainbow District, has unveiled its enhanced menu and newly redesigned space, marking a new era for the city's favorite neighborhood sports bar and grill. Known for fostering a welcoming environment for LGBTQ+ sports fans and allies, GYM Bar WeHo introduced a line-up of elevated menu items designed to satisfy both game-day cravings and everyday dining.

The reimagined menu now showcases new favorites, including game-time nachos with handmade chips and customizable toppings such as marinated skirt steak or authentic machaca pulled chicken. Guests can also enjoy half-pound wagyu beef burgers and beyond burgers served on vegan brioche buns, alongside crowd-pleasers like the mile-high onion ring tower, pretzel bites and a decadent victory churro cake à la mode. Chef Juan R. Chavez's signature club sandwich is a must try for all. As for cocktails, the spicy jalapeño margarita has already become a favorite. There are multiple frozen drink and beer options on tap.

For information, visit gymbarweho.com. GYM Bar is located at 8919 Santa Monica Blvd



photo courtesy of Danny Hang

West Hollywood Councilman Danny Hang helped welcome back Sweet Lady Jane by presenting a commendation to co-owners Matthew Clark and Julie Ngu. Though technically in Los Angeles, the store is on the border of West Hollywood.

Dessert favorite makes 'Sweet' return to Melrose Avenue

Sweet Lady Jane, the celebrated high-end bakery known for its decadent desserts and artisanal cakes, is making a triumphant return to its original home on Melrose Avenue.

The grand reopening of this iconic location pays tribute to founder Jane Lockhart, who opened the bakery 38 years ago and introduced the world to what would become an L.A. legend: the triple berry cake.

The reimagined Melrose bakery blends timeless elegance with contemporary design, offering a fresh-yet-familiar experience for loyal fans and new visitors alike. From custom cakes to seasonal treats, Sweet Lady Jane continues

to elevate the dessert experience with quality ingredients and handcrafted perfection. It's neighborhood friendly cafe items, such as the delicious triple berry French toast or Jane's famous turkey chili bowl, are also available at this location.

"We're honored to reopen the doors to the original Sweet Lady Jane," said co-owners Julie Ngu and Matthew Clark. "This location represents the heart of the brand – where Jane's passion and creativity first came to life. We're proud to carry that legacy forward."

Sweet Lady Jane is located at 8360 Melrose Ave. For information, visit sweetladyjane.com or call (323)653-7145.

GMCLA can dance, can jive this summer

Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles presents the final concert of Season 46, "Dancing Queens," on June 21-22 at 3:30 p.m. at the historic Saban Theatre in Beverly Hills.

The musical tribute, in celebration of Pride Month, will feature over 20 iconic songs spanning every genre, performed by GMCLA's 200-member chorus. The electrifying evening, conducted by GMCLA's music director and

conductor Ernest H. Harrison and choreographed by Ray Leeper, features special guest artists – dance-music diva and super-ally Kristine W and Emmy-winning writer, legendary performer and advocate Bruce Vilanch.

"Dancing Queens" is an "eleganza extravaganza," as GMCLA's singers perform the most iconic dance melodies of every genre – from "Carmina Burana" to "Singin' in the Rain," "The King

and I," "My Fair Lady," "Hairspray" and "The Producers," to Lionel Ritchie, Madonna, Lady Gaga, Bee Gees, Luther Vandross, ABBA, Earth Wind and Fire, Kylie Minogue, Dua Lipa and of course, Donna Summer.

"With music that we've danced to, from the stage to the club, 'Dancing Queens' is a perfect way to end the season and herald the beginning of summer," said executive director and producer Lou Spisto. "These glorious melodies we know and love, lifted by over 200 voices and our dancers, will surely have our audience dancing in the aisles. I'm thrilled that Kristine W, one of the top selling dance club music artists of all time, and Bruce Vilanch, Broadway star and legendary voice for our community, are both joining us to bring something truly wonderful to GMCLA's truly over-the-top Pride Celebration."

The Pride concert "Dancing Queens" will be on Saturday, June 21 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, June 22 at 3:30 p.m. at the Saban Theatre in Beverly Hills, 8440 Wilshire Blvd. Single tickets range from \$45-\$125 and are now available online at gmcla.org.



"Dancing Queens" tickets are on sale now.

CicLAvia will connect Koreatown to Hollywood

On Sunday, April 6 between 9 a.m.-4 p.m., CicLAvia will celebrate its 59th car-free open streets event catalyzing vibrant public spaces, active transportation and good health through car-free streets. CicLAvia – Koreatown meets Hollywood connects Hollywood, East Hollywood, Melrose Hill and Koreatown, welcoming everyone of all ages and abilities to enjoy the day-long 4.75-mile pop-up park.

Enjoy the day the people-powered way, whether that's walking, jogging, biking, roller skating, skating or simply spectating. Always

free, CicLAvia participants can show up anywhere along the route between 9 a.m.-4 p.m. to enjoy the open streets, take the time to explore and see where the day goes.

Only people-powered vehicles are allowed. No electric scooters, electric skateboards, hoverboards, electric unicycles, motorcycles and other non-people-powered vehicles are allowed at CicLAvia. Participants assume all known and unknown risks of participation in CicLAvia.

For information, visit cicavia.org.



Only people-powered vehicles are allowed at CicLAvia.

Fountain Theatre announces plans for three new plays

The Fountain Theatre has announced the remaining productions of the 2025 season under the leadership of new artistic director Raymond O. Caldwell. Three thought-provoking new plays, each of which touches on timely social and cultural issues, will follow the Fountain's current production of "Alabaster."

"Our 35th season is built around work that explores healing, authoritarianism, immigration and collective liberation," Caldwell said. "I'm excited to share my vision of community-based artistic engagement and activism with Los Angeles, building upon the legacy of bold politically centered work that audiences have come to expect and love at the Fountain Theatre."

The Los Angeles premiere of "White Rabbit, Red Rabbit" runs from May 11-June 22. The production by Iranian playwright Nassim Soleimanpour explores restrictions, censorship and denial of individual choice under a harsh regime. In a theater experience like no other, a different person will perform the show each night for the first time – no rehearsal, no director. Previews begin on May 7.

Caldwell will direct the West Coast premiere of "Fly Me to the Sun" by Brian Quijada from July 13-Aug. 24. Producing and recording a late-night variety show, two brothers discover the beauty and flaws of the American dream through the eyes of their Salvadoran grandmother. Puppets, music and live cameras create a unique and timely theatrical adventure. The production features remixes and beats by Marvin Quijada. Previews begin July 9.

Closing out the season is the Los Angeles premiere of "Poetry for the People: The June Jordan Experience" running Oct. 12-Nov. 23. An ensemble of women will celebrate the life of writer Jordan, known for a fierce commitment to human rights and political activism.

Created by Caldwell and composer Adrienne Torf, the production features original music and live accompaniment by Torf along with selections by John Adams and Sweet Honey in the Rock. Previews begin on Oct. 8.

"Alabaster" continues performances through March 30. The darkly comic southern drama by Audrey Cefaly is about love, art and the power of women.

The Fountain Theatre is located at 5060 Fountain Ave. For information, call (323)663-1525, or visit fountaintheatre.com.

Odyssey's Ron Sossi dies at 85

The Odyssey Theatre announced that founding artistic director Ron Sossi died on Wednesday, March 19, at the age of 85.

Born on Nov. 22, 1939 in Detroit, Sossi graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in writing for theater and television before moving to L.A. to attend UCLA film school. There, he supported himself as a wedding photographer and water filter salesman while earning his M.F.A. In addition to writing, Sossi was an actor and a singer. He traveled to Korea, Japan and Guam, courtesy of the USO, with a college production of "Carousel," where he met fellow student and co-star Bonnie Franklin, and the two were briefly married, from 1967-70.

After winning the Samuel Goldwyn Award for screenwriting at UCLA, Sossi was hired as a program executive at ABC, where he oversaw productions of shows

including "Bewitched," "The Flying Nun" and "Love American Style."

In 1969, frustrated and bored by his work in the television industry, Sossi founded the Odyssey Theatre in a former storefront church on the seedy end of Hollywood Boulevard. In 1973, he moved the Odyssey to a larger venue in West Los Angeles, starting out with one 99-seat performance space, he gradually expanded it into a three-theater complex. When the building was sold in 1989, Sossi moved the Odyssey to its current home on Sepulveda Boulevard, a city-owned warehouse formerly used to manufacture gas tanks. The new Odyssey opened its doors in 1990 with his production of "Faith Healer."

Throughout the theater's 56-year history, Sossi remained dedicated to presenting edgy, risk-taking live theater experiences, including an

eclectic mix of new work and boldly re-envisioned classics. He was always particularly drawn to work by German and Eastern European playwrights, as well as to plays exploring metaphysical and spiritual subject. In 2001, Sossi created KOAN, a resident ensemble dedicated to the regular creation of unique, devised works. More recent productions included a revival of "The Serpent" for the Odyssey's 50th anniversary; "Wakings," an evening of short "mind excursions" exploring some of the many states of human awareness; and "Elephant Shavings," subtitled "a lazy person's guide to enlightenment," which he also wrote.

At the helm of the Odyssey for 56 continuous years, Sossi was the recipient of numerous awards, including the LA Weekly Career Achievement Award. He was twice honored with the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle prestigious Margaret Harford Award for "demonstrating a continual willingness to experiment provocatively in



photo courtesy of Odyssey Theatre

Ron Sossi led the Odyssey Theatre for 56 years.

the process of theater," as well as with the circle's Ron Link Award for "consistent quality of direction." Sossi is survived by his wife, Séverine Larue, and by his sister, Nancy Foley.

In accordance with his instructions, no service or ceremony will

be held. It was Sossi's wish that the ongoing vibrancy of the theater he built would serve as his only memorial. The Odyssey's curtain will continue to rise, and every future performance will be a testament to Sossi's enduring legacy.

GLAAD announces roster of celebrities

GLAAD, the world's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer media advocacy organization, has announced celebrity guests confirmed to attend the 36th GLAAD Media Awards in Los Angeles on Thursday, March 27, as well as streamer and creator, AustinShow, set to steam live on Twitch from the red carpet.

For the fifth consecutive year, Hulu will return as the event's official streaming destination, continuing its support of LGBTQ stories and storytellers year-round. A special presentation of the Los Angeles ceremony will premiere on the plat-

form beginning April 12.

Hosted by Michael Urie, LGBTQ changemakers and allies attending will include Brian Michael Smith, Cooper Koch, Dylan Efron, Hannah Einbinder, Janelle James, Jay Shetty, Jaymes Vaughan, Johnny Sibilly, Jonathan Bennett, Joshua Jackson, Keke Palmer, Maren Morris, Marco Pigossi and Marco Calvani, Marissa Bode, Patti LuPone, Paul W. Downs, cast members from "RuPaul's Drag Race," Tracy E. Gilchrist, Tyler Hynes and Vincent Rodriguez III.

The GLAAD Media Awards

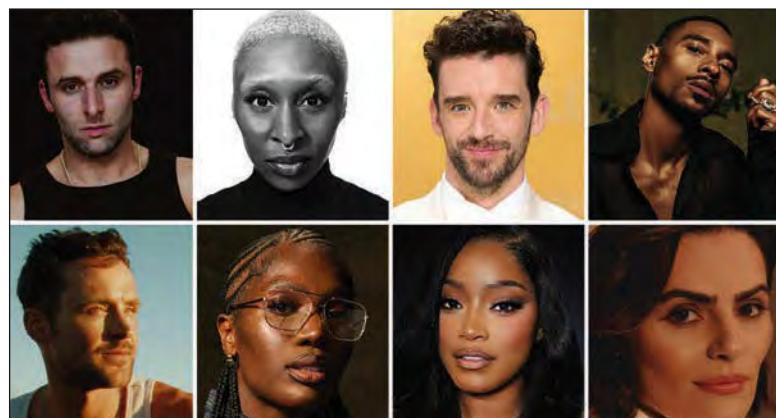
honor media for fair, accurate and inclusive representations of LGBTQ people and issues. Since 1990, the GLAAD Media Awards have grown to be the most visible annual LGBTQ awards show in the world, sending powerful messages of acceptance to audiences globally.

The evening will feature an exciting onstage reunion with Ashley Johnson and Shannon Woodward from video game favorite "The Last of Us Part II" for a special moment to celebrate LGBTQ inclusion in video games and to recognize the award recipient for Outstanding Video Game.

As previously announced, Cynthia Erivo will be honored with the Stephen F. Kolzak Award at the 36th GLAAD Media Awards for making a significant difference in raising visibility and promoting the acceptance of LGBTQ people and issues.

The official afterparty, sponsored by Hyundai Motor America, will feature a live musical performance by Grammy-nominated singer, songwriter and creative force Durand Bernarr. Bernarr is also nominated for GLAAD's Outstanding Breakthrough Music Artist.

For information, visit glaad.org.



Some of Hollywood's brightest stars will appear at the GLAAD Media Awards.

Madame Tussauds, LEGOLAND offer first responder discounts

LEGOLAND California Resort and Madame Tussauds Hollywood are showing appreciation for first responders of the Los Angeles fires who have given their time to serve their community by offering free tickets. As part of Merlin Entertainments' commitment to creating memorable, immersive experiences, both attractions are also offering additional discounts for first responders to bring up to four guests at half off.

Through May 23, LEGOLAND California Resort is offering a complimentary hopper ticket, and up to

four additional hopper tickets at 50% off for first responders including California-based firefighters, police officers, sheriff deputies, paramedics, emergency medical technicians and National Guard members. First responders can choose between a LEGOLAND and SEA LIFE Hopper Ticket or a resort hopper ticket which includes access to LEGOLAND, SEA LIFE and LEGOLAND Water Park (open select dates).

Tickets must be claimed in person at LEGOLAND California's guest services window with a valid

government-issued photo ID and a valid employee ID card.

At Madame Tussauds Hollywood, first responders can enjoy free admission through April 10. They can bring up to four guests, who are all eligible to receive 50% off admission. This offer is available through ID.me.

For details, visit legoland.com and madametussauds.com/Hollywood. Madame Tussauds Hollywood is located at 6933 Hollywood Blvd. LEGOLAND California Resort is located at One Legoland Drive, Carlsbad.

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POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD's Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between March 16 and March 22. The information was compiled from crimemapping.com. To report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies: Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (213)473-0476, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department West Hollywood Station (310)855-8850, and the Beverly Hills Police Department (310)550-4951.

Beverly Hills Police Department

March 16

An unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 200 block of S. Beverly at 1:54 a.m.

At 12:40 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 9400 block of Dayton at 4:30 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9600 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of S. El Camino at 8:23 p.m.

At 9:02 p.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Santa Monica and Rexford.

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Beverly and Dayton at 10:01 p.m.

March 17

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of N. Rodeo at 11:40 a.m.

At 2:08 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of S. Rodeo.

A vandalism was reported in the 9800 block of Santa Monica at 3:43 p.m.

At 8:27 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 100 block of S. Elm.

March 18

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 100 block of S. La Cienega at 2:23 p.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect stole auto parts in the 9500 block of Olympic.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 400 block of N. Oakhurst at 10 p.m.

March 19

At 1:59 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of S. Peck.

March 20

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 700 block of Crescent at 12:42 p.m.

At 7:41 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9800 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8700 block of Beverly at 9:58 p.m.

March 21

At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 100 block of N. Almont.

An unknown suspect committed a

burglary in the 500 block of N. Camden at 6:30 p.m.

March 22

At 5:39 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Santa Monica and Cañon.

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Dayton and Crescent at 11:28 p.m.

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

March 16

At 1:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 7400 block of Santa Monica at 11:45 a.m.

At 1:21 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8400 block of Santa Monica at 2:07 p.m.

At 5:20 p.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1200 block of N. Hayworth.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident near La Cienega and Melrose at 9:58 p.m.

March 17

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8200 block of Santa Monica at 3:44 a.m.

At 4 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 9000 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Cynthia at 12:35 p.m.

March 18

At 3 a.m., an arson fire was reported in the 7900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 9000 block of Ashcroft at 8:09 a.m.

March 19

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 4:18 a.m.

At 1 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near Sweetzer and Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1400 block of N. Hayworth at 6:45 p.m.

March 20

At 12:15 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft near Fuller and Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 700 block of N. San Vicente at 4:30 p.m.

At 10:30 p.m., an unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the

BHPD motor officer takes top honors at competition

Beverly Hills Police Department Motor Officer Mike Guzman won first place in the BMW Expert Division and second place in the Slow Ride Challenge in the second annual Bakersfield Police Motors Competition on March 14-15.

Competing against 40 skilled motor officers from across California, Guzman demonstrated exceptional skill and precision. The competition tested riders in a series of rigorous courses to evaluate their technical proficiency, control and maneuverability in high-pressure environments. Guzman's victories underscore the BHPD's commitment to excellence in training and motor safety.

"Motor Officer Guzman's performance exemplifies the skill, discipline and dedication of our Motor Unit," BHPD Chief Mark G. Stainbrook said. "These competi-



photo by Dan Miller, Task Force Photography

Motor Officer Mike Guzman placed first in the BMW Expert Division and second in the Slow Ride Challenge.

tions sharpen the abilities that keep our roads safer every day. We are

incredibly proud of his achievement."

Man sentenced for scam involving addiction centers

A Hollywood Hills man was sentenced on March 21 to 41 months in federal prison for paying illegal kickbacks for patient referrals to his addiction treatment facilities, which are located in Orange County.

Casey Mahoney, 48, was sentenced by United States District Judge Josephine L. Staton, who also ordered Mahoney to pay a \$240,000 fine. At the conclusion of a nine-day trial last September, a jury found Mahoney guilty of one count of conspiracy to solicit, receive, pay or offer illegal remunerations for patient referrals, and seven counts of receiving illegal kickbacks for patient referrals.

"This defendant illegally profited millions of dollars off of addicts who desperately needed help," Acting United States Attorney Joseph McNally said. "Bribes and kickbacks compromise the integrity of substance abuse treatment facilities and undermine patient care. As the sentence imposed demonstrates, those that engage in body brokering will go to federal prison."

The charges relate to Mahoney's operation of Huntington Beach-based Healing Path Detox LLC, and San Juan Capistrano-based Get Real Recovery Inc. From at least October 2018 to December 2020, Mahoney paid nearly \$2.9 million in illegal kickbacks to so-called "body brokers" who referred patients to Mahoney's addiction treatment facilities. The body brokers in turn paid thousands of dollars in cash to patients. Brokered patients sometimes were dropped off at motels in Orange County and introduced to drug dealers. Some of the patients later overdosed and died, authorities said.

Brokers also arranged for patients to receive drugs to make them eligible for more lucrative levels of care at Mahoney's facilities. Mahoney paid one broker \$140,000 per month for additional patients despite knowing that brokers offered to give drugs to some patients. Mahoney also requested that his employees send brokers to track down former patients with

lucrative insurance policies, which he called his "most wanted list," authorities said.

Throughout the scheme, Mahoney concealed the illegal kickbacks by entering into sham contracts with the body brokers that purportedly required fixed payments and prohibited payments based on the volume or value of the patient referrals. In reality, Mahoney and the brokers negotiated payments based on the patients' insurance reimbursements and the number of days Mahoney was able to bill for treatment.

The FBI and IRS Criminal Investigation investigated the case, with assistance from the California Department of Insurance.

Mahoney's conviction is among violations of the Eliminating Kickbacks in Recovery Act, enacted in October 2018 to address the opioid crisis and to target an increase in body brokering and substance abuse facility profiteering. For information, visit justice.gov/criminal-fraud/health-care-fraud-unit.

Court asks for review of juvenile justice system

The Los Angeles County Superior Court is launching a new partnership with the California Health and Human Services Agency, the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice and the National Center for Juvenile Justice to study and review the juvenile justice system. The goal is to deliver research-informed recommendations that will improve outcomes for youth in Los Angeles County, Presiding Judge Sergio C. Tapia II announced.

"Because the court plays a significant role in the juvenile justice system of Los Angeles County, it is uniquely positioned to explore and leverage the latest research to improve outcomes for justice-involved youth," Tapia added. "This research opportunity, in collaboration with leading juvenile justice scholars, will enable the court and its

county justice partners to thoughtfully examine the foundations of the juvenile justice system. By using data-informed recommendations, we aim to reduce disparities, enhance existing strengths and address ongoing challenges with actionable milestones to improve youth outcomes. This important research project reinforces the court's commitment to providing equal access to justice through the fair, timely and efficient resolution of all cases."

The partnership will operate under the Probation and Youth Justice System Review system, which will allow Los Angeles County justice partners, including the court and the Los Angeles County Probation Department, to better understand the interaction among disparate government institutions and how it impacts outcomes within the juvenile justice

system. For approximately 12-15 months, the collaborative study will examine core aspects of the county's juvenile justice operations, including probation supervision, internal and cross-agency collaboration processes, administration and quality assurance. The study will create several interdisciplinary projects among justice partners that can be used to measure effectiveness and track and analyze performance indicators.

"The Superior Court of Los Angeles County is committed to creating a juvenile justice system that not only addresses the needs of our youth but does so in a way that prioritizes fairness, community involvement and accountability," said Judge Miguel Espinoza, supervising judge of juvenile justice, who is overseeing the initiative.

For information, visit lacourt.org.

Los Angeles Police Department

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 800 block of Santa Monica.

March 22

At 2:20 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 500 block of Orlando.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 900 block of N. Fairfax at 5:42 a.m.

March 21

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1000 block of Genesee at 7:30 p.m.

At 10:30 p.m., an unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the

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.

'Snow White' biffs another Disney remake

I know this is only wishful thinking, but this trend needs to stop. Disney seems to have desecrated most of the big ones with live-action remakes with only three exceptions. So what's left? "Hunchback," "Sword in the Stone" or "Fox and the Hound." God forbid.

"Snow White" isn't the worst of the bunch. Exhibit A: "Pinocchio." But it's close enough to the bottom that the House of Mouse should truly, madly, deeply question if these films should remain on the 10-year plan.

Before I continue, let's get something out of the way. If you joined in on the Rachel Zegler hate, kindly shut up. She said nothing wrong. Snow White is a quintessential one-

dimensional character in dire need of an upgrade. Old news. Move on.

Next up, complaints about casting an actress who isn't snow white in skin tone is a terrible take. I'm a broken record, but here goes: Complaining about "woke" casting (or "wokeness" at all) says more about you than you might wish. But hey, thanks for letting folks know who you are.

As for claims that Zegler is entitled. Yawn. She acts no different than most celebs in the limelight. Extreme reactions to this 23 year old say more about how susceptible you are to social media than her acting chops or public persona. Now, back to this mess.

"Snow White," from director Marc Webb ("The Amazing Spider-

ON SCREEN WITH TIM POSADA

Man," "Gifted"), enjoys the same superficial story with a few additions, like the mysterious disappearance of Snow White's (Zegler) father and revamping the original's Prince Florian into a bandit named Jonathan (Andrew Burnap). Snow spends less time cleaning the dwarfs' residence and more moments clashing flirtatiously with Jon while she formulates a plan to take back her kingdom from the Evil Queen (Gal Gadot).

Zegler is a fine Snow White. But I can't say great because the writing and direction leave no room for greatness. So little of merit or worth transpires to make any one performance stand out. But it sure can amplify many things that go so wrong.

It's hard to watch something that looks this expensive and not wonder why the filmmakers dropped so much more money into CGI for the seven dwarfs when practical effects used on real people would work better. The dwarfs' visual design is a throwback to the short-lived photorealistic animation of "A Christmas Carol" and "Beowulf" which has no business in a live-action film. The results drift so far into the uncanny valley that actual filmed footage

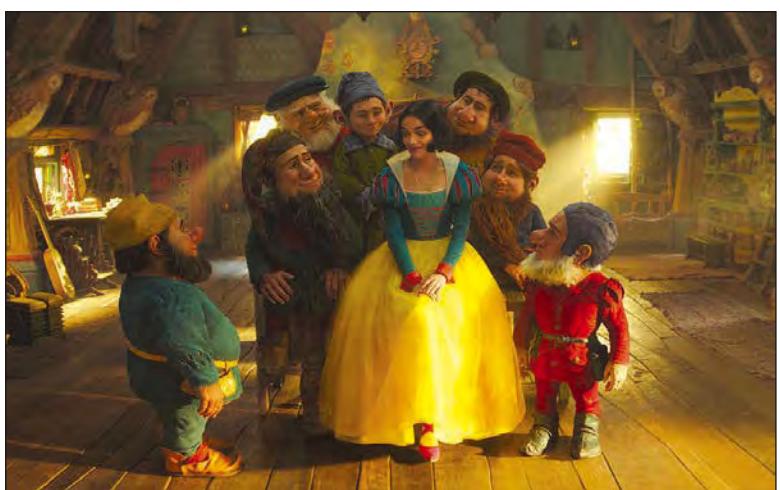


photo courtesy of Disney

"Snow White" (Rachel Zegler) and the seven dwarfs appear in the live-action remake of the Disney classic.

feels eerie as well.

But those unlucky seven ain't the worst of it. That dishonor belongs to Gadot. Think back to Pierce Brosnan's flat singing in "Mamma Mia!" I now yearn for that. Gadot is no singer, and we must suffer through two solos kinda sung by her. But those songs are merely icing atop her stale performance.

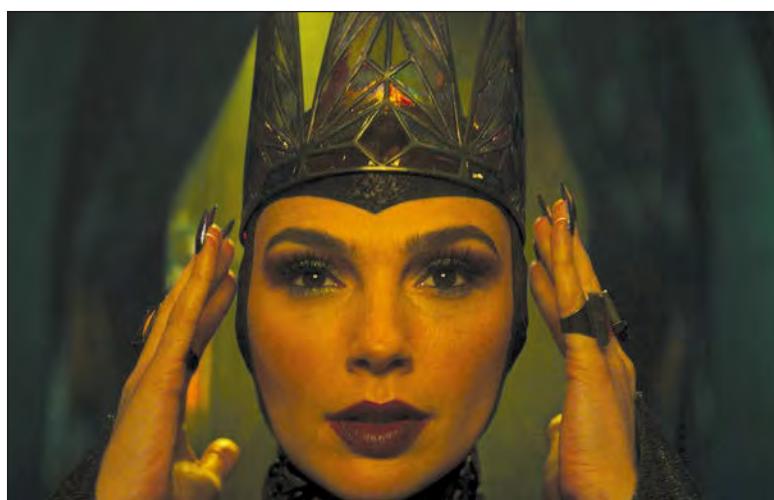
Let's be honest. She isn't an amazing actor. Plenty of sound bites note her often rigid line delivery, especially in "Wonder Woman 1984." At least that film's predecessor knew what to do with her. Since then, it's all been difficult to behold. In "Snow White," she's excruciating.

Be warned: This is a musical featuring 11 songs. That shouldn't be a point of contention, especially in a Disney film. But these are dark

times. Only a few of tunes originated in the original, composed by Frank Churchill and Larry Morey, while the new batch is the fault of Jack Feldman, Justin Paul and Benj Pasek. Yes, fault. Please, someone tell me what's going on with Disney music? Where's the whimsy? Where's the audible bangers?

Something that cost north of \$200 million shouldn't feel this generic on so many levels. Granted it's watchable at moments, but we all need more than moments, and most of these remakes haven't cracked the code.

Seriously, what could Disney possibly do next? I mean, besides "Lilo & Stitch," out Memorial Day weekend, and "Moana" next year. I'm so scared for those. Oh no, then it's "Hercules" isn't it? The gods help us all. It never ends.



Gal Gadot portrays the Evil Queen in "Snow White."

TCM 'Strikes Back' with George Lucas in attendance

Turner Classic Movies has revealed "Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back," the second film in the "Star Wars" trilogy, will open the 16th annual TCM Classic Film Festival on Thursday, April 24. Celebrating its 45th Anniversary, the gala presentation will bring visionary director George Lucas to present the film. The opening night launches an exhilarating weekend in the heart of Hollywood, showcasing exclusive programming themed around "Grand Illusions: Fantastic Worlds on Film."

"The Empire Strikes Back" is like 'The Godfather Part II.' Yes, technically, they're sequels, the second movie in a series. But they are so much more. 'Empire' not only dazzled and delighted 'Star Wars' fans, it pushed the boundaries of moviemaking, further deepening its characters and expanding the most popular cinematic universe of all time," said Ben Mankiewicz, TCM primetime anchor and official host of the TCM Classic Film Festival. "The first 'Star Wars' picture in

1977 ignited a new era in Hollywood and turned a generation of young people into passionate movie fans for life. Then, somehow, three years later, along comes 'Empire,' which might even be better. It's a stunning accomplishment and surely stands one of the great achievements in the history of film."

Widely considered one of the greatest sequels in film history, and winner of two Academy Awards, 'Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back' explores themes of reliance, self-discovery, sacrifice and the consequences of betrayal. The film stars Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Billy Dee Williams, Anthony Daniels, David Prowse, Kenny Baker, Peter Mayhew, James Earl Jones and Frank Oz. Filled with iconic twists and a shocking cliffhanger, the movie continues to be a major cinematic influence today with a legacy that is undeniable.

TCM previously announced filmmaker and founder of the American Film Institute George Stevens, Jr. as

the Robert Osborne Award recipient, which recognizes an individual who has helped keep the cultural heritage of classic film alive for future generations. Stevens will present the Hollywood premiere of the 4K restoration of "George Stevens: A Filmmaker's Journey," the acclaimed film he wrote and directed about his Oscar winning father. Additionally, the festival will pay tribute to director and producer Michael Schultz whose work left a lasting impact on film.

For information and passes, visit filmfestival.tcm.com. The festival's opening night screening will take place at the TCL Chinese Theatre, located at 6925 Hollywood Blvd.



Luke and Darth Vader face off in "The Empire Strikes Back."

El Capitan is 'the fairest of them all'

Disney's timeless story "Snow White" is screening at the El Capitan Theatre through April 20. Tickets are on sale including two fan event screenings. Plus, wishes come true as guests can visit the enchanted theatre with an immersive experience, photo ops and a costume and prop display.

Guests can also be the "Fairest of Them All" with a special pack that includes a reserved ticket, mirror, headband and hooded blanket. Tickets for the special offer are \$50. Quantities are limited.

A special family four pack is available for \$100 and includes four reserved tickets, four regular popcorns and four fountain drinks. Specialty concession items will be

available for purchase for ticketed guests, while supplies last.

Daily showtimes for Disney's "Snow White" are 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:55 p.m. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$19 for children and seniors.

Sensory Inclusive Screenings are available March 30 at 1 p.m. and April 15 at 7 p.m. Open caption screenings are available March 29 at 1 p.m. and April 2 at 7 p.m. A Spanish dubbed screenings is available on April 6 at 1 p.m.

Tickets are on sale at elcapitantheatre.com and fandango.com/el-capitan-theatre-aacon/theater-page. All seats are reserved. The El Capitan Theatre is located at 6838 Hollywood Blvd.



10 Reasons Why I Don't Want An Estate Plan

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

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

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Wise Temple unveils Aaron Milken Center

Stephen Wise Temple and Schools marked a milestone on Sunday, March 23, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Aaron Milken Center for Early Childhood Education at Wise. More than 300 guests – including community leaders, donors, congregants and close friends and family – gathered on the Wise campus to celebrate the momentous occasion.

Among the distinguished attendees were Lowell Milken Family Foundation founder Lowell Milken, senior rabbi Yoshi Zweiback, head of school Tami Weiser and key figures who played a pivotal role in bringing the vision to life including building committee chair Leandro Tyberg and lead architect Marco Marraccini.

Opening its doors in the coming

months, the Aaron Milken Center at Wise will offer an innovative, nurturing environment where young learners and their families can grow together. Rooted in the educational philosophy of Wise's visionary founder, rabbi Isaiah Zeldin, the center reflects a steadfast commitment to lifelong Jewish learning for all who seek it. It also stands as a meaningful tribute to Aaron Milken, the late son of lead donors Lowell Milken and Sandra Salka Milken.

"Early childhood education is the foundation of a child's lifelong journey of learning and discovery. The Aaron Milken Center embodies our commitment to providing a world-class experience that nurtures curiosity, creativity and community," Zweiback said.

"The new campus of the Aaron

Milken Center builds on parenting and early childhood education, physically, conceptually and professionally. It expands, enhances and enriches efforts to embrace children with the kind of attention and care, with the kind of love, that has everything to do with who they become," Lowell Milken said.

First conceived in 2018, the Aaron Milken Center was envisioned as a transformative early childhood educational and spiritual experience, housed in a state-of-the-art facility. With the guidance and generosity of the Lowell Milken Family Foundation, and in collaboration with Abramson Architects, construction began in late 2022.

The scope and scale of the \$35 million center maximizes the



photo courtesy of Stephen Wise Temple and Schools

The Aaron Milken Center for Early Childhood Education at Wise will serve as a location for families with young children.

breathtaking beauty and security of Wise's mountaintop campus, blending dynamic learning environments with a connection to the natural world. It fosters growth and discovery while strengthening a sense of community among children, parents and educators.

Beyond classrooms, the Aaron Milken Center will feature community and sacred spaces, providing a

warm village with Jewish values that will nurture young minds and foster lifelong connections. The space will also include a parenting center, designed for parents and their youngest children to experience and explore a diverse array of classes geared specifically toward each developmental stage.

For information, visit wisela.org/aaronmilkencenter.

Academy hosts program for aspiring film students

The Academy Museum will host the Careers in Film Summit April 5-6, geared toward those interested in film-related careers in the industry.

The Careers in Film Summit is a free annual program that raises awareness about the range of film-

related industry job pathways for high school and college students and those interested in pursuing filmmaking as a career.

This event raises awareness about the range of film-related industry job pathways for students

from under-resourced communities and those interested in pursuing filmmaking as a career. Each moderated panel will include live Q&As with Academy members and industry professionals, including Academy Award-nominated director Carlos Lopez Estrada and three-time Academy Award-winner Pete Docter.

Enjoy demonstrations, workshops, complimentary professional headshots, a photo activation and free entry to museum galleries with a summit ticket. American Sign Language interpretation is available.

For the full schedule, additional information and to reserve tickets, visit academy.org/en/programs/detail/careers-in-film-summit-2025-0194d74f-ce49-3ca7-8ae3-ba061f0eb485. The Academy Museum is located at 6067 Wilshire Blvd.

wide celebration of culture and community. Parents played a vital role in the day's success, creating culturally immersive booths that featured cuisine, artifacts, music and storytelling. From immersive displays to hands-on learning experiences, each booth offered students an opportunity to explore the richness of global traditions firsthand.

"Multicultural Day is a perfect example of how our community comes together to bring learning to life," principal Sarah Kaber said. "We are so grateful to our families for sharing their culture, history and heart with our students – it makes an unforgettable impact."

Events such as Multicultural Day extend learning beyond the classroom, offering meaningful, real-life connections that help shape thoughtful, informed and compassionate young learners.

For information, visit bhusd.org.



photo courtesy of the Academy Museum

Panels will be available for students interested in film careers next month.

El Rodeo celebrates Multicultural Day

On Friday, March 21, El Rodeo Elementary School hosted Multicultural Day – a joyful and educational event that transformed

the campus into a colorful showcase of global food, music and traditions.

The event brought together students, families and staff in a school-



El Rodeo students explored cultural traditions from around the world on March 21.

Awards recognize Black LGBTQ+

The 11th annual Truth Awards, powered by ViiV, dazzled attendees as it celebrated the incredible strength and creativity of the Black LGBTQ+ community at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills on March 15.

The evening brought together compassionate hearts and passionate spirits, showcasing the profound impact of this vibrant community on culture, politics and the arts. With the dynamic leadership of Nicco Annan and Ts Madison, and in collaboration with The DIVA

Foundation, guided by the brilliant Sheryl Lee Ralph, the event was an emotional journey that resonated with everyone present. The awards will stream exclusively on the KTLA+ app.

"This event transcends a typical awards ceremony," shared V. Scott Hamilton, co-founder of Better Brothers LA. "It is a powerful reminder of resilience and creativity that echoes through every aspect of our shared culture."

To learn more about the Truth Awards, visit theruthawards.com.

BHHS Academic Decathlon team wins first place at state competition

The Beverly Hills High School Academic Decathlon team earned first place in Division III at the California Academic Decathlon State Finals, held March 20-23 in Santa Clara. Competing in person against 54 teams from across the state, the BHHS team showcased extraordinary skill, dedication and academic excellence. The event marked the school's highest placement since 2013, when the team earned fifth place overall in Division I at the state level.

Throughout the multi-day competition, students were tested across 10 rigorous subjects, delivered prepared and impromptu speeches, participated in interviews and competed in the high-energy SuperQuiz. In addition to the team victory, BHHS decathletes brought home many standout individual achievements.

Individual medalists included Karina Kruger – silver in art; Lindsay Jada Moreno – silver in art, gold in interview; Elisha Rie – bronze in mathematics; Jacob Treiman – gold in economics, bronze in art; and Sarah Zhang – bronze in economics, gold in

mathematics.

Additional honors included K-Club Bronze Pin (7000+ points) – Karina Kruger, Lea Levy, Sarah Zhang; top scoring BHHS student – Sarah Zhang; Division III Scholastic Silver Medal – Jacob Treiman; first Four-Year Scholar Award – Sarah Zhang and Jacob Treiman; third place in Division III SuperQuiz; \$1,000 Kindness is Free Award for first place Division III finish; and first place in science heptathlon category – Daria Serheyeva.

"Our Academic Decathlon students exemplify what it means to be curious, collaborative and committed," BHHS Principal Drew Stewart said. "This team has worked incredibly hard, and their success at the state level is a direct result of their dedication and passion for learning."

Beverly Hills High School's 2025 Academic Decathlon team is composed of Daniyal Borodin, Daesung (Peter) Kang, Karina Kruger, Nicholas Lau, Lea Levy, Lindsay Jada Moreno, Elisha Rie, Jacob Treiman and Sarah Zhang.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

The Beverly Hills High School team finished first place overall, in addition to many individual awards.

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West Coast Jewish Theatre hosts plays at Greystone Mansion

The West Coast Jewish Theatre is partnering with the city of Beverly Hills to present staged readings this spring in the Greystone Theatre at the historic Greystone Mansion.

On Sunday, April 6, at 2 p.m., West Coast Jewish Theatre presents "Rose Colored Glass" by Susan Bigelow and Janice Goldberg. Set in 1938 Chicago, "Rose Colored Glass" takes place in the back rooms of Lady O'Riley's pub and Rose Fleishman's delicatessen. Their disparate worlds, separated by much more than the alley between their kitchens, are about to collide. Peg O'Riley, the 13-year-old granddaughter of Lady, has grown determined that the two mis-trustful women will become friends, but it is not until they become involved in the same cause

that their friendship has a chance to bloom. In a series of stunning flashbacks, Peg, now older, remembers the moving story of how Lady and Rose formed a united front to fight American apathy in an attempt to bring Rose's nephew out of Europe before the war.

"Rose Colored Glass" is a unique work – it explores the beginning of the Holocaust from an American perspective, showing two remarkable women as they struggle with American apathy, immigration laws, bureaucracy and their own prejudice, all in the name of one boy's safe passage from Europe to America. The cast includes Ann Hearn and Dana Weisman.

On Thursday, May 15, at 6:30 p.m., the theater will present

"Lebensraum" by Israel Horovitz.

The bold work is based on the fanciful, explosive idea that a German chancellor might, as an act of redemption, invite 6 million Jews to Germany and promise them citizenship and jobs. A resulting scenario unfolds that explores the effects of the policy on Jews and Gentiles, with widely varying outlooks: an out-of-work Jewish dock worker from Massachusetts who brings his Irish wife and his son to Bremerhaven to start a new life; a survivor of Auschwitz who returns to find the woman who betrayed his family to the Nazis; a young German smitten by a Jewish-American teenage girl; and an unemployed German laborer. The logical progression of the artfully drawn script raises the terrifying possibility that history may repeat itself.

Howard Teichman serves as artistic director for the West Coast Jewish Theatre. The plays are part of an ongoing West Coast Jewish



photo courtesy of West Coast Jewish Theatre

The theater company will present two plays focused on antisemitism on April 6 and May 15.

Theatre series on antisemitism.

Tickets are \$15 for Beverly Hills residents and \$20 for non-residents.

To purchase tickets, visit beverlyhills.org/1420/Play-Readings.

Greystone Mansion is located at 905 Loma Vista Drive. Free parking is available onsite.

Hannah Einbinder, Janelle Monáe among HRC honorees

On March 22, the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer civil rights organization, hosted its annual Los Angeles dinner at the Fairmont Century Plaza – bringing together hundreds of LGBTQ+ advocates and members from across Southern California all in support of LGBTQ+ equality. This year's event honored a talented slate of LGBTQ+ advocates and allies who have brought incredible visibility, representation and support for the LGBTQ+ equality movement in the entertainment space and beyond.

During the program, 10-time Grammy-nominated musician, actor and producer Janelle Monáe received HRC's Equality Award presented by Dreamer Isioma. Actress and comedian Hannah Einbinder was honored with HRC's Visibility Award, presented by fellow "Hacks" star Johnny Sibilly. Lastly, actress and Broadway star Ashley Park was honored with HRC's Impact Award, presented by

fellow "Joy Ride" star and stand-up comedian Sherry Cola. The program also included singer-songwriter and chart-topping artist David Archuleta, who performed "Crush," "Hell Together" and a rendition of "Freedom" alongside Tonality, a Grammy-winning choir group working to uplift diversity, inclusion and social justice issues.

"Our stories shape culture."

– Kelley Robinson
HRC president

The program's other key speakers included HRC president Kelley Robinson, as well as pro-equality changemakers and committed LGBTQ+ allies, Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett (D-Texas) and Gov. JB Pritzker (D-Illinois).

"Our stories shape culture. They win Emmys and pull ratings. They turn movies into movements and

albums into anthems. History has proven that in times of crisis our stories matter, our authentic stories," Robinson said. "Because when we take up space – on screens, in writers' rooms, in boardrooms – we don't just entertain, we shift culture. We challenge power, we reshape the future, and that terrifies them because they cannot erase us. Lesbian, gay, bi, trans and queer people have always been here, and we're not going anywhere. We're fighting for the most American of ideals: the right to live safely, the right to love freely, the right to healthcare, family and dignity. These aren't special rights, these are human rights."

The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people. HRC envisions a world where LGBTQ+ people are embraced as full members of society at home, at work and in every community. For information, visit hrc.org.

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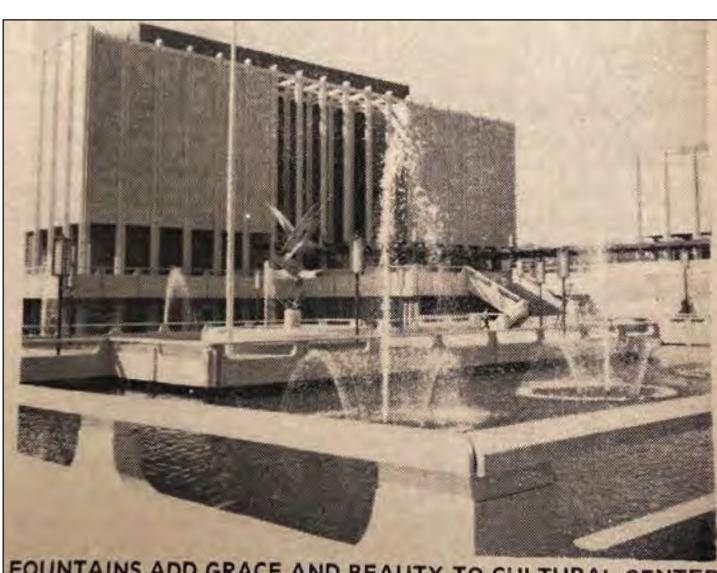
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Johnny Sibilly (right) presented fellow "Hacks" star with the Visibility Award.

VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

LACMA opens new campus on Wilshire, 1965



**FOUNTAINS ADD GRACE AND BEAUTY TO CULTURAL CENTER
Art Museum opens doors March 31**

A photograph in the March 11, 1965, issue of the Park Labrea News announced the opening of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art on Wilshire Boulevard. The \$11.5 million project was several years in the making, and excitement was building at the time about the grand opening. A dedication ceremony was held on March 30, 1965, and the museum opened to the public the following day. The opening exhibition featured works by French painter Pierre Bonnard.

LACMA is currently nearing completion of a campus transformation that includes the new David Geffen Galleries, a sweeping singular building spanning Wilshire Boulevard. The David Geffen Galleries replace LACMA's earlier structures and fountains that debuted in 1965. Plans call for the David Geffen Galleries to open in April 2026, with activations of public areas around the new building planned this summer. For information, visit lacma.org.

Art is 'S8T' free at Museum of Tolerance

The Museum of Tolerance has launched of its first-ever Artist in Residence program with "ART WILL S8T YOU FREE," a special installation by Los Angeles-based conceptual artist and painter Tomer Peretz on view through May 30.

"ART WILL S8T YOU FREE," which features a collection of works by Peretz as well as an interactive installation, is an artistic response to the aftermath of the Oct. 7, 2023, terror attacks in Israel, the resulting Israel-Hamas war, the ongoing global wave of anti-semitism and other traumatic experiences. It is the continuation of Peretz's layered collaborations with

a community of trauma survivors that includes victims of sexual violence as a weapon of war, terrorism and mass shootings, as well as frontline responders.

Along with Peretz's collection of original works throughout the main floor, the museum has dedicated space to a large multimedia project incorporating an expansive canvas that will be painted on-site, complemented by a display of photographs and videos of frontline emergency response workers by guest artist Kalia Littman. Peretz utilizes oil and acrylic painting, photography and conceptual art to create a vibrant, intense and at times har-

rowing experience that situates his art within the disturbing realities of the present world.

"As a Jewish artist, I was never naïve about the harsh realities of collective trauma from war and violence, but there's no question my experience on Oct. 7 and every day after has profoundly affected my transformation as a human and an artist," Peretz said. "'ART WILL S8T YOU FREE' is intended to create a secure and nurturing environment for groups and survivors of terror attacks to explore their emotions and embark on their healing journey."

Peretz has assembled a team of supporting artists who, in collabora-

tion with the Museum of Tolerance education team, are providing group student and adult interactive educational programming. The guest artists include Michael Mike Canon and Avia Moshe Shklar.

"The Museum of Tolerance has a longstanding connection to art therapy as a method of exploring and healing human suffering, from the personal anguish of the individual to historic levels of collective trauma," said Jim Berk, CEO of the Museum of Tolerance. "Launching our artist in residence program marks a significant step in expanding the museum's mission to educate, inspire and engage global audiences through the power of art. Tomer Peretz's work exemplifies



photo courtesy of the Museum of Tolerance
Tomer Peretz is the Artist in Residence at the Museum of Tolerance.

resilience, healing and the unyielding strength of the human spirit."

The museum is home to a collection of over 900 works of art, including an important collection by Frederika "Friedl" Dicker-Brandeis, an Austrian Jewish artist and educator who emerged as a trailblazer in what would later be dubbed art therapy. Dicker-Brandeis was deported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp in late 1942, where she organized secret art lessons for hundreds of children – classes that became a source of empowerment, healing and hope amidst harrowing circumstances.

Tickets and additional information about "ART WILL S8T YOU FREE" can be found at museumoftolerance.com/tomerperetz.html. The Museum of Tolerance is located at 9786 W. Pico Blvd.

LA Phil announces Dudamel's last season

Los Angeles Philharmonic music and artistic director and Walt and Lilly Disney Chair Gustavo Dudamel, along with LA Phil president, CEO and David C. Bohnett CEO Chair Kim Noltemy, have unveiled the 2025-26 LA Phil season at Walt Disney Concert Hall, the last in which Dudamel will serve in

his current role. The announcement was made at a luncheon that included a performance by violinists Dale Breidenthal of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Sergio Paez, an alumnus of Youth Orchestra Los Angeles, the signature education program that has thrived under Dudamel's leadership.

Affectionately dubbed "Gracias Gustavo," the season celebrates the conductor's 17-year partnership with the LA Phil. The 10 months of programming will revisit and expand upon the acclaimed artist's passion, humanity and vision throughout his tenure at the LA Phil. Programs include the return of such longtime collaborators as Frank Gehry and Alejandro G. Iñárritu, the juxtaposition of core repertoire with contemporary voices, investments in the meeting of art and social action and some of the very best compositions fostered by Dudamel's border-transcending Pan-American Music Initiative. Taken together, they offer a statement of the legacy and culmination of nearly two decades of deep connections, extraordinary music-making and community-building.

As part of the event, LA Phil Board Chair Jason Subotky announced that conductors Kinga Głowacka, Ana María Patiño-Osorio, José Ángel Salazar and

Miguel Sepúlveda have been selected as participants in the final Fellowship Program under Dudamel's leadership.

"As I look toward my final season as Music & Artistic Director of the LA Phil, I am filled with gratitude for the journey we have shared, and all that we have collectively achieved," Dudamel said. "Together, we have reimagined what an orchestra can be, and how it can serve both the community around it and the world at large. In these remarkable players, I have found both a profound wellspring of generosity, and a visionary commitment to excellence in music-making. It has been humbling to see how our programming, from new interpretations of classics, to contemporary works and new commissions, has helped to broaden the vision of the art form – looking not only from the New World back toward Europe, but also across the Americas, and beyond."

For information and a full schedule, visit laphil.com. The Walt Disney Concert Hall is located at 111 S. Grand Ave.



photo courtesy of LA Phil
Gustavo Dudamel will lead the LA Phil for the last time in the 2025-26 season.

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.

Oz gets a bilingual makeover at Kirk Douglas



photo courtesy of Center Theatre Group
The bilingual 'El Otro Oz' will start performances March 29.

Center Theatre Group presents the return of TheaterWorksUSA's production "El Otro Oz," a bilingual musical inspired by The Wizard of Oz from March 29-April 13 at the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

This production is part of CTG: FWD which began with theatrical special events, community gatherings and legacy projects and now expands to include an eclectic offering of plays and musicals at

Center Theatre Group venues.

"El Otro Oz" is a bilingual musical by Mando Alvarado, Tommy Newman and Jaime Lozano, which returns to the Kirk Douglas Theatre in a reimagined production. Guests will click their heels together "tres veces" and take a transformative journey with the salsa, merengue and Mexican folk-infused musical inspired by "The Wizard of Oz."

As her fifteenth birthday approaches, Dora, a contemporary Latina teenager, struggles with her family's ideas about tradition and dreads her impending quinceañera. But, when Dora gets swept away to a strange new land, she learns how to celebrate her unique rhythm and embrace her cultural identity.

Tickets and information are available at centertheatregroup.org. The show is recommended for everyone ages 6 and up. The Kirk Douglas Theatre is located at 9820 Washington Blvd, Culver City.



photo courtesy of California Science Center
"The Bias Inside U," which features images, hands-on interactive activities, testimonials and videos, runs through June 15.

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This production is part of CTG: FWD which began with theatrical special events, community gatherings and legacy projects and now expands to include an eclectic offering of plays and musicals at

Hochman OKs death penalty in rare cases

From page 1

case, the death penalty is warrantied, or just the sentence. The only other sentence you can get in a case like that is life without the possibility of parole."

Hochman said his office spent months crafting the new policy, speaking with both prosecutors and the public defender to find an approach that "strikes a balance."

"When you take the oath of office as a district attorney, and you swear to uphold all the laws of the state of California, there's no asterisk and there's no crossing your fingers when you do it saying that you're only going to support the laws that you like or you would otherwise pass if you were a state legislator. The death penalty is on the books. I understand it's very controversial," Hochman said.

The last execution in California was on Jan. 17, 2006. The death penalty was most recently on the ballot in California in 2016, when voters rejected an initiative that would have repealed it. However, in 2019, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed an executive order that placed a moratorium on executions. Although Hochman's policy will allow prosecutors to seek the death penalty in L.A. County, no executions will occur as long as the moratorium is in effect.

"The decision on whether or not to execute is the governor's decision. The governor could change his mind tomorrow. There will be a new governor [elected] in 2026,"

Hochman said. "At the point that the case comes before me, I can't wait to see if the governor is going to change his mind, the state legislature is going to act or another proposition is going to come up. I've got to deal with the cases as they come up. So I wanted to have a policy out there so everyone understood exactly how we are going to approach it."

Each death penalty consideration in L.A. County will be reviewed by the Special Circumstances Committee, which Hochman said will consist of the most senior members of the district attorney's office. The defense counsel will be offered "enhanced opportunities" to share information about the case with the committee, according to the district attorney.

"In addition, the standard to charge such death penalty cases at all stages of review will be beyond a reasonable doubt, not the prior standard of probable cause," a statement from the district attorney's office read.

Los Angeles County Public Defender Ricardo Garcia denounced Hochman's decision in a statement. He called the death penalty "deeply flawed," pointing toward instances where innocent people were wrongfully sentenced to death.

"This decision is a step backward for L.A. County. The death penalty is a cruel and irreversible punishment that is racially biased, and ineffective as a deterrent," Garcia

said. "The death penalty doubles down on a system that has disproportionately harmed the poor and communities of color."

In response, Hochman acknowledged the death penalty's historical injustices, but expressed confidence in the justice system given recent reforms.

"I have full confidence that the public defender can actually do his job, and do it very well – that he is now armed in the last couple of years with the Racial Justice Act. The Racial Justice Act allows the defense to go ahead and make attacks on a prosecution's case not just for explicit racial bias but for implicit racial bias as well," Hochman said. "So I'm absolutely convinced both by the quality of the prosecutors who will be evaluating these cases, and as importantly by the quality of the defense lawyers who will be dealing with these cases. Issues that have plagued the death penalty prosecutions in different parts of this country before – issues dealing with unfairness, issues dealing with racial bias – can be ferreted out in this process by the very talented defense lawyers that we have, fortunately, in Los Angeles County, and those type of issues can be dealt with immediately in the process and not be left to lurk behind the process or not dealt with at all – as many cases throughout the United States over the last number of decades have unfortunately been."

opportunities, the Beverly Hills Public Library just rose to the top," Paley Center CEO Maureen J. Reidy said. "We all felt that it was a perfect combination of cultural and educational excellence. It was very important for us that it would be free and open to the public – that this could be accessible to everyone. So it was a no-brainer."

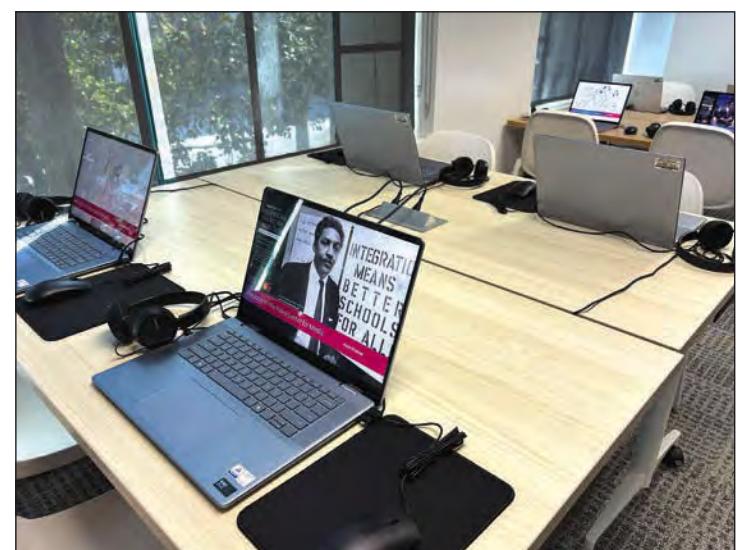


photo by Tabor Brewster

The Paley Archive includes access to more than 160,000 television programs, radio broadcasts and advertisements.

Paley Center launches archive in Beverly Hills

From page 3

"At its core, and in all times, media has been a mirror reflecting our culture of the moment, our shared values, defining the moments of our time," Landgraf said. "That's why the Paley Archive is important. It preserves the history of media and makes it accessible to everyone. The stories we tell today will inform and inspire future generations, making it essential to have a resource in Beverly Hills where these moments can be studied, shared, appreciated. The Paley Archive is exactly that – a living, breathing testament to the power of storytelling."

Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman said he is most looking forward to watching television shows from the 1950s and '60s at the archive, including "Gilligan's Island" and "Dobie Gillis."

"The city of Beverly Hills was really the birthplace of the entertainment industry," Friedman said. "We are so thrilled to have Paley come back to us. They left just around the time of the pandemic and now to have them back in a city building is just wonderful."

The Paley Center's 42nd annual PaleyFest LA began on March 21, and will continue through March 29 at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood. Visitors to the television festival can attend exclusive screenings and cast panels for series including "Severance," "The Handmaid's Tale" and "Hacks."

Beverly Hills Public Library visitors are offered a 20% discount on PaleyFest tickets with the code BHLIBRARY.

For information, visit paleycenter.org.

The Beverly Hills Public Library is located at 444 N. Rexford Drive.

Hate symbol on building sparks condemnation

From page 1

name of the representative. He said police are continuing to investigate the swastika as a hate incident and are trying to determine who painted the symbol. It appeared to be professionally painted as opposed to being spray-painted like graffiti.

The approximately 7,400-square-foot building at Melrose and Laurel avenues is under construction, and the open interior can be seen through exterior walls surrounding the site. The Los Angeles Department of City Planning stated there is currently no project under review at 8025 Melrose Ave.

Members of the Jewish commun-

ity condemned the incident, including the Anti-Defamation League-Los Angeles, which tracks hate crimes and incidents.

"ADL is aware that a swastika was discovered painted on a wall in the Melrose area of Los Angeles. This disturbing incident is part of a broader rise in antisemitic vandalism and rhetoric across the nation, threatening the safety and unity of our society," ADL Los Angeles Regional Director Jeffrey I. Abrams said. "We must stand together against such hatred. If you see or experience similar acts, report them immediately to local authorities and

to ADL. Silence enables hate, but collective action can help stop it."

Attorney and former City Council candidate Sam Yebri reposted a photograph of the building on social media and denounced the incident.

"That swastika represents the very worst in human history," Yebri said. "Angelenos should not accept and normalize such disgusting displays of antisemitism, especially in the heart of the Fairfax Jewish community."

Anyone with information about the hate incident is urged to call the Wilshire Division at (213)922-8205 or (213)473-0476.



Los Angeles City Hall was lit red for World Tuberculosis Day.

became law, mandating that adults receiving primary care services be offered a TB test if risk factors are identified, along with follow-up care or referrals. Clinical care for TB infection is available in community health care systems and clinics. For individuals without access to health care services, TB testing and follow up care is available at nine public health centers throughout the county.

"The new California TB screening law AB 2132 has the potential to accelerate progress toward TB elimination in Los Angeles County, saving lives and limiting the devastating impact of this terrible disease," Los Angeles County Department of Public Health director Dr. Barbara Ferrer said. "Public Health remains vigilant about detecting and responding to TB outbreaks across many communities, finding and limiting the development and spread of drug-resistant TB strains, and assur-

ing that residents have access to the TB care that they need."

For information, visit publichealth.lacounty.gov.

Film projects receive tax credits

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced March 19 that the California Film Commission selected 51 film projects for the latest round of awards under the California Film & Television Tax Credit Program. The group represents the most projects ever approved in one application window.

"While other states try to chase California's on-screen success, everyone knows the Golden State is

the entertainment capital of the world – built through decades of innovation and hard work," Newsom said. "[These] awards are vital to keeping production where it belongs."

Collectively, the productions are estimated to spend \$346.9 million in wages, generate approximately \$577.8 million in qualified expenditures statewide, and are expected to hire 6,490 cast and crew members.

BHUSD approves early retirement plan

From page 1

else," Board President Rachelle Marcus said.

The staff members – which include teachers, certificated and classified employees – will resign at the end of the 2024-25 school year. The district worked with Public Agency Retirement Services to create the supplementary retirement plan.

According to an analysis performed by PARS, the plan could generate up to \$6.6 million of net fiscal savings over a 5-year period.

The approval was passed in a 5-0 vote.

The approval comes as the BHUSD passed similar cost-cutting efforts with the goal of orienting more funding toward students.

At the board meeting, board members expressed a desire to improve resources for student programs including athletics and the band program.

Board member Russell Stuart recalled a Beverly Vista Middle School student notifying him that many of the school orchestra's instruments are broken.

"We need to put a new dedication onto every single aspect of our district – that if it's not working, or if

it's not the best, it needs our full attention," Stuart said.

The board recently eliminated at least 10 different administrative positions within the district. 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 administration. According to Acting Superintendent Dr. Jason Hasty, the district was overstaffed administratively.

However, the eliminations – which were unanimously approved by the board – received criticism from some community members, who began an effort to recall board members Stuart and Sigalie Sabag. The recall effort has since been placed on hold.

Parent Jackie Kruger – who presented the original notice of intention to circulate the recall petitions at a March 11 school board meeting –

spoke at the March 25 meeting to express appreciation toward the board for engaging in communication with her and concerned parents. Kruger, in addition to parent Tasha Turner, met with Sabag and Board Vice President Judy Manouchehri at the home of Beverly Hills City

Councilwoman Mary Wells on March 17.

"We have been talking to members of the community about what we want to see from our schools and our school board members, and how we can achieve these goals. Many people have shared with us that they want greater transparency and openness, a nonpartisan, cooperative and inclusive approach to addressing issues and a strategic plan that will bring BHUSD back as one of the top districts in the state," Kruger said.

The district is currently searching for its next permanent superintendent. In response to calls for greater transparency in the search, the district sent out a community feedback survey on March 19.

"If the meeting and survey are just the first steps toward greater transparency, inclusiveness and committing to listening and working on behalf of the entire community, then there will be no need for a recall. We hope that that is the case," Kruger said.

Kruger and parent Dawn Matthews asked that the board share additional details on the superintendent search, including the results of the survey.

Cedars-Sinai researchers develop advanced AI model

Cedars-Sinai investigators developed a novel artificial intelligence model, named DYNA, that accurately distinguishes harmful gene variations from harmless ones, potentially enhancing physicians' ability to diagnose diseases. The new tool could pave the way for more precise personalized medicine and targeted therapies.

Published in the peer-reviewed journal *Nature Machine Intelligence*, the team demonstrated that DYNA outperforms existing AI models in accurately predicting which changes in DNA, commonly called mutations, are linked to specific cardiovascular conditions and other disorders.

"In recent years, AI has vastly expanded our ability to detect enormous numbers of genetic variants in ever-larger populations," said Huixin Zhan, a contributing author of the study from the Department of Computational Biomedicine at Cedars-Sinai. "But up to half of these variants are of uncertain significance, meaning we don't know if they cause a disease and if so, which one. The DYNA model overcomes many of these challenges."

Current AI models prove to be effective in distinguishing which gene variants, in general, are more likely to negatively affect the structure or function of a protein, which can lead to disease, Zhan said. But the models lack the ability to connect a specific variant to a specific disease, which limits their usefulness.



photo courtesy of Getty Images

The artificial intelligence model can distinguish harmless and harmful gene variations

ness in diagnosing or treating patients. However, DYNA can accurately perform this task.

To develop DYNA, the investigators applied a type of AI known as a Siamese neural network to fine-tune two existing AI models. They used the modified models to predict the probability that specific gene variants are connected to cardiomyopathy – enlargement, stiffening or weakening of the heart muscle – and arrhythmia – irregular heartbeat.

The investigators then compared the DYNA findings to data in an authoritative public database, known as ClinVar, that archives reports of genetic variations classi-

fied for diseases. The data showed that DYNA correctly paired the genetic variants with the given diseases.

"For researchers, DYNA provides a flexible framework to study various genetic diseases," said Jason Moore, another contributing author of the study and chair of the Department of Computational Biomedicine at Cedars-Sinai. "Future developments could include using DYNA to offer health care professionals advanced tools for tailoring diagnoses and treatments to each individual's genetic profile."

For information, visit cedars-sinai.org.

Assessor offers support for fire victims with webinar

Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang's Disaster Relief Webinar for people impacted by the recent wildfires is available for viewing at assessor.lacounty.gov/tax-relief/disaster-relief.

Prang hosted the Disaster Relief Webinar on March 13, offering information on disaster relief programs and resources available to property owners. The Assessor's Office partnered with the Treasurer

and Tax Collector's Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office and the Department of Regional Planning to provide a comprehensive overview of disaster relief support.

"Watch our highly viewed Disaster Relief Webinar to learn more about relief programs and property tax assistance," Prang said. "We clarify conflicting topics of the 110% rule, the 120% rule, property tax bill refunds and many

more. Watch the video on our website or YouTube channel and share it with your friends and neighbors."

Other topics covered during the webinar include misfortune and calamity property tax relief, decline-in-value, reassessment information and rebuilding clarification. The webinar includes a Q&A session.

For information, visit assessor.lacounty.gov.



photo by Jon Viscott

Guests of all ages are welcome at the June 1 WeHo Pride Parade.

Festival brings Pride back to West Hollywood

From page 1

especially vital during this time to foster visibility, support and acceptance. WeHo Pride provides a safe space for countless thousands of LGBTQ+ people and allies each year, and we anticipate WeHo Pride 2025 will be bigger than ever," she concluded.

Vice Mayor John Heilman said that West Hollywood needed to "come together and fight back" against oppression.

"In West Hollywood, we stand for full equality and inclusion for the entire LGBTQ+ community," Heilman said. "We are not going back into the closet. We are here and we are prepared to resist."

"While some cities are seeing corporate pullback, that's not the case here," Councilman Danny Hang said. "West Hollywood's Pride is community-driven, city-supported and deeply rooted in LGBTQ+ history. The city remains fully committed to keeping it inclusive, vibrant and growing."

West Hollywood Pride festivities will officially kick off on Thursday, May 22, with a cele-

bration of Harvey Milk Day. The WeHo Pride Arts festivals will be held May 23-25. Pride weekend, May 31-June 1, will also include a street fair, the Women's Freedom Festival, the Dyke March and the WeHo Pride Parade.

"OUTLOUD has once again attracted a great lineup of talent for the festival," Heilman said. "I'm looking forward to another fun Pride celebration. But we also have a long list of arts and cultural activities throughout the month to celebrate Pride. I hope people will visit the city's website to see the full array of activities happening in West Hollywood during the month."

For information and tickets for the OUTLOUD Music Festival, visit weareoutloud.com. For information about WeHo Pride, visit wehopride.com.

LA Pride has announced its parade for June 8, but details have yet to be released. Christopher Street West, the organization that runs LA Pride, did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

West Hollywood hosts TGI2+ job fair

In advance of Transgender Day of Visibility, the city of West Hollywood is co-sponsoring the Los Angeles TGI2+ Job Fair. The job fair will connect job seekers with employers who are committed to diverse and inclusive hiring practices, with a particular focus on transgender, gender-nonconforming, intersex and nonbinary individuals ensuring increased access to networking, growth and employment opportunities.

The TGI2+ Job Fair will take place on Thursday, March 27 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Los Angeles City College Student Union Building, located at 855 N. Vermont Ave. Advance RSVP is requested via Eventbrite at bit.ly/tgiJobFair.

The job fair is free to attend and open to all Los Angeles County residents. The event will provide a safe and affirming welcoming space where attendees can bring authentic selves and build meaningful connections.

The TGI2+ Job Fair responds to recent data that highlights an urgent need for focused workforce development initiatives. According to the 2022 U.S. Transgender Survey, 34%

of transgender and nonbinary individuals live in poverty. The unemployment rate for transgender and nonbinary individuals is five times higher than the national average, with 11% reporting job loss due to gender identity. Research from the UCLA School of Law's Williams Institute found that more than half of transgender and nonbinary individuals Angelenos are unemployed, and those employed often struggle with job security, fair wages and workplace discrimination.

For information, call (323)848-6574 or email mmarquez@weho.org.

Answers From Page 23

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P	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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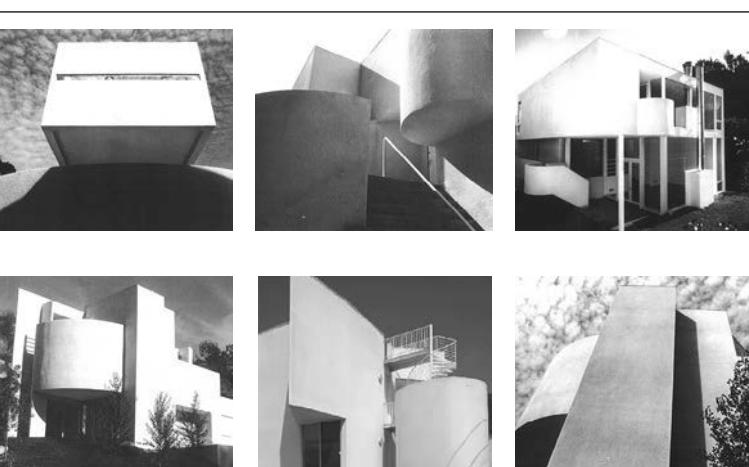
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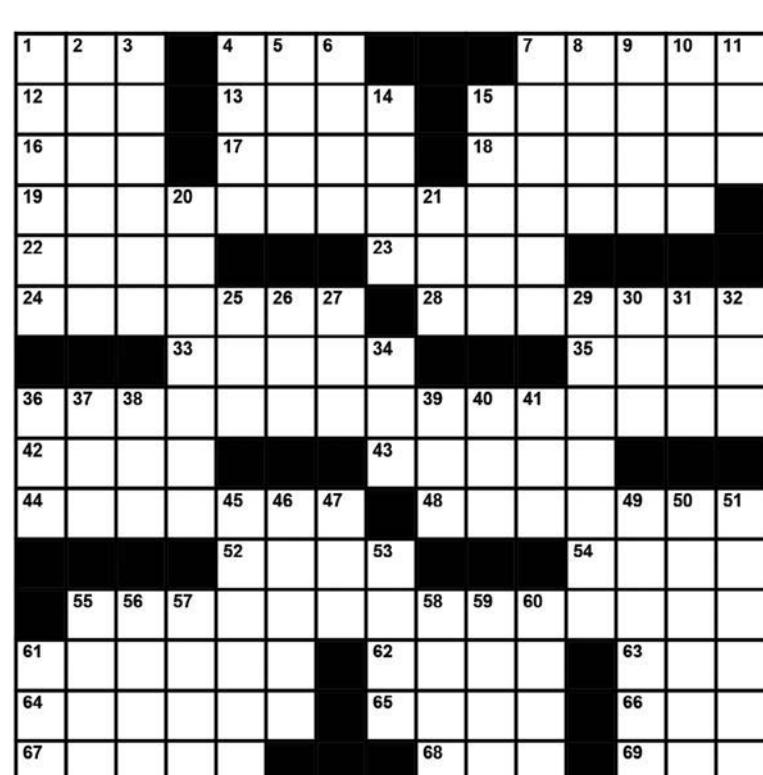
Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

- Blue
- Accomplished
- Leisurely walk
- Supporting
- Flash d'inspiration
- Snowy night
- Personals, perhaps
- Dubber's concern
- Pay no heed to
- Last words in the title of a tome about a young magician
- M.I.T. grad, abbr.
- Fraction of thrice
- Spire
- Bridge term
- Wonder's "years of bad luck"
- Apartment
- It features vampires and werewolves
- Street or flower
- Lab checker
- Off base, perhaps
- Representative
- Cosmonaut, Dennis
- "Me neither"
- It's about a girl who disappears
- Tastelessly affected
- Soprano in "Louise"
- Hard throw, in baseball
- Demagogue
- Vichysoisse ingredient
- Colorado Native American
- Aired again
- Vane direction
- Quart divs.
- Goofs up
- "__ como va, mi ritmo" Santana
- Sound in a cave
- Roger follower
- Railroad support
- Raggedy, for one
- Long bench with a back
- CXII halved
- Electric fish
- Football yards
- Spanish article
- Cold war jet
- Harper Valley __
- Nothing
- Duet necessity
- A dynasty in China
- Pipe joint
- Receive

Down

- Dark suit
- Eager
- A spoonful of medicine, e.g.
- Cable alternative
- Pastoral poem
- Hold back
- Winnie-the-Pooh's best friend
- Year in Caesar's reign
- Pack away
- Tablet, abbr.
- When a memorable movie gunfight occurs
- Sun protection
- Biblical suffix
- Enclose
- Desert Storm reporter
- Feudal subjects
- Trompe l'__
- Went like the dickens
- Icy coating
- Singer James
- Wee warbler
- "Absolutely!"
- Liberation with sushi
- Craggy peak



- Horse food
- Tablet, abbr.
- When a memorable movie gunfight occurs
- Sun protection
- Biblical suffix
- Enclose
- Desert Storm reporter
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answers on page 22

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

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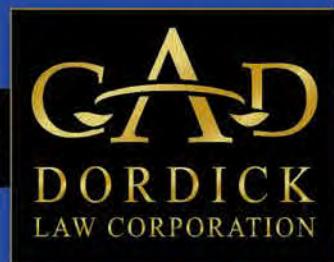
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