



Partly cloudy,  
temps in the  
mid-60s

• BH teachers  
demand pay  
increases pg. 7  
• Landmarks  
turn blue for  
Make-A-Wish pg. 9

Volume 35 No. 18

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

May 1, 2025

## Residents still in the dark about streetlight repairs

■ Budget woes cast uncertainty on completion dates

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Homeowners groups came together on a Zoom call with representatives from Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky's office on April 29 to find out when broken streetlights in their neighborhoods will be repaired, and the answer was not what they were hoping to hear.

The city of Los Angeles is facing significant financial impacts with the 2025-26 budget, and it will likely translate into reductions in city services. The budget calls for approximately 1,600 employee layoffs, including 30 positions in the Bureau of Street Lighting. The city is trying to determine the best way to maintain services while using fewer resources. No timelines were provided as to when crews will return to specific neighborhoods to repair streetlights.

Yaroslavsky's district director George Hakopiants discussed how the city is conducting streetlight repairs with representatives of



photo by Edwin Folven

The city of Los Angeles has had difficulty addressing copper wire thefts from streetlights, including lights near City Hall.

homeowners groups in the Hancock Park, Brookside, Windsor Village, Wilshire Park, Miracle

See **Streetlight** page 25

## DuPont Clinic files new lawsuit against city

■ Health care facility alleges Beverly Hills violated civil rights

BY TABOR BREWSTER

DuPont Clinic, a Washington, D.C.-based women's health care facility, filed a second lawsuit against the city of Beverly Hills on April 23. The new complaint alleges the city violated the clinic's civil rights by illegally preventing it from opening in Beverly Hills in 2023.

"DuPont's new claims against the city of Beverly Hills result from the city's violation of DuPont's civil rights," a statement from the clinic read. "Just like any other lawful business, DuPont had the right to freedom from government interference in its operations. The city made a deliberate choice and formed a specific plan to prevent DuPont from opening its reproductive health clinic, in violation of DuPont's constitutional rights. DuPont looks forward to proving its claims in court."

The clinic would have offered reproductive health care during all



photo by Tabor Brewster

DuPont Clinic planned to open in Beverly Hills at 8920 Wilshire Blvd.

trimesters of pregnancy, and was originally scheduled to open in fall 2023 at 8920 Wilshire Blvd. The company that owns the property, Douglas Emmett, rescinded the lease on June 12, 2023, following anti-abortion protests in

the city. Some anti-abortion organizers, including a group called "Survivors of the Abortion Holocaust," communicated directly with city employees and council members.

See **Lawsuit** page 26

## L.A. seeks to cut red tape on film production

■ Council motion follows effort to boost tax credits statewide

BY RANCE COLLINS

The Los Angeles City Council unanimously approved a motion on April 29 by Councilman Adrin Nazarian, 2nd District, that calls for a reduction in regulatory costs and obstacles to help make the city

more friendly for film and television production.

"More production means more jobs for L.A. families, and the communities where they live and shop," Nazarian said.

Los Angeles' chief legislative analyst has been tasked with reporting back on potential adjustments to various requirements for location shooting, including fees, permits and security requirements. The motion could also make it easier to

certify new sound stages and film on city-owned property.

"Every lost production means fewer jobs for hardworking families," Councilman Hugo Soto-Martinez, 13th District, said. "Thank you to Councilmember Nazarian for leading on this critical issue. Together, we're fighting to keep the heart of our creative economy right here in Los Angeles."

"The City Council measure that went through unanimously is based off the initial requests from members of our Stay in LA group," Stay in LA co-founder Pamela Buzick Kim said. "We need to make L.A. a film friendly town again. So, this is one of the many ways to work towards that. We are happy to have a City Council that is championing this cause."

The action comes as the state Legislature is attempting to pass the California Film and TV Jobs Act, or Assembly Bill 1138 and Senate Bill 640, which would increase the state's tax credit awards for production from \$330 million to \$750 million.

"California's film and television industry is at a breaking point – and AB 1138 and SB 630 are about saving good jobs and protecting the

See **L.A.** page 26

## Mirisch positions himself as mayor's right hand man

■ Vice mayor won't rule out fifth term on Beverly Hills council

BY TABOR BREWSTER

John Mirisch was sworn in on April 1 as the vice mayor of Beverly Hills – a role in which he is no stranger. Mirisch has been elected to the City Council on four separate occasions – 2009, 2013, 2017 and 2022 – more than any other council member in the city's history. In returning to the vice mayorship, his primary duty is to support Mayor Sharona Nazarian's goals, he said.

"It's really not about the vice mayor. The vice mayor is just there to, I would say, fill in if for any reason the mayor is not available," Mirisch said in an interview. "I look at my role as vice mayor as to support the mayor in her initiatives."

Mirisch said Nazarian has "hit the ground running" in her first month as mayor, holding many



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Vice Mayor John Mirisch will serve in the role until October.

events and running the City Council meeting efficiently, all with ambitious goals in mind.


While Mirisch's priority as vice mayor is to support Nazarian's vision, as a council member, he's not hesitant in addressing issues he sees as important.

See **Mirisch** page 25



photo courtesy of the 2nd District City Council office

Actress Yvette Nicole Brown, left, and Los Angeles City Councilman Adrin Nazarian spoke after the City Council approved a motion that aims to reduce film and TV production costs.



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CALENDAR

Museum of Tolerance film

Join the Museum of Tolerance and Blue Harbor Entertainment in observing International Workers Day with the Los Angeles premiere of the film “Lilly” on Thursday, May 1, at 7 p.m. The evening will begin with a special introduction by the film’s star Patricia Clarkson. The movie tells the inspiring true story of Lilly Ledbetter, a factory worker whose fight for equal pay for women culminated in a historic Supreme Court battle. A Q&A session after the film includes director Rachel Feldman and producer Jyoti Sarda. Admission is free but reservations are required. 9786 W. Pico Blvd. give.wiesenthal.com/event/screening-lilly/e679177/register/new/select-tickets.

Latino Theater Company

Enjoy the world premiere of “The Last Play by Rickerby Hinds” from Thursday, May 1, through Sunday, May 25, at the Los Angeles Theatre Center. Commissioned by Latino Theater Company, playwright Rickerby Hinds brings an Afro-Latino playwright face-to-face with characters from his past works as he struggles to write what he believes will be his final play. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Thursday through Saturday; 4 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are \$10 on Thursdays; \$48 for all other performances. 514 S. Spring St. (213) 89-0994, latinotheaterco.org.



‘Beethoven & Dessner’

The LA Phil presents “Beethoven & Dessner with Esa-Pekka Salonen” from Friday, May 2, through Sunday, May 4 at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. For more than 200 years, the “Eroica” Symphony has been celebrated as one Beethoven’s greatest works and one of the most revolutionary masterpieces in classical music. Salonen leads the LA Phil in the powerful piece, contrasting it with Debussy’s dreamy and fluid “Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun.” Pekka Kuusisto also joins the orchestra for Bryce Dessner’s “Violin Concerto.” Showtime is at 11 a.m. on May 2, 8 p.m. on May 3 and 2 p.m. on May 4. Tickets start at \$74. 111 S. Grand Ave. laphil.org.

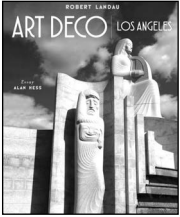


‘The Enemy of Oz’

ArtsUP! LA and Theatre by the Blind present “The Enemy of Oz,” an original play by Christopher Ureña running Friday, May 2, through Saturday, May 17, at the Blue Door Theater in Culver City. The production reimagines the classic world of “The Wizard of Oz,” entangling a new generation of characters in an adventure filled with political ambitions, magical conflicts and revenge. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 3 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are \$15. 9617 Venice Blvd. artsupla.org.

Art Deco exhibit at Denenberg Gallery

Stuart Denenberg Gallery presents “Art Deco Los Angeles: Robert Landau Photographs” from Saturday, May 3, through summer 2025. An opening event and book signing will be held on May 3 from 2-5 p.m. Angel City Press at the Los Angeles Public Library published “Art Deco Los Angeles.” Step into the captivating world of Art Deco through the lens of renowned photographer Landau. The book offers a photographic tour through one of the most glamorous eras of the City of Angels. It was released on the 100th anniversary of the Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industries Modernes in Paris in 1925. Regular gallery hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. 417 N. San Vicente Blvd. (310)360-9360, denenbergfinearts.com.



Getty art talk

Join the Getty for “Breaking Barriers: Sophie Fremiet and the Rise of Women Artists in Europe” on Sunday, May 4, at 2 p.m. Around the turn of the 19th century, more than 1,000 women contributed more than 7,000 works to premier exhibitions in London and Paris. It was a transformative moment for women artists in Europe, who exhibited and sold their art in unprecedented numbers. In this context, Fremiet painted her luminous “Portrait of a Woman.” Art historian Paris A. Spies-Gans explores women’s opportunities and wrongly forgotten triumphs during the era. 1200 Getty Center Drive. getty.edu.

Holocaust book

Author Jack Fairweather will discuss his new book “The Prosecutor” on Sunday, May 4, from 3-4:30 p.m. at Holocaust Museum L.A. The book tells the true story of a Jewish lawyer

who returned to Germany after World War II to prosecute war crimes, only to find himself pitted against a nation determined to bury the past. Admission is free but reservations are requested. 100 The Grove Drive. holocaustmuseumla.org.

Beverly Hills Chamber

The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce is holding its May “Get to Know Your Chamber” event on Tuesday, May 6. 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.beverly-hillschamber.com.

Art of Analia Saban

The Hammer Museum is holding “Analia Saban and Printmaking in L.A.” on Tuesday, May 6, at 7:30 p.m. Artist Saban joins Naoko Takahatake, director and chief curator of the Grunwald Center of the Graphic Arts; Case Hudson, master printer at Gemini G.E.L.; Shaye Remba, director of Mixografia; and Francesco Siqueiros, founder of El Nopal Press for a conversation exploring the place of printmaking in her creative practice and her innovative collaborations with Los Angeles print shops. 10899 Wilshire Blvd. (310)443-7000, hammer.ucla.edu.

Book on autism

Author Sol Smith will sign and discuss his book “The Autistic’s Guide to Self- Discovery: Flourishing as a Neurodivergent Adult” on Wednesday, May 7, at 6:30 p.m. at Diesel, A Bookstore. Smith combines current research and his personal experience as a late-diagnosed autistic adult to explore how neurodivergent individuals can transcend common mischaracterizations, overcome shame and gain skills to flourish. Free seating is limited. Book purchase required to reserve a seat. 225 26th St., Ste. 33, Santa Monica. (310)576-9960, dieselbookstore.com.

Japanese tea game

Join the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles for “Historic Matcha Tasting Game: Sensory Awakening through Tocha” on Thursday, May 8, from 7-8:30 p.m. Yuki Okamoto, the 10th generation headmaster of the Hosokawa Tea School in Kyoto, visits Los Angeles for a rare cultural event. The program features a Japanese tea ceremony demonstration followed by a workshop of tocha, a historical tea tasting game. Participants will explore subtle differences in flavor, aroma and foam in teas. Registration is required. 5700 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 100. jflalc.org.



Comedy and recovery

Phoenix House California, a nonprofit dedicated to expanding access to mental health and recovery services, is hosting “Sober & Standing (Up!),” a comedy fundraiser on Saturday, May 10, at 7 p.m. at the El Rey Theatre. The show celebrates the healing power of humor in recovery. It brings together top comedians for an unforgettable night in support of mental health and substance use recovery. 5515 Wilshire Blvd. phoenixhouse-ca.org/soberandstandingup.



photo courtesy of the office of Rick Chavez Zbur  
Assembly Minority Leader James Gallagher (R-Yuba City), Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood) and Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas (D-Hollister) presented Beverly Hills Councilman Lester Friedman (second from right) with a recognition for his work in fighting antisemitism.

Zbur recognizes Friedman as 2025 Yom HaShoah honoree

Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood) presented Beverly Hills Councilman Lester Friedman as his 2025 Yom HaShoah honoree Monday, recognizing Friedman’s lifelong commitment to public service, Holocaust remembrance and the fight against antisemitism.

A proud son of Holocaust survivors, Friedman has spent his life carrying forward the lessons of his parents' experiences during one of history’s darkest times. Friedman’s parents, Saul and Bella, each survived the Radom ghetto, forced labor camps and Auschwitz before eventually emigrating to the United States, where they built a life of resilience, community and hope in California. Their story of survival and perseverance profoundly shaped Friedman’s dedication to justice and community service.

“Lester Friedman embodies the spirit of resilience, remembrance, and hope that Yom HaShoah calls on all of us to honor,” Zbur said. “As a son of Holocaust survivors, Lester has carried forward the legacy of his parents – fighting antisemitism, building community and working tirelessly to make California a better place for all of us. I’m proud to recognize him for his extraordinary leadership and unwavering commitment to never forgetting.”

On Monday, Assemblywoman Dawn Addis (D-San Luis Obispo), representing the California Legislative Jewish Caucus, presented ACR 59, recognizing April 28 as California

Holocaust Memorial Day in the California State Assembly.

“In passing the bipartisan resolution with each assemblymember being a co-author, the California State Assembly has once again shown that it is a leader in the fight against antisemitism,” Friedman said. “Thanks to the Legislative Jewish Caucus for raising the awareness of the oldest form of hate in the world – antisemitism.

Friedman has been twice elected to the Beverly Hills City Council, serving two terms as mayor (2020–21 and 2024–25) and continuing today as a council member. Throughout his career, Friedman has been a vocal advocate against antisemitism and a champion for Holocaust education. Following the tragic events of October 7, 2023, Friedman led the city of Beverly Hills in hosting a public Shabbat table, supporting a temporary memorial installation and initiating plans for a permanent memorial honoring victims of the attack.

Beyond his political service, Friedman is a respected workers’ compensation attorney of more than 40 years, a devoted husband, father of four and grandfather of six. He also holds a long-standing connection to his alma mater, UCLA, serving as the official scorer for the UCLA men’s basketball team since 1996.

Friedman’s recognition as Assembly District 51’s Yom HaShoah honoree reflects a lifetime of service rooted in history, memory, and the enduring call to action: never again.

Beverly Hills launches energy resilience pilot program

The city of Beverly Hills is launching “Power On BH,” an energy resiliency pilot program for homeowners and businesses. The service offers free technical advice to property owners on how they can withstand power outages.

The city is partnering with EcoMotion to provide guidance to property owners and help identify options including solar generation, critical energy loads and battery storage. The pilot program is open through June 30.

“I am proud that the city is advancing practical and forward-thinking solutions to strengthen our community’s resilience,” Mayor

Sharona Nazarian said. “The Power On electrical resilience program is a meaningful step in ensuring that residents are safer and better prepared in the event of a power outage or emergency. This initiative is yet another important measure to enhance the safety and well-being of our community.”

Services through the Power On program may include phone consultation, on-site assessment, independent financial analysis of proposed resiliency solutions, energy efficiency recommendations and contractor support. For information and to submit an interest form, visit beverly-hills.org/poweron.

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photo by Jonathan Moore, courtesy of the city of West Hollywood  
West Hollywood Mayor Chelsea Byers spoke in support of Andry Hernandez Romero.

# Rally held in WeHo for deported makeup artist

Los Angeles LGBTQ+ leaders from major community organizations gathered in solidarity on April 30, demanding that Andry Hernandez Romero be returned to the United States.

Romero is a gay makeup artist and one of the 238 Venezuelan migrants deported to a maximum-security prison in El Salvador. He came to the U.S. last year seeking asylum, and his lawyer Lindsay Toczylowski said he was deported unjustly.

The rally was held in West Hollywood Park and attended by West Hollywood Mayor Chelsea Byers, Los Angeles LGBT Center CEO Joe Hollendonner, Latino Equality Alliance executive director Eddie Martinez, FLUX International president Queen Victoria Ortega and CEO/founder of TransLatin@ Coalition Bamby Salcedo.

“What we have done historically as Americans is ... mobilize against injustice,” Ortega said. “Being able to use our voices is part not only of our First Amendment [rights], but part of our duty as Americans to make sure ... that freedom and justice are accessible to all.”

“West Hollywood is all about standing up for the marginalized – making sure everyone feels they have their voice represented – and in this case where somebody’s rights have been denied,” Byers said. “It’s so important that we all see ourselves in that story, and we advocate for Andry as if this is something that could be happening to any one of us.”

# Goldsmith looks toward California’s future

■ Senate candidate raises \$500,000 in first 10 days

BY RANCE COLLINS

With Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) termed out in 2026, several candidates have declared their intention to run to replace the 24th District’s representative. Last month, Democratic consultant Brian Goldsmith threw his hat into the ring. In the first 10 days of his campaign, he raised over \$500,000.

Goldsmith has an extensive background in journalism and worked many years at CBS and Yahoo! News. He even produced the infamous Sarah Palin interview with Katie Couric.

“Part of me thinks that the Palin interview would not have happened in this day and age, because people just go to their echo chambers and they don’t want tough interviews or journalists that hold [politicians] accountable, and I’m not sure it would have had the impact [today],” Goldsmith said in an interview. “[John] McCain publicly said he thought it was a fair interview and fair questions. That certainly wouldn’t happen today.”

The shift in political norms inspired a shift in Goldsmith’s career.

“I had been trained as an old school journalist. You didn’t know my politics. I covered both sides fairly, and found that I just couldn’t do that with Donald Trump laying

waste to our institutions during his first term,” he said.

Goldsmith joined Pete Buttigieg’s 2020 presidential campaign.

“I found that I enjoyed that and I had something to contribute,” he said. “I became a political advisor to different candidates, companies [and] causes.”

With Allen’s seat opening, Goldsmith sees an opportunity to “practice some of what I’ve been preaching.”

“Democrats [need to do] a much better job about governing the places we control – making it easier and more affordable to live here, providing serious answers on crime and homelessness, really fighting for the future of California,” he said.

Goldsmith said that when a new governor and new legislators are seated in 2027, the state will “have a moment.”

“That’s going to force a lot of hard questions about why are we doing business the way we’re doing business, and are we actually getting value for all the billions of dollars in taxpayer money we’re spending on various programs,” he said, advocating for California to become more “results and outcome oriented” versus “being process oriented.”

Goldsmith noted the current Legislature has an opportunity to make a real impact with the Film and TV Jobs Act.

“We created this industry. We’re the home of this industry. We have



photo courtesy of Brian Goldsmith  
Brian Goldsmith declared his candidacy for state senate on April 17.

the most talented workforce, including a lot of union members, and it is a scandal that we’re losing this industry. We don’t want to be the Detroit of film and TV production,” he said. “But I view this proposal as the floor, not the ceiling. I think we should be doing more.”

Goldsmith also said that the state has to make it easier to build housing.

“We’ve got to speed up permitting and processes. We’ve got to look at self-certification. We’ve got to look at alternatives to a process that is too slow, too costly, too bureaucratic, while still respecting local voices and perspectives. I think there’s a tremendous amount

See Goldsmith page 26

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photo by Edwin Folven

The incident on April 25 began as a hit-and-run collision at Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street.

## Woman arrested after pursuit, standoff with SWAT team

■ Suspect surrenders after authorities surround vehicle

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Officers from a Los Angeles Police Department SWAT team arrested a 30-year-old woman with a long criminal history on April 25 after she crashed a stolen vehicle near Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street and led officers on a pursuit through the Hollywood Hills.

The collision occurred around 9:30 a.m. The suspect, who was driving a dark-colored pickup, allegedly struck another vehicle and a fire hydrant before driving away, police said. A short time later, officers located her on a street in the Hollywood Hills and attempted to stop the vehicle.

The suspect drove away and a pursuit ensued that ended around 10:15 a.m. outside a home on Coldwater Canyon Avenue. The suspect barricaded herself in the vehicle for two hours while a SWAT team attempted to get her to surrender. Officers threw gas canisters into the pickup and the suspect was arrested after she exited the vehicle around 12:30 p.m.

No injuries were reported. LAPD spokeswoman Redina Puentes identified the suspect as Sara Galan. She is being held on \$1.1 million bail. Galan has at least 10 misdemeanor arrests since 2023, according to Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department records.

Anyone with information about the incident is urged to call the LAPD's Hollywood Division at (213)972-2971.

## Driver charged in fatal collision on Highland

■ Police believe suspect may have fled the country

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A male suspect has been charged with vehicular manslaughter for a March 31 collision on Highland Avenue in Hancock Park that claimed the life of a 19-year-old woman and injured four other teens, authorities said.

Police said the driver, who fled the scene of the collision and remains at large, is a resident of France who was illegally in the country at the time of the crash. Los Angeles Police Department investigators are not certain whether he is still in the United States and are working with federal authorities to locate the man.

Authorities have not released the suspect's name due to the ongoing investigation and have released few details about him. Detective David Holmes, with the LAPD's West Traffic Division, said the suspect is in his 30s and had been in the United States for at least two years.

"We have an ID on who he is. He's a French national who had overstayed his visa from 2023. We have information that he may have fled the country," Holmes added. "The case has been filed [by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office]. It's a complicated case, he is not a U.S. citizen. We are working with our federal counterparts and trying to capture him."



photo by Edwin Folven

The violent collision on March 31 at Highland Avenue and First Street claimed the life of a 19-year-old woman.

LAPD investigators allege the man was behind the wheel of a Lamborghini SUV on March 31 that was traveling north on Highland Avenue at a high speed. The Lamborghini collided with a Toyota RAV 4 at approximately 1:30 a.m. at Highland Avenue and First Street. The Lamborghini's driver and a female passenger fled the scene, but the female passenger returned a short time later and cooperated with police. Authorities did not release any further information about the passenger.

The Toyota was occupied by two men and two women ages 18-19, and a female minor, Holmes said. Yobil Ann Cueto, 19, died in the collision. The other teens were hospitalized and are recovering.

A Go Fund Me account has been established for Cueto at [gofundme.com/f/yobil-ann-coloma-cueto-memorial-fund](https://gofundme.com/f/yobil-ann-coloma-cueto-memorial-fund). It had raised \$5,155 as of April 30.

Anyone with information about the collision is encouraged to call West Traffic Division detectives at (213)473-0423.

## LA vs Hate launches 'Signs of Solidarity' campaign

In response to historic increases in hate crimes across Los Angeles County, LA vs Hate is launching the "Signs of Solidarity" campaign to empower residents to visibly stand against hate and promote unity in communities. The 2023 Hate Crime Report by the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations revealed a 45% increase in reported hate crimes, rising from 930 in 2022 to 1,350 in 2023 – the highest number recorded since the commission began tracking in 1980.

LA vs Hate, the county's anti-hate program led by the Commission on Human Relations, produced the "Signs of Solidarity" grassroots campaign to address alarming rises in hate by distributing community signage – such as yard signs, posters and murals – to foster a shared neighborhood identity rooted in inclusion and respect for diversity. By giving residents tools to publicly display their values, LA vs Hate hopes to shift social norms and foster neighborhoods that not only reject hate, but actively stand against it.

"Signs of Solidarity" builds on LA vs Hate's 2023 campaign "Summer of Solidarity," a public art series that celebrates the diverse communities of Los Angeles through community-led murals across all five county districts.

Following the inaugural release of the 2023 Hate Incident report, which reported an alarming increase in hate activity in L.A. County, LA vs Hate began planning a new strategy in 2024 to take direct action in the most impacted neighborhoods. "Signs of Solidarity" is working with local communities to reclaim public spaces with visible messages of inclusion. The campaign will launch in different areas month by month – beginning with the Westlake and San Pedro neighborhoods – to address the highest numbers of reported hate crimes and incidents against the most affected communities, including African Americans, Latinos,

immigrants, Jewish, Muslim and LGBTQ+ residents. By focusing efforts where they are needed most, LA vs Hate aims to respond to the alarming rise in hate crimes, strengthen community resilience, encourage reporting and deter hate by building a culture of solidarity and belonging.

"Our communities are strongest when we stand together against hate," said Robin Toma, executive director of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations. "The 'Signs of Solidarity' campaign is more than just signage – it's a call to action, a way for residents to express their values and visibly take a stand against hate. At a time when L.A. County is experiencing historic rises in hate crimes, it is more critical than ever to show cross-community solidarity to prevent hate, and encourage a culture where inclusion is not just encouraged, but expected."

For information, visit [lavshate.org/signsofsolidarity](https://lavshate.org/signsofsolidarity).

## Counter-protestor arrested at pro-Trump rally in Beverly Hills

■ Man booked for assault with a deadly weapon

BY TABOR BREWSTER

A 26-year-old man was arrested during a pro-Trump political demonstration in Beverly Gardens Park on April 27. George Slivka, 26, was arrested by the Beverly Hills Police Department for alleged assault with a deadly weapon, according to BHPD Lt. Kevin Orth.

In social media posts with video footage the demonstration, Slivka appeared to be a counter-protestor. In a video posted by Street People

of Beverly Hills, Slivka could be seen wearing a pride flag affixed to an American flag hat while holding a sign reading "Democracy Today," along with his name and other expressions. The sign appeared to be made of cardboard, paper and a large wooden stick. In the video, a man mostly off-screen who appeared to be holding a "Make America Great Again" hat shouted "let's grab them by the p–," toward Slivka. The phrase is a partial quote of President Donald Trump's vulgar statements on "Access Hollywood" that surfaced in 2016. Slivka then shouted "no" toward the man, and shoved the sign into him, resulting

See Arrest page 26



photo by Tabor Brewster

The arrest occurred during a demonstration in Beverly Gardens Park.

## LAPD launches new officer recruitment campaign

The Los Angeles Police Department has launched a new recruitment campaign aimed at reigniting interest in law enforcement careers and repositioning the department as a dynamic, purpose-driven workplace for the next generation of officers.

Faced with a national decline in law enforcement applicants and growing staffing shortages, the LAPD partnered with the creative agency VGCA to develop a forward-thinking campaign titled "Unrivaled Since 1869" that attracts new recruits and revitalizes the

LAPD brand. At its core, the campaign underscores the department's commitment to service, innovation and community engagement, while highlighting the wide range of roles available across the organization.

With more than 250 different job types – from detectives and drone pilots to cybercrime investigators and mental health specialists – the LAPD offers a diverse and exciting career path for individuals seeking purpose, impact and growth.

"This campaign is about more than recruitment. It's about reminding the city – and ourselves – why

the LAPD has long stood as a global leader in law enforcement," LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell said. "We want to inspire people from all walks of life to see themselves wearing this badge and know that here, they can build a career that truly matters. The LAPD is not just a place to work – it's a place to serve, to innovate and to lead."

The "Unrivaled Since 1869" campaign is focused on engaging a new generation of recruits, specifically young adults ages 21-35.

For information, visit [lapdunrivaled.com](https://lapdunrivaled.com).





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# Federal cuts jeopardize programs for the disadvantaged

## ■ Foster youth among those impacted

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

State and local leaders are denouncing plans announced on April 25 by the Trump administration to cut \$400 million in funding to AmeriCorps, the federal agency that supports volunteer and service programs throughout the United States.

The cuts could have a wide-ranging impact on programs in California that provide services to people in need, including children. The state received approximately \$133 million from AmeriCorps in 2024, which provided funds for children’s programs, food banks, health clinics, youth centers, veterans’ facilities, nonprofits and faith-based organizations offering services in communities. California Attorney General Rob Bonta joined a coalition of attorneys general in 25 states that filed a lawsuit on April 29 seeking to block the cuts. The lawsuit claims the Trump administration’s abrupt decision to end the funding is illegal, violating Congress’ power to allocate funds and the Constitution’s separation of powers, and impeding the agency’s ability to function. State leaders said the dismantling of AmeriCorps will inflict “immediate and irreparable” harm to programs.

“By abruptly canceling critical grants and gutting AmeriCorps’ workforce and volunteers, DOGE is dismantling AmeriCorps without any concern for the thousands of people who are ready and eager to serve their country, or for those whose communities are stronger because of this public service,” Bonta said. “In California, AmeriCorps volunteers build affordable housing, clean up our environment and address food insecurity in communities across our state. California has repeatedly

taken action to hold the Trump administration and DOGE accountable to the law, and we stand prepared to do it again to protect AmeriCorps and the vital services it provides.”

The announcement of federal cuts has created fear and uncertainty for many nonprofits that help vulnerable segments of the population. Court Appointed Special Advocates of Los Angeles, or CASA/LA, whose staff and volunteer advocates help children in foster care navigate the legal system, is facing \$1 million in cuts. CASA/LA CEO Dr. Charity Chandler-Cole said the organization is working to find new ways to continue providing support for 1,100 youth annually, and training 1,100 volunteer advocates.

“Every day, our staff and our volunteers stand beside hundreds of children who are in the system who already face unimaginable hardships and are going through a lot of gaps and uncertainty, and our advocates are often the only consistent adult support in their lives,” Chandler-Cole said. “We received notification on [April 25] from AmeriCorps that effective immediately, our \$1 million in funding that we rely on to recruit and train our volunteers, which are the backbone of our organization, will be cut. Our funding was completely eliminated, which means you have, in essence, to immediately lay off your staff, which we haven’t done yet. We need our staff to continue to serve our young people, but due to the sudden and really unprecedented federal executive cuts, it’s putting our critical services for the most vulnerable youth at risk. And we don’t know what’s coming next.”

Chandler-Cole said CASA/LA receives approximately 50% of its funds from federal and state sources, and the other half from foundations and private donors. She said plans are being formulated on how to move forward and there

are no plans to end services. The organization is holding its “Reimagine Gala Benefitting Youth in Foster Care and Juvenile Justice Systems” on May 2 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel downtown and is calling for support.

“We’re trying to put together a plan to be able to restructure our organization to have the least amount of impact directly on the children we’re serving,” Chandler-Cole added. “It’s pretty dire. And because our political and social climate is so unpredictable, we’re fearful of relying on federal state funding, because it could just be taken from us in a blink of an eye.”

In the face of cuts, Gov. Gavin Newsom is bolstering the California Service Corps and California Volunteers program and is encouraging people to join. The California Service Corps is the largest service force in the United States and offers four paid service programs: the Californians For All College Corps, California Climate Action Corps, Youth Service Corps and AmeriCorps California. Participants, such as college students and those seeking part-time work, can earn up to \$10,000. Those 18 and over can also join numerous community service programs through California Volunteers.

“DOGE isn’t just cutting jobs, they’re attacking the very people who keep California strong,” said Josh Fryday, director of the Governor’s Office of Service and Community Engagement, also known as GO-Serve. “They’re coming after the service members who responded to the L.A. fires, the tutors helping our kids and the young leaders caring for our seniors. It’s outrageous, it’s illegal and we won’t back down. In California, we’re not just defending service, we’re strengthening it. California is doubling down, and we trust the courts will strike this down and uphold the values we fight for every day.”

For information on volunteering with CASA/LA, visit [casala.org](https://casala.org). For information on other volunteer and paid service programs, visit [californiavolunteers.ca.gov](https://californiavolunteers.ca.gov).



photo courtesy of CASA/LA

CASA/LA’s adult advocates help foster children navigate the legal system. For many youths, the program is the only support they have.

# Cedars-Sinai highlights twin volunteers

Cedars-Sinai marked National Volunteer Week from April 20-26 by spotlighting two of the medical center’s youngest volunteers with a very special bond – they are identical twins.

Zoie and Midori Punzalan, 20, are studying to become registered nurses and are supplementing schoolwork with hands-on experience as Cedars-Sinai volunteers.

“They give of themselves incredibly,” said Michele Prince, director of volunteer services for Cedars-Sinai. “They come in for the morn-

ing shift at 5 a.m. They’re getting up way before dawn and coming all the way here to serve the hospital.”

The twins work on separate nursing floors, helping nurses start the day by filling supplies, cleaning workstations and assisting with patient requests.

“It doesn’t even feel like a job or a duty,” Zoie Punzalan said. “It feels like a calling for us. It makes us feel good to be here every time.”

Midori Punzalan said that when her alarm goes off before dawn, she reminds herself that someone at the

hospital needs her.

“They are here and they need our help,” Midori Punzalan said.

The twins are members of Transforming Care at the Bedside, a program for people interested in health care careers.

“The volunteers are placed on nursing units to be exposed to the work of nurses, physicians and other health care professionals and see a wide variety of careers they can choose from,” Prince said.

The volunteers have nursing mentors and both said they are learning skills that will assist them in the future. They particularly enjoy interacting with patients.

“I love going into patient rooms and asking how they are doing and if they need anything,” Zoie Punzalan said.

“I’m pretty sure it’s going to help me be more resilient and more attentive to patient needs,” Midori Punzalan added.

The twins hope to earn degrees and come back to Cedars-Sinai as nurses.

“There are 1,200 Cedars-Sinai employees who were once volunteers,” Prince said. “And perhaps Zoie and Midori will be among them one day.”

For information about volunteering, visit [cedars-sinai.org/blog/volunteers-needed-wanted.html](https://cedars-sinai.org/blog/volunteers-needed-wanted.html).

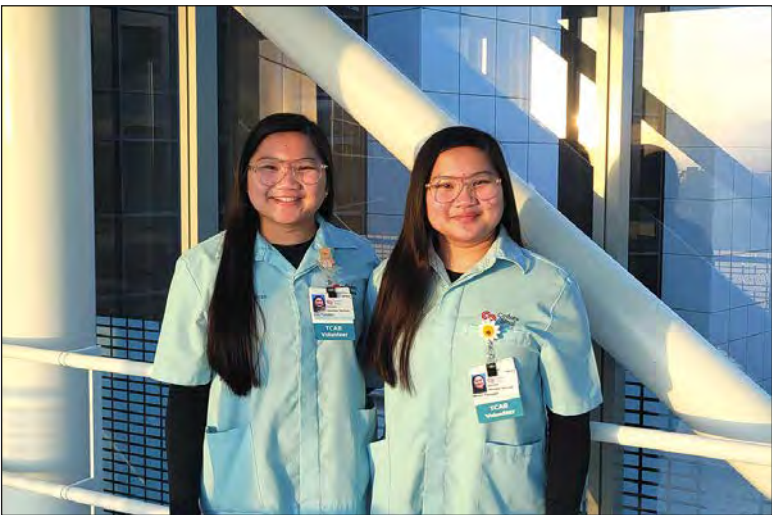


photo courtesy of Cedars-Sinai

Zoie and Midori Punzalan are gaining valuable experience at Cedars-Sinai while pursuing careers in nursing.

## When a Giant Falls: What the Closure of MASH Means for Our Veterinary Community

The recent closure of Metropolitan Animal Specialty Hospital (MASH) in Hollywood, one of Los Angeles’s most prominent veterinary emergency hospitals, marks the end of an era — and the beginning of a reckoning.

For years, MASH filled a critical need in our neighborhood, handling trauma cases, surgeries, and urgent crises around the clock. Even the largest hospitals aren’t immune to the mounting pressures in veterinary medicine.

I practiced at MASH briefly as a relief veterinarian in 2022 and 2023. It was an extremely well-run hospital with fantastic specialists – but like most 24-hour facilities, it was facing hard staffing shortages during a COVID boom in pet ownership. I spent four years doing overnight ER shifts in Seattle, and I remember the toll all too well: the physical exhaustion, emotional strain, and isolation of working while the rest of the world sleeps.

There’s growing research behind what many of us veterinary workers experience firsthand. **Overnight shift workers are about 30% more likely to suffer from depression, and for women, that risk jumps to 70%. Long-term overnight work is linked to a 21% decrease in healthy aging and a 38% higher risk of early death from heart disease.**

This isn’t just about patient load – it’s about the sustainability of the model. Staffing shortages across the country have made it harder to keep emergency hospitals fully operational. When the system relies on chronically overextended teams, something has to give.

The old model – many overburdened primary care veterinarians and a few overstretched ERs – is starting to fracture. Urgent care also offers a more livable path for staff, with extended but not overnight hours – a model that supports both patient care and professional longevity. It’s designed to manage same-day, serious cases that don’t require ICU-level support: lacerations, limping, vomiting, pain, and minor to moderate procedures and surgeries.

I own and run a veterinary urgent care on Melrose. It wasn’t meant to replace emergency hospitals, but to offer something in between that felt a bit more welcoming and reasonable. In response to MASH’s closure, we’ll be expanding our hours starting June 1 to help meet the need. More to come on this.

MASH’s closure is a loss – but also a call to rethink how we care for pets, and for the people who dedicate their lives to helping them.

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. He will be hosting a weekly article right here—please email us with your pet-related questions and topics you’d like covered: [hello@pp.vet](mailto:hello@pp.vet)



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# Armenians hold rally at Turkish consulate to commemorate 110 years of resilience

■ Local leaders recognize genocide

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Hundreds of people gathered in Beverly Hills for Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day on April 24. Demonstrators took to the 8500 block of Wilshire Boulevard outside the Consulate General of Turkey, waved Armenian flags, chanted phrases including “Armenians united will never be divided” and condemned the actions of Turkey and Azerbaijan.

The Armenian Genocide is often called the first genocide of the 20th century, and refers to a period of time between 1915-16 where up to 1.2 million Armenians were killed by the ruling party of the Ottoman Empire. The Turkish government has since denied that the actions were a genocide, despite international acknowledgement of deliberate ethnic cleansing.

“April 24 is not just a reminder of the 1915 genocide of the past, but instead a reminder to ourselves that we must continue to fight as our people face a modern day genocide only 7,000 miles away,” Armenian Youth Federation member Lana Tolmajaian said. “We are here today to send this very message to the same bloodthirsty regimes that have committed genocide in 1915 and in 2023 ... Today, tomorrow and for days to come, the Armenian Youth Federation, along with the greater Armenian community, will not be silent.”

In the past two years, the day of commemoration has taken on a new meaning for many, as Azerbaijan launched a military operation of the predominantly Armenian-populated Artsakh region in 2023.

Haig Minasian, chair of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation Shant Student Association, said he grew up attending the yearly Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day event, where he connected with members of his community.

“This is where we find our community and find those people that



photo by Tabor Brewster

A one-block stretch Wilshire Boulevard in Beverly Hills was flooded with demonstrators on April 24, Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day.

share how we feel about this issue. We can share in that pain and also see that we’re not alone in that capacity,” Minasian said. “Being Armenian has given me more than I can ask for. It’s given me culture, food, family, friendship, community, purpose, meaning in life.”

He added that it is important for non-Armenians to recognize the ongoing plight of Armenian people.

“Impunity and a lack of justice leads to empowered dictators to continue what they started 100 years ago,” Minasian said. “It’s still real to us. It’s still happening.”

Former President Joe Biden became the first sitting president to formally recognize the Armenian Genocide in 2021. This year, although President Donald Trump acknowledged April 24 as “Armenian Remembrance Day,” he did not include the word “genocide” anywhere in his statement, drawing criticism from Armenian advocacy groups including the Armenian National Committee of America.

The Los Angeles area is home to

the world’s largest Armenian community outside of the country, and many local leaders expressed support for Armenians on April 24.

“Today on the 110th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, we reflect on our city’s deep-rooted Armenian heritage and stand united in remembrance and resilience,” Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said in a statement.

“Today, we pause to remember the Armenian Genocide and stand in solidarity with the Armenian community,” Beverly Hills Mayor Sharon Nazarian said. “Through remembrance, we honor the past and continue to stand for unity and respect among all people.”

“We’re gathered here to remember and say quite simply – the Armenian people must have a voice in their future, and we must be brave enough to amplify their voices,” U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) said at a commemoration in Burbank. “We have to remember all that has happened and all that will happen if we refuse to act. The cost of forgetting is far too great.”

# Beverly Hills teachers’ union voices concerns

■ Agreement with district not yet reached

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Members of the Beverly Hills Education Association – the local teachers’ union – attended the Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education meeting on April 29 to voice concerns over the lack of an agreement to determine salaries and benefits for the upcoming school year.

The district and union began negotiations in January. BHEA President Katie Warren stated that the union and school district were scheduled to negotiate on April 16, but no one from the district showed up. She said the union was then notified that the district would not be prepared to make a counter offer until June 1, due to an “ongoing leadership transition” and a May 6 budget review.

“Since March, these educators have faced profound and sudden changes,” Warren said during the meeting. “The superintendent has resigned, critical cabinet members who support our teachers have departed, entire school site administrations have been removed without any explanations as to why, there has been minimal teacher input into the hiring of the next administration. Now the board is

undermining them yet again by sending them off to summer vacation without a contract. These educators, they do not know what their class size will be. They do not know what their salary will be or what benefits they will have access to.”

She said the district’s planned counteroffer date of June 1 – one day after the school year ends – is too late.

“I would like to remind you that the last day of school is May 30,” Warren said to the board. “This is deeply disappointing. These delays have not only tested our patience, they’ve tested the good will and trust that are essential to any successful negotiation.”

Warren stated that the BHEA remains hopeful of reaching an agreement before the end of the school year, and that the union would still attend a scheduled meeting on May 1.

“We remain fully committed to working collaboratively with BHEA to reach a fair and timely agreement,” said Jason Hasty, BHUSD assistant superintendent of business services, in a statement. “Our goal is to ensure our educators have clarity before the end of the school year. We’re doing everything we can to keep conversations moving forward in a productive and respectful manner.”

# Beverly Hills releases updated hazard mitigation plan

The city of Beverly Hills has updated and released a new Local Hazard Mitigation Plan which helps property owners better prepare for and recover from natural disasters. The community is invited to read and respond to the report through May 5, after which it will be adopted and finalized.

Benefits of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan include increased resilience, grant eligibility and community involvement. The LHMP evaluates how Beverly Hills can bet-

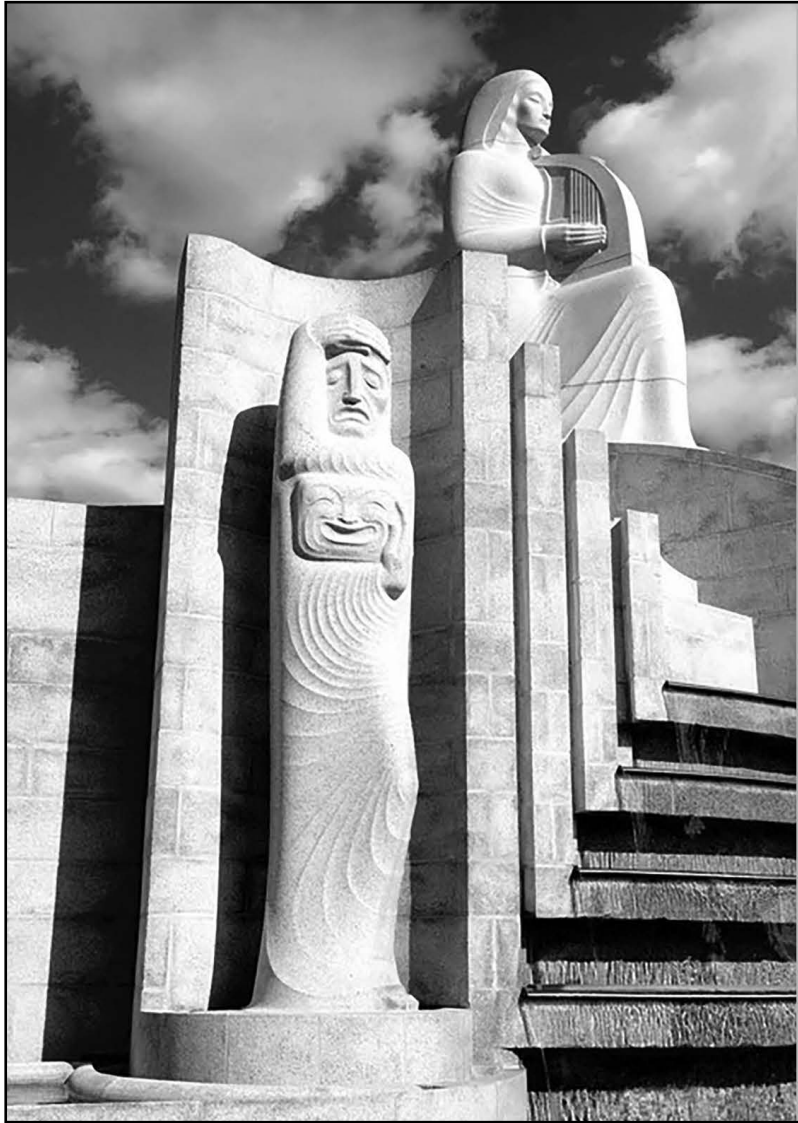
ter withstand and recover from natural disasters by identifying and prioritizing actions that property owners and the city can take to reduce risk. Adoption of the LHMP is a prerequisite for Federal Emergency Management Agency and California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services grant programs.

To access the draft LHMP, visit [beverlyhills.org/1447/Hazard-Mitigation-Plan-Update](https://beverlyhills.org/1447/Hazard-Mitigation-Plan-Update). Comments may be emailed to [hazardmitigation@beverlyhills.org](mailto:hazardmitigation@beverlyhills.org).

# L.A. River cleanup rescheduled for May 24

Friends of the L.A. River invites everyone to join on May 24, previously scheduled for April 26, for a twist on its monthly cleanup, Habitat Restoration Day & Earth Month Celebration. In collaboration with California Native Plant Society, 500 dedicated volunteers will gather to remove 15,000+ gallons of invasive vegetation, restoring one acre of land at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Preserve. Volunteers will participate in educational activities like a nature walk, making native seed balls, discovering how water flows through the region with FoLAR’s watershed table and exploring informational tables. FoLAR’s Habitat Restoration Day is free and open to the public.

Registration is open for all ages. Shifts start at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. at Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, 6350 Woodley Ave., Van Nuys. For information, visit [support.folar.org/event/habitat-restoration-day-and-earth-month-celebration/e664425](https://support.folar.org/event/habitat-restoration-day-and-earth-month-celebration/e664425).



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LOS ANGELES

photographs by  
ROBERT LANDAU

Please join us on  
Saturday, May 3rd, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
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Street parking available nearby



# Beverly Hills man charged for attack on UCLA campus

■ L.A. City Attorney announces charges against Edan On

BY TABOR BREWSTER

A Beverly Hills man has been charged by the Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office for allegedly assaulting a pro-Palestinian demonstrator on UCLA’s campus in April 2024. Edan On, who according to CNN was a Beverly Hills High School student at the time, is charged with two misdemeanors – assault and battery and brandishing a weapon other than a firearm.

City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto announced the charges on April 25.

“After careful consideration, we are filing criminal charges against two individuals and sending three others to city attorney hearings,” Feldstein Soto said. “I want to thank the attorneys in my criminal branch for their dedication to the rule of law and their commitment to objectively evaluating the evidence and referrals received on each of these matters.”

The case was referred to the city attorney’s office by former Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón, who declined to pursue felony charges against On. Gascón said his office did not find evidence of a felony, and thus referred it to the city attorney’s office, which prosecutes misdemeanors.

According to the city attorney’s office, it received over 300 referrals from arrests made during the large-scale protests on the campuses of UCLA and USC in spring 2024. On is one of just two individuals facing criminal charges from the incidents on the campuses.

“Most of these cases were declined for evidentiary reasons or due to a university’s failure or inability to assist in identification or



photo by Tabor Brewster

The alleged attack occurred during a pro-Palestinian encampment on UCLA’s campus in April 2024.

other information needed for prosecution,” a news release from the city attorney’s office read. “Both universities were also the scene of arrests for criminal conduct that compromised the safety of other individuals or the public, for which other filing decisions, including criminal charges, have been made.”

On was arrested by the UCLA Police Department on May 23, 2024, at a business in Beverly Hills. He was then released on a \$30,000 bond.

“On the night of Tuesday, April 30, 2024, a group of instigators came to Royce Quad and violently attacked students, faculty and staff members who were engaged in an encampment at that location,” a UCLA Police Department statement read. “During that violence, one individual was seen on video assaulting encampment occupants with a wooden pole, causing serious injuries to at least one victim. UCLA Police Department detectives conducted an investigation

that included interviewing victims, speaking with witnesses and reviewing security camera footage and videos from members of the public and the media.”

Through the investigation, the UCLA Police Department identified the individual as On.

In videos posted to social media after the attack on April 30, a man in a white mask and white hooded sweatshirt could be seen attacking pro-Palestinian activists at the encampment. CNN identified the man as On, after interviewing On’s mother Sharon On-Siboni, who bragged about On’s actions in now-deleted Facebook posts. She also confirmed to CNN that On was a Beverly Hills High School senior. On-Siboni later walked back her comments and denied that On was at the encampment.

The Beverly Hills Unified School District would not confirm whether On was a student at Beverly Hills High School, citing federal law and school privacy policy.

## Jewish Family Service LA contracts with FEMA to help fire survivors

Jewish Family Service LA announced a two-year contract with FEMA to offer disaster case management services to survivors of the L.A. wildfires. Services include helping survivors find emergency shelter and access FEMA financial assistance for essential items and expenses not covered by insurance.

JFSLA will begin offering case management services immediately through a FEMA subcontract with California Catholic Charities. Case workers will help survivors navigate the FEMA application and appeals process, connect clients to crisis counseling, legal services for help with insurance claims and assistance with contractor bids for rebuilding.

“Many in Los Angeles are facing

unprecedented loss and unfortunately, the hardest part has just begun,” JFSLA CEO Eli Vietzer said. “This contract allows JFSLA to expand its reach and provide the services and support Angelenos need to rebuild their lives.”

JFSLA has the capacity to serve 320 clients throughout the duration of the contract. The program will primarily operate out of the Pico-Robertson Family Resource Center, and clients can participate for as long as needed, up to two years. JFSLA received additional funding from Cedars-Sinai and Jewish Federation Los Angeles to cover the program’s startup and overhead costs, as well as a \$250,000 grant from the FireAid benefit concert for

fire relief resources.

In addition to helping wildfire survivors connect with community resources and benefits, all other programs that are part of JFSLA’s support services are also available to wildfire survivors. It includes the SOVA Community Food and Resource Program, senior programming and community dining centers, mental health counseling and support for survivors of domestic violence.

“This partnership helps us provide critical resources to those impacted by the Los Angeles wildfires,” said Sylvia La Malfa, senior vice president of programs and services and chief program officer of JFSLA.

The FEMA subcontract expands JFSLA’s scope and aligns with the organization’s goal of ensuring programs remain responsive to the evolving needs of Los Angeles. For information, visit jfsla.org.

## BH to test emergency sirens

The city of Beverly Hills will conduct a citywide test of its Outdoor Warning System on May 14 as part of the City Council’s goal of enhancing public safety during an emergency.

During the test, all 12 sirens will be activated starting at approximately 1 p.m. for about three minutes. The sirens have been placed to ensure the broadcast is heard in all parts of the city’s residential and business districts. No action is

required from the community during the test.

“The terrible wildfires just a few months ago reminded us that immediate information is essential in any kind of disaster,” Mayor Sharona Nazarian said. “The OWS system is another valuable notification tool. During an emergency, you will also receive information from the city by phone, text, email, social media, beverlyhills.org and radio broadcasts.”

In a real emergency, a siren to warn of approaching danger would sound followed by instructions in multiple languages. For example, information on whether the community should evacuate, shelter in place or take other safety measures would be provided.

The city will be testing the sirens periodically to ensure they are operating effectively and that residents are familiar with the program. To view a map of the siren locations and for information, visit beverlyhills.org/outdoor-warning.

## Schiff, Padilla denounce changes in Civil Rights Division

U.S. Senators Alex Padilla and Adam Schiff (both D-Calif.), members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, demanded answers on April 28 from the Department of Justice concerning the Trump administration’s efforts to dismantle the department’s Civil Rights Division. The senators separately called for Sen. Eric Schmitt (R-Mo.), chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, to immediately hold an oversight hearing with Assistant Attorney General Harmet Dhillon, who is leading the DOJ’s Civil Rights Division, on its politicization.

In a letter to Attorney General Pam Bondi, Dhillon and DOJ Inspector General Michael Horowitz, the senators expressed concerns about directives issued by the Trump administration that could jeopardize the division’s work to enforce and protect the constitutional and statutory civil rights of the American people.

“According to public reporting, at least five of the division’s sections have received directives via email to employees which change long-standing division enforcement objectives. The five sections are meant to protect voting rights, prevent discrimination by federal funding recipients, investigate illegal bias in housing, prohibit

discrimination in education and defend the rights of those with disabilities. The directives have not been shared publicly,” the senators wrote. “Based on the reporting, these directives may well be inconsistent with Congress’s intent in enacting the landmark civil rights legislation that is enforced by the division.”

The senators also expressed concerns about reports that division leadership no longer includes any career officials, and that enforcement oversight responsibilities traditionally managed by career deputy assistant attorneys general have been transferred to political appointees. The restructuring of the division also included the reassigning or departures of career supervisors.

“These losses mirror a similar pattern across the Department of Justice, including the removal of career officials from the Office of Professional Responsibility and the firing of the pardon attorney,” Schiff and Padilla wrote. “The division relies on the abilities and knowledge of its career staff to carry out the great responsibility of enforcing the nation’s civil rights laws without regard to politics.”

For information, visit padilla.senate.gov and schiff.senate.gov.

## Officers welcome community at Police Service Day in Beverly Hills

Join the Beverly Hills Police Officers Association and Benevolent Fund for its annual Police Service Day and Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, May 4, from 8:30-11 a.m. at 464 N. Rexford Drive.

The event includes BHPD booths with the K-9 and SWAT teams, a photo booth and station tours.

Enjoy a fun-filled family event with pancakes, coffee and interactive demonstrations by Beverly Hills police officers. The event is sponsored by The Beverly Hilton, Cain International and Golden West Food Group.

Admission and parking are free. For information, call (310)550-4551.



photo courtesy of the BHPOA

The BHPOA’s Service Day includes station tours and interactive police demonstrations.

## Notable Quotes

“I ask you to ensure that humanity is served by wealth and not ruled by it.”

Pope Francis (Dec. 17, 1936-April 21, 2025)

The 266th head of the Catholic Church spoke these words in a message to the World Economic Forum in January 2014. Pope Francis was laid to rest on April 26. The papal conclave to choose the next leader of the Catholic Church will begin on May 7.

source: weforum.org



# L.A. landmarks turn blue for Make-A-Wish Foundation

BY RANCE COLLINS

Los Angeles was illuminated in blue on April 29 for World Wish Day. The event honored the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which is celebrating its 45th anniversary.

“Lighting up Los Angeles blue is a powerful visual reminder of the hope, strength and joy that wishes bring to children and families across our city,” said Aparna Pande, who serves as the president and CEO of Make-A-Wish Greater Los Angeles. “We are a local community organization, and we serve the children of Los Angeles. The funds we raise go directly to granting wishes to local children. As a city and a community, we can work together to deliver hope and support our wish kids, their families and their communities.”

Major Los Angeles landmarks were illuminated in shades of blue, including L.A. City Hall, the Ferris wheel at the Santa Monica Pier and Dodger Stadium.

“It is a day that our organization and our community partners really celebrate how many children and families have been impacted or moved by the power of a wish,” Make-A-Wish Greater Los Angeles marketing and communications director Anne McGregor said.

Make-A-Wish is a nonprofit that makes dreams come true for seriously ill children. The first wish was granted in 1980, and since then over 600,000 wishes have been granted, many of which have been facilitated by the Los Angeles chapter.

“Last year, we had almost 400 kids come to L.A. for their wish,” McGregor said. “There was a kid who wished to go to the Grand Central Market. He was an L.A. kid, so his wish was to go downtown and have a whole foodie day. So, he got to have a special experience at the market with the food and the food vendors and was just treated like a VIP – [he even] rode in a limo there.”

McGregor recalled one particularly moving wish with a child who wanted to be a perfumer for a day.

“She was from the Bay Area, so she came down here because our wish granting team found a boutique perfumery called By Rosie Jane, [which is] carried at Sephora. This little girl had a brain tumor, and the way the brain tumor was growing, it was pushing on her optic nerves, and she had lost 85% of her sight. Scent had become so important to her since she had lost a lot of her vision. Her parents said she really liked science and she liked scents, and so she was always making her

own concoctions of fragrances,” she said.

The made and took home a bottle of her own unique fragrance, complete with its own special label.

It’s no wonder that Los Angeles’ iconic landmarks were thrilled to join the cause.

“Pacific Park is honored to once again join Make-A-Wish Greater Los Angeles in lighting up blue for World Wish Day,” said Nathan Smithson, the marketing and business development director at Pacific Park. “As the Ferris wheel glows over the Pacific Ocean, it serves as a beacon of hope and joy for wish kids and their families. We’re proud to support this incredible cause and invite our guests to ride with purpose and help make more wishes come true.”



photo courtesy of Make-A-Wish Greater Los Angeles

The Ferris wheel at Santa Monica Pier was lit blue on April 29 to honor Make-A-Wish’s 45th anniversary.



photo courtesy of Friends of Robinson Gardens

The May 17 garden tour event includes a luncheon and a silent auction.

## Experience ‘Floral Fantasia’ at Virginia Robinson Gardens

On Saturday, May 17, the Friends of Robinson Gardens presents the 36th annual Garden Tour and Showcase Estate fundraiser. This year’s theme, “Floral Fantasia,” celebrates the healing power of nature.

The annual event raises much-needed funds for the preservation and restoration of the Virginia Robinson Gardens, a landmarked historical estate built in 1911.

The enchanting self-guided tour will feature three properties rarely open for garden lovers to visit in Beverly Hills, as well as the estate at the Virginia Robinson Gardens. A not-to-be missed highlight of the event is the transformation of select rooms of the main house by top florists.

Gourmet delights are another favorite part of the glamorous gar-

den party. A luncheon will be served, and visitors will be entertained by an informal modeling show presented by Sheila On Sunset. There will also be a hat contest with prizes in three categories: “most glamorous,” “best fascinator” and “best floral fantasia.” Visitors are encouraged to wear a favorite hat or create their own.

The event also includes a boutique with vendors showing fashions, bags, hats, jewelry, charms for charm bracelets, French tablecloths, candles and unique gifts for the home and garden.

A silent auction will offer unique experiences and items, from restaurant experiences to cooking demonstrations and stays at iconic hotels.

For information and to purchase Garden Tour tickets, call (310)550-2087 or visit [robinsongardens.org](http://robinsongardens.org).

### Join the Larchmont Spring Block Party on May 4

The third annual Larchmont Spring Block Party will be held on Sunday, May 4, from noon-5 p.m. in the 500 block of North Bronson Avenue.

Spend an afternoon meeting and speaking with neighbors and getting involved with building the community. Live entertainment, arts and crafts, children’s games, pet adoptions and exhibits are included. The Larchmont United Neighborhood Association is sponsoring the event. All proceeds will go to the Alexandria House, a transitional home for women and children, and LUNA, for neighborhood initiatives. Volunteers are sought and donations are accepted. For information, visit [larchmontvillageblockparty@gmail.com](mailto:larchmontvillageblockparty@gmail.com).

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# WeHo opens applications for arts grants

The city of West Hollywood has opened application opportunities for its 2026 Arts Grant Program. The city will host two virtual Arts Grant Program information workshops for those who are interested in applying to learn more about the city’s grant-eligibility requirements and application process, as well as to ask questions.

The Arts Grant Program Workshops will be held online via the Zoom platform on Wednesday, May 21, at 1 p.m. and on Wednesday, May 28, at 1 p.m. First-time grant applicants and returning organizations with new development personnel are strongly encouraged to attend the Arts Grant Program information workshops to become familiar with the application process.

West Hollywood, through its Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission, has managed the Arts Grant Program for 28 years. West Hollywood’s Arts Grant Program provides grant funding to individual artists, artist collectives and non-profit arts organizations for the production, performance or presentation of art projects that take place in West Hollywood, as well as those that serve the West Hollywood community.

Artists and organizations interested in applying may visit [weho.org/arts](http://weho.org/arts) for more information.

# Queer Short Film Festival brings ‘Visibility’ with 2025 event

The Hollywood Queer Short Film Festival, which is now open for submissions, has announced its theme for the 2025 event.

“Last year’s theme was ‘Lions and Tigers and Queers, Oh My,’” festival director Jim Hoffman said. “We had fun with that, but this year we are facing a concerning political situation, posing a serious threat to our community.”

Therefore, the festival has chosen a theme that will acknowledge the role of film festivals in the continuing struggle for LGBTQ+ acceptance and rights.

“Starting in the decade after Stonewall, queer film festivals have been the cutting edge of our liberation and this year we return to a culture war that we thought we had transcended,” Hoffman said. “But the pendulum of history has been swinging away from us for a while now.”

The 2025 Festival theme this year is “Visibility is Resistance.”

The festival is currently evaluating submissions of short films (30 minutes or less) with queer content.

“The submission fees go up at intervals until we close the door, so it’s a good idea to send us your film early,” Hoffman said.

The HQSFF will again screen at Founders Metropolitan Community Church, located at 4607 Prospect Ave. It will consist of four programs, two each day on the weekend of Oct 4-5. Festival passes, good for all four programs, are on sale now at a bargain price of \$45 (down from the usual price of \$65). Visit [hqsff.com](http://hqsff.com) to purchase and more information.



Fun activities for kids will be available at the WeHo Rec Expo and Kids Fair on Saturday, May 3.

# Kids Fair blasts into WeHo Park

The city of West Hollywood will host its WeHo Rec Expo & Kids Fair on Saturday, May 3 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the West Hollywood Park Aquatic and Recreation Center, located at 8750 El Tovar Place, adjacent to West Hollywood Library. Activities will be held outdoors in the park as well as throughout the Aquatic and Recreation Center.

The Rec Expo & Kids Fair is free and open to the public. Those who attend will enjoy demos, giveaways and exciting activities sure to be fun for the entire family. Attendees can also learn more about the city’s recreation pro-

grams, community services, local school and preschool programs, and events for children, adults and older adults. Representatives from both the Sheriff’s and Fire departments will be onsite providing public education and information.

Parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis at the West Hollywood Park Five-Story Parking Structure, located at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., adjacent to West Hollywood Library.

For information about the WeHo Rec Expo, call (323)848-6497 or email [recreation@weho.org](mailto:recreation@weho.org). For the Kids Fair, call (323)848-6510 or email [wehocares@weho.org](mailto:wehocares@weho.org).

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# Metro webinar digs into details of subway work

Learn about construction on the D Line subway project during Metro’s “Lunch with Us” webinar on May 7 from noon-1 p.m.

The webinar will cover work on the Wilshire/La Cienega and Wilshire/Rodeo subway stations in Beverly Hills, including construction timelines and project milestones. To participate, visit [zoom.us/j/96626476708](https://zoom.us/j/96626476708) and use the webinar ID: 966 2647 6708. To join by phone, call (213)338-8477.

The first segment of the new subway line between Wilshire/Western and Wilshire/La Cienega is scheduled to open in fall 2025. In preparation, work is ongoing in staging yards and underground on the Wilshire/La Brea, Wilshire/Fairfax and Wilshire/La Cienega stations.

Street restoration is also ongoing along Wilshire Boulevard near the station sites. Lane closures are in place near the stations, and Metro has announced that full closures of the intersections will be needed on different weekends in June. From Friday, June 13, at 9 p.m. through

Monday, June 16, at 6 a.m., Wilshire Boulevard will be closed between San Diego Way and Spaulding Avenue, and Fairfax Avenue will be closed between Sixth and Eighth streets. The closure supports final paving of the Wilshire/Fairfax intersection.

The intersection of Wilshire/Western will be closed from Friday, June 20, at 9 p.m. through Monday, June 23, at 6 a.m. Wilshire Boulevard will be fully closed between Western Avenue and Saint Andrews Place.

The intersection of Wilshire/La Brea will be closed for repaving between Mansfield and Cloverdale avenues from Friday, June 27, at 9 p.m. through Monday, June 30, at 6 a.m.

Street restoration continues on the north side on Wilshire Boulevard near the Wilshire/La Cienega station. Intermittent lane closures, turn restrictions and sidewalk closures may be necessary on La Cienega and Wilshire boulevards. Two lanes on Wilshire

Boulevard are open in each direction between La Cienega and San Vicente boulevards. Wilshire Boulevard may be reduced to a single lane in each direction during weekends and off-peak hours. Major demobilization work will continue in May in the Gale Staging Yard at the northwest corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Gale Drive.

The second phase of the D Line extension project from Wilshire/La Cienega to Century City is scheduled to open in 2026. It will include the Wilshire/Rodeo and Century City/Constellation stations. Utility installation work is ongoing near the Wilshire/Rodeo station in an alley between North Cañon and Beverly drives, and an alley between North Cañon and Crescent drives.

Preparations for deck panel removal and street restoration are ongoing along Constellation Boulevard between Century Park East and Solar Way. The work is expected to begin in June and is



photo by Edwin Folven

Lanes are closed along the northeast side of Wilshire/La Cienega, where a D Line station entrance/exit will be located.

expected to last approximately two months. Following deck removal, traffic control measures will be reestablished on Constellation Boulevard to support continued construction activities.

The third phase of the subway project from Century City to the Westwood/VA Hospital Station,

which includes the Westwood/UCLA Station, will open in 2027.

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](mailto:purplelineext@metro.net), or visit [metro.net](https://metro.net).

# Metro Board explores expanded options for riders with disabilities

The Metro Board of Directors approved a motion on April 24 authored by director Holly Mitchell and co-authored by directors Katy Yaroslavsky, Jacquelyn Dupont-

Walker, James Butts, Tim Sandoval and Imelda Padilla calling on Metro to gather community input on further improving the transportation system for people with autism and

developmental disabilities.

“It’s important that we co-create the survey with trusted community organizations who work closely with our neurodiverse communities to ensure we capture feedback that reflects lived experiences and leads to meaningful improvements on our transit system,” said Mitchell, who also serves as Los Angeles County Supervisor, 2nd District. “Understanding and meeting the unique needs of our neurodiverse community is key to shaping a world-class transportation system that truly serves everyone.”

Insights gathered from the survey will identify short and long-term solutions and funding required. The recommendations will build on Metro’s existing initiatives for enhancing the ridership experience for people with disabilities which includes Metro’s Coordinated Plan, Section 5310 Program and Office of Civil Rights Management of ADA Compliance.

“We appreciate this board motion that will allow us to better understand how those with autism and other developmental disabilities experience Metro,” Metro CEO

Stephanie Wiggins said. “Making our system more accessible to those with autism will help us make our system more accessible to everyone.”

The survey will be developed and administered in partnership with key stakeholder groups that directly represent and serve residents with autism and developmental disabilities, such as the Special Needs Network, the Wiley Center, and the Aging and Disability Transportation Network.

“This motion is a critical step toward creating a safer, more

responsive public transportation system for individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities. There is a long-standing gap in how we support vulnerable riders, and a countywide survey is the right move. It centers the voices of those most impacted and helps us build real, lasting solutions rooted in lived experience and equity. We’re proud to support Supervisor Mitchell’s leadership in making our systems more inclusive and humane,” said Areva Martin, president and CEO at Special Needs Network.



photo by Edwin Folven

The Metro Board asked for input on making the transit system more accessible for people with autism and disabilities.

# Owners face June 30 deadline for clearing fire debris

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion on April 29 by Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, and Chair Kathryn Barger, 5th District, which will enable the county to remove fire debris from private properties if owners do not act by a June 30 deadline.

The accompanying ordinance also establishes a deadline of June 1 for properties to apply for a debris removal permit – a necessary step to protect the health of the public and natural environment.

“We know that recovery is incredibly difficult – and we appreciate the gravity of what residents are going through,” Horvath said. “While the vast majority of property owners have submitted their right of entry forms during this challenging time, we must take action to ensure that unaddressed properties don’t slow down our collective recovery.”

While a majority of the more

than 12,000 fire-impacted property owners have opted in or out of the county’s Private Property Debris Removal program, approximately 400 properties in unincorporated Los Angeles County have opted out of the program and have not yet completed debris removal projects.

The board adopted an ordinance that requires property owners who have opted for private debris removal to obtain a permit no later than June 1 for debris removal. Once a permit is approved, property owners must complete debris removal by June 30. After that date, Los Angeles County Public Works will have authority to clear debris and recover costs through a lien on a property. All impacted property owners will have the opportunity to appeal before being subjected to summary abatement.

For information, visit [recovery.lacounty.gov/debris-removal](https://recovery.lacounty.gov/debris-removal).



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

Private property owners must remove debris by June 30, or the properties will be cleared by the county.

## Letters to the Editor

### Elimination of L.A. City Health Commission not necessary in budget cuts

Re “Budget reveals tough road ahead for L.A.,” April 24 issue

As the health commissioner representing Council District 5 as well as the president of the Los Angeles City Health Commission, Mayor Bass’ plans to eliminate the Health Commission because of a budget crunch is more than ludicrous. Created by City Ordinance No. 183093 in 2014, no mayor, including Bass, has ever funded the Health Commission one dime.

It runs with volunteer commissioners and unpaid research associates. In fairness to her, two unaffiliated LAPD [officers] for protection, one AV, one city attorney and a city clerk staffer are at commission meetings, but realize that these are all full-time employees and only 25 to 30 total hours annually staffed, so there might be

some minor savings. I also believe that her action is not even legal. Making the analogy, just think of President Trump and USAID, except that we have no budget.

Our meetings are open to the public and over the 11 years of our existence, we have regularly counseled the City Council, mayor and all senior city executives on all matters related to health. Our agendas are always available on the City Clerk’s website to every Los Angeleno as well as every presentation of the experts who have testified before us. Our annual reports are extensive 100-page documents, supported by scientific references and the testimony of those experts.

So why is Mayor Bass really doing this? Is she doing this just for show? The pennies she saves from our abolishment are never going to add up to a billion dollars. Does the mayor not believe that being educated and informed on health issues is important? [On April 21], she had a major production presenting her state of the city. How much did that cost the

taxpayer? Just like her going to Ghana and numerous other PR stunts she does, there are costs to the taxpayer associated with every photo op. Multiple times, she has expanded her PR department. How many communications officers does she now employ? None are being let go.

Here’s a suggestion for our photo op mayor: get rid of most of your PR staff and save some serious money. Alternatively, just resign and save the city \$311,879 plus benefits. I’m sure that numerous civic leaders including recent candidates Caruso, Greiwe, Feuer, Gruel or Schwartz would do the job for \$1. Most of the readers of the Beverly Press would take the job just to live rent free in the city mansion in Hancock Park. Furthermore, most of the City Council members would gladly add the title of acting mayor to their resume.

*Dr. Howard C. Mandel  
president  
Los Angeles City Health  
Commission*



RESTAURANT NEWS

Spend Derby Day at BOA

This weekend, BOA Manhattan Beach is celebrating the Kentucky Derby on both Saturday, May 3, and Sunday, May 4, with classic and refreshing \$20 Mint Juleps and fun and decadent \$15 Derby Pie as well as encouraging guests to dress in their best race day attire. For information, visit [boa steak.com/locations/manhattan-beach](http://boa steak.com/locations/manhattan-beach) or call (310)683-4080. BOA Manhattan Beach is located at 3110 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Manhattan Beach.

Take Mom to tea on Mother’s Day

Treat Mom to a delightful Mother’s Day tea service in The Living Room at The Peninsula Beverly Hills. Available from May 8-11, families can get together and sample sweet and savory delights

and one-of-a-kind teas, as well as champagne by Laurent Perrier and Dom Perignon. Guests can also experience live music from the on-site classical harpist. Book on OpenTable at [opentable.com/r/the-living-room-presents-afternoon-tea-at-the-belvedere-terrace-beverly-hills](http://opentable.com/r/the-living-room-presents-afternoon-tea-at-the-belvedere-terrace-beverly-hills). The Peninsula is located at 9882 Santa Monica Blvd.

Swirl into Yogurtland for moms, nurses and teachers

Yogurtland offers the perfect opportunity to serve up a swirl of gratitude for the ones who give so much every day. With classic favorites such as plain tart, seasonal offerings like peach tart and chocolate pistachio swirl, and dietary-friendly offerings that include no-sugar-added and gluten free flavors, there’s something for every palate to enjoy. And for those who love a thoughtful (and tasty) gift, Yogurtland gift cards make the per-

Godfrey brings out all the Derby Divas

The Godfrey Hotel Hollywood invites locals and visitors alike to don their most extravagant hats, bold bow ties and Derby Day best for the Hollywood Derby Day Party – a high-energy, fashion-forward celebration with signature L.A. flair. The event is set for May 3 from noon-7 p.m.

Hosted by beloved Hollywood entertainer Billy Francesca and the ever-glamorous Derby Divas, the all-day affair transforms the hotel’s iconic i!O Rooftop into a scene straight out of Churchill Downs. Guests will enjoy a full lineup of live entertainment, including DJ sets by DJ PK and DJ Beau Byron, alongside performances by an all-star drag lineup including Mylique E. Faucett, Shanita Blunt, Karen Beaches, Kay Bebe Queue, and Rico TV. Expect music, movement and non-stop energy from when the gates open to the final toast.

Guests can enjoy BBQ bites, elegant hors d’oeuvres, themed



photo courtesy of The Godfrey Hotel Hollywood

Entertainer Billy Francesca will host the Hollywood Derby Day Party on May 3.

cocktails and signature Mint Juleps all afternoon. Best-dressed contests will be held throughout the day, allowing guests to win prizes and show off their Derby style. With sweeping views of the Hollywood skyline, vibrant décor, and a crowd ready to celebrate, The Godfrey Hotel Hollywood’s

Derby Day Party is poised to be one of L.A.’s standout spring events.

To reserve a spot, visit [eventbrite.com/e/hollywood-derby-day-party-at-the-godfrey-tickets-1310498037909](http://eventbrite.com/e/hollywood-derby-day-party-at-the-godfrey-tickets-1310498037909). The Godfrey Hotel is located at 1400 N. Cahunega Blvd.

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fect token of appreciation for teachers, nurses and moms alike. Mother’s Day is May 11, and National Teachers’ Day and National Nurses Day is May 6. For information and locations, visit [yogurtland.com](http://yogurtland.com).

Take Mom to The Hideaway

Celebrate Mom in style with a Cluxe Mexican-inspired brunch at The Hideaway, located in the heart of Beverly Hills. The \$75 prix fixe menu features indulgent dishes such as guava cream French toast, pescado zarandeado with salsa verde and roja, and steak and eggs with a twist, including grilled filet mignon and a crepa de huevo filled with smoked bacon and queso chihuahua. Guests can also enjoy a decadent dessert platter with flan, churro cookies, strawberries and cream, and spiced Mexican hot chocolate. A dedicated \$25 kid’s menu offers playful, flavorful bites like breakfast quesadillas, fruit-topped waffles and crispy chicken tenders, making it a perfect family-friendly celebration. The Hideaway Beverly Hills is located at 421 N.

Rodeo Drive. For information, visit [thehideawaybeverlyhills.com](http://thehideawaybeverlyhills.com) or call (310)974-8020.

Jazz up brunch with Mom

Famous for its glamorous history and iconic guests, The Beverly Hilton invites all moms to feel like stars on their special day. For those seeking the perfect setting to enjoy Sunday brunch with stunning views, CIRCA 55 offers a Mother’s Day Jazz Brunch designed for celebrating in style on the picturesque rooftop. Guests can enjoy a variety of locally-sourced, seasonally inspired dishes crafted with fresh ingredients, creating an elevated brunch experience to delight every discerning palate. With an expansive menu featuring classic favorites and specialty stations, CIRCA 55 promises a memorable Mother’s Day celebration. Entrées include a sweet and savory maple glazed bacon steak, vibrant paella Valenciana and decadent Eggplant Parmigiana. For brunch lovers, enjoy classic eggs benedict, fluffy scrambled eggs, marble breakfast potatoes and

fresh-baked croissants, pastries and bagels. Other highlights include a charcuterie corner, seafood on ice, dim sum, bright salads and a kids’ corner. For something sweet, Chef Thomas Henzi’s selection of Swiss and Viennese cakes or the beignet station will be the perfect treat. Reservations are available between 11 a.m.-4 p.m., priced at \$155+ per person and \$65+ for children 12 and under.

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo at The Grove

Cinco de Mayo is just days away. Whether celebrating with delicious traditional Mexican cuisine, a refreshing margarita or quality time with your family and friends, The Grove has something for everyone to enjoy. Savor classic dishes like tacos and enchiladas with modern California flair at ALMA’s walk-up taqueria and marketplace or fine-dining area. Tucked under one of the most stunning trees at The Grove, The

See page 16



photo by Wonho Frank Lee

Ristorante Per L’Ora is located inside the historic Hotel Per La.

Spend Mother’s Day at Per L’Ora

Located within the historic Hotel Per La, Ristorante Per L’Ora offers the perfect setting to honor the mother figure in one’s life with a brunch menu that features flavorful classics like the Blitzes made with lemon ricotta and Harry’s berries compote and an egg tartine topped with caviar for an extra indulgence. As a sweet touch every special lady will be welcomed with an amuse bouche upon arrival. The one-of-a-kind celebration of motherhood takes place on Sunday,

May 11, from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. In addition to the limited-edition menu, Ristorante Per L’Ora will also serve offer its regular brunch menu, which includes standout dishes like the Banana Foster Pancakes, topped with dark rum, bananas, mascarpone whipped cream, and the Breeky Burger, made with hot honey pork belly, sumac onions, dijonnaise and a sunny side egg. For information, visit [hotelperla.com](http://hotelperla.com) or call (213)358-0000. Hotel Per La is located at 649 S. Olive St.

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# ‘Heroes and Humanity’ explores career of Jack Kirby

Delve into the six-decade career of legendary comic book artist Jack Kirby (1917–94) with the Skirball Cultural Center’s presentation of “Jack Kirby: Heroes and Humanity,” opening May 1.

Over the course of an extraordinary career, Kirby created some of



photo courtesy of the Skirball Cultural Center

Legendary comic book artist Jack Kirby pioneered many beloved superheroes, including “Fantastic Four.”

the most enduring characters and storylines in the history of American comics. Captain America, The Fantastic Four, The Avengers, OMAC, The X-Men, The Black Panther, Mister Miracle, The Incredible Hulk and the New Gods are among the best-known of the many characters first brought to life by Kirby. Throughout his storied career, he expanded the emotional and intellectual horizons of the comic book medium, championed diversity and helped establish the visual vocabulary of modern popular culture.

“Jack Kirby: Heroes and Humanity” traces his experiences as a first-generation Jewish American born to immigrant parents in Manhattan’s Lower East Side, a soldier who fought in World War II and a successful commercial artist who worked in marginalized creative industries. Kirby was a mentor to a generation of younger comic creators, a resident of New York and Los Angeles, and a proud family man whose Jewish faith remained important throughout his life. The exhibition goes beyond the page, featuring original comic illustrations alongside Kirby’s other

works – many on view for the first time – considering his fine art and commercial art as equally significant.

Kirby remains a pivotal figure in American popular culture, and his influence in the worlds of comics, film, animation, graphic design and pop art is evident more than 30 years after his death.

“Jack Kirby created heroes and reimagined the art of illustration in ways that continue to shape popular culture. His lived experience as the child of immigrant parents shaped the characters that resonated broadly across generations and communities,” said Jessie Kornberg, president and CEO of the Skirball Cultural Center. “As an institution that celebrates the immigrant identity and history of Jewish Americans, we look forward to sharing Kirby’s life and art with our visitors.”

“Jack Kirby: Heroes and Humanity” will be on display until March 1, 2026.

The Skirball Cultural Center is located at 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd. For information, visit [skirball.org/museum/jack-kirby-heroes-and-humanity](http://skirball.org/museum/jack-kirby-heroes-and-humanity).



photo courtesy of The Music Center

Chef Adolfo Perez is the new emerging chef-in-residence at Abernethy’s.

## Abernethy’s welcomes Cilantro’s Chef Adolfo Perez

Abernethy’s at The Music Center announced Chef Adolfo Perez as its next emerging chef-in-residence. Known for his heartfelt approach to Mexican cuisine and his beloved eatery Cilantro Mexican Grill, located in North Hollywood, Perez brings his bold flavors to a new stage at Abernethy’s. Stepping in to curate the menu for a full-service restaurant, he expands his culinary canvas, blending the soul of Cilantro Mexican Grill with new expressions of his evolving craft.

“I’m very honored to have this opportunity, and I’m looking forward to showcasing my food at Abernethy’s. It’s a big compliment to me to be able to do this,” Perez said. “I enjoy creating a chemistry of sorts among the freshest ingredients, using straightforward preparations to spotlight the flavors of my native Mexican cuisine. I want to make sure, whatever I put out there, pleases people.”

At Abernethy’s, guests will enjoy Perez’s most popular menu

items from Cilantro Mexican Grill for both dinner and brunch, but in an entirely new format. His “surf & turf” burrito will be reimagined as a grilled steak and shrimp fajita entrée, the shrimp taco will be translated into a ceviche, and his shredded beef tacos will be transformed into beef taquitos. Moreover, Perez’s residency offers him an expanded opportunity to showcase new dishes and new ideas with the support of the Abernethy’s team, along with a complementary beverage program.

Raised on a farm in Guanajuato, Mexico, Perez discovered a passion for fresh ingredients. As a child, he experienced cooking with tomatoes, chiles and onions picked that day and, today, embraces the importance of mixing ingredients that make sense together and create dishes that taste delicious and satisfy diners of all ages.

For information, visit [abernethysla.com](http://abernethysla.com) or call (213)972-8088. Abernethy’s is located at 220 N. Hope St.

## Geffen announces 2025-26 season

Geffen Playhouse has announced seven productions that will make up its 2025-26 season lineup, marking the second season from Geffen Playhouse artistic director Tarell Alvin McCraney. The 2025-26 season will launch Sept. 3 and continue through July 12, 2026. The lineup will feature a mix of Los Angeles, West Coast and world premieres.

“Producing live theater is a beautiful challenge,” Alvin McCraney said. “With every show we strive to make compelling connections with audiences and living art. We dedicated more than half of the past year to workshops, readings and deep conversations to push ourselves to meet that challenge with new audiences and emerging artists. It has helped us heighten our collaborative efforts and has brought us a lot of joy along the way. None of this would be possible without the

mighty team here at the Geffen. It’s an honor for us to share these worlds and relationships with our community.”

The one-woman tour-deforce “A I Roxie?” by Roxana Ortega, the

world premiere of “littleboy/littleman,” the West Coast premiere of “Table 17” and the world premiere of “SYLVIA SYLVIA SYLVIA” are among the highlights of the next season.

For information, visit [geffenplayhouse.org](http://geffenplayhouse.org). The Geffen Playhouse is located at 10886 Le Conte Ave.



photo courtesy of Geffen Playhouse

The new season at the Geffen Playhouse will begin in September.

From page 15

Fountain Bar provides a relaxing getaway for day drinking festivities.

Enjoy a fusion of cuisines (including tacos) during Happy Hour at Bar Verde’s new full-service restaurant and bar, offering a fresh selection of local ingredients.

Häagen-Dazs has irresistible delights crafted with rich, super-premium ice cream and sorbet.

It’s all available at The Grove on May 5. For information, visit [thegrovela.com](http://thegrovela.com). The Grove is located at 189 The Grove Drive.

## Dine at a Smith Brothers eatery to help fight brain cancer

Smith Brothers Restaurant Corporation and Keck Medicine of USC Brain Tumor Center are inviting the community to join in the fight against brain cancer. Dine at all three of the Smith Brothers Restaurants – Smitty’s Grill, Parkway Grill and Arroyo Chop House – every Thursday in May, and a percentage of the proceeds will be

donated to support the invaluable research being done at Keck Medicine of USC Brain Tumor Center. For information, visit [smithbrothersrestaurants.com](http://smithbrothersrestaurants.com). Smitty’s Grill is located at 110 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena. Parkway Grill is located at 510 S. Arroyo Parkway, Pasadena. Arroyo Chop House is located at 536 S. Arroyo Parkway, Pasadena.

## Make a pizza at Gourmandise School

The Gourmandise School at Santa Monica Place is teaming up with Doctor Dough and The Curious Palate for DIY Pizza & Craft Beer on May 4 at noon, where guests will get to craft their own personal pizza using fresh dough and premium toppings, then bake it on-site or take it home. And to make it even better, The Curious Palate is offering half off their craft beer pints to complement the perfect slice. For just \$22 per person, attendees will enjoy a hands-on pizza-making lesson and a custom pizza to enjoy, half off craft beer pints from The Curious Palate, and dough provided by Doctor Dough, also available for purchase.

For information and to reserve a spot, visit [cookingschoolsofamerica.com/thegourmandiseschool/index.php?page=classes#11266](http://cookingschoolsofamerica.com/thegourmandiseschool/index.php?page=classes#11266). The Gourmandise School is located at 395 Santa Monica Place, Suite 323, Santa Monica.

## It’s Tequila Sunset on the Strip

This Cinco de Mayo, the Sunset Strip will play host to Tequila Sunset, a weekend-long celebration with local institutions honoring the holiday in vibrant and creative ways. At the heart of the festivities, Andaz West Hollywood will host a series of events celebrating local art and Latin culture. On Sunday, May 4, the hotel’s lobby will feature a live art activation by L.A.-based muralist Samuel Hagai, who will create an original piece inspired by the Sunset Strip’s rich Latin heritage. The live painting will take place from noon-2 p.m. and makes for a great visual opportunity.

The on-site Riot House Restaurant will serve Cinco de Mayo specials all day, including chicken tinga tacos, watermelon margaritas and spicy palomas.

Guests can also enjoy complimentary tequila tastings in the lobby, courtesy of El Cristiano Tequila.

For information, visit [thesunsetstrip.com/tequilasunset](http://thesunsetstrip.com/tequilasunset). The Andaz is located at 8401 Sunset Blvd.

## Have a ‘Global’ Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo fiesta – food, fun, and flavor ... all weekend long. Get ready to celebrate Cinco de Mayo in true fiesta style with Global Dining Inc. Settecento in Downtown Los Angeles, La Bohème in West Hollywood, and 1212 Santa Monica will each be firing it up with sizzling tacos, specialty margaritas and an all-night happy hour that’s sure to bring the heat and the festive atmosphere.

Settecento is located at 700 W. Fifth St. For information, visit [settecentodtla.com](http://settecentodtla.com). La Bohème is located at 8400 Santa Monica Blvd. For information, visit [labohemeweh.com](http://labohemeweh.com). 1212 Santa Monica is located at 1212 Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica. For information, visit [1212santamonica.com](http://1212santamonica.com).

## Chivichanga Pizza available at Pitfire

Pitfire Pizza and Sonoratown team up again this year to create a “Chivichanga Pizza,” priced at \$20 with \$5 from every pizza sold donated to No Us Without You, an organization that provides free food security to underserved communities in the greater Los Angeles area.

An ode to Sonoratown’s famous burrito, the Chivichanga is reimagined on Pitfire Pizza’s sourdough crust made with Sonoratown’s slow-cooked guisado, shredded chicken, monterey jack and mild cheddar cheese, topped with Sonoratown’s classic taco radish, onion and lime. Dippers of avocado crema and Sonoratown’s signature Spicy Chiltepin Salsa are served alongside.

For guests looking to pair with a beverage, Pitfire’s margaritas are also available all day for \$6 (regularly \$12). This special collab pizza will be available at all Pitfire Pizza locations on May 5 for dine-in, take-out and delivery through [pitfirepizza.com](http://pitfirepizza.com) or the Pitfire Pizza app. Pitfire locations include 2018 Westwood Blvd.



# A few quick words on birds, wine and “Top Gun 3”

Random thoughts while wondering what to wear to this year’s prom:

- May mornings can be measured in karats.
- Birds are dinosaurs – or at least distant relatives.
- So, on these May mornings, you’re actually being serenaded by dinosaurs.
- What a wonderful world, right?
- The older I get, the more I crave the warmth of words.
- And the power of suggestion.
- And proms.
- In the end, we’re all impressionable teens.
- “Confront the dark parts of yourself ... Your willingness to wrestle with your demons will cause your angels to sing.” – playwright August Wilson
- I wonder: Do dinosaurs take requests?
- To me, Freddie Freeman is the Dodgers’ Lou Gehrig.
- FYI, “Top Gun 3” is in development and may be out next year.
- Hang in there, theater owners. We’ll be back!
- Predicted plot twist: Maverick gets a new hip.
- In May, Handel’s should offer an ice cream flavor called “Prom Kiss.”
- And, at Christmas, “Handel’s Messiah.”
- “Never argue with someone whose TV is bigger than their bookshelf.” – actress Emilia Clarke
- Wait, is she talking about me?
- Grill tip: Burgers and salmon cook perfectly in the time it takes the chef to drink one beer; chicken, two beers; tri-tip, three.
- FYI, Luca Donicic is the slowest great athlete I’ve ever seen.
- But Steve Kerr is right: An 82-game NBA season is too long.
- “Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit... Living for others is a rule of

by  
Chris  
Erskine



- nature. We are born to help each other.” – Pope Francis
- Check out The Morrison, a legendary pub in Atwater Village, after your next Griffith Park hike.
  - Nature note: For the third year in a row, California received above-average snowfall.
  - And reservoirs are at almost 120% of capacity.
  - Somehow, L.A. wine pours remain at 56% of capacity.
  - Come on bartenders, you’re better than that.
  - “Comedy is a tool of togetherness.” – comedian Kate McKinnon
  - Biggest talent of my lifetime: Paul McCartney.
  - Runner-up: Robin Williams.
  - Fun fact: Proms date back to 1894, when male students at Amherst invited the women from Smith to a dance.
  - Whatever the Dodgers pay Andrew Friedman, it isn’t enough.
  - Trivia time: How old was George Harrison when he joined the Beatles?
  - Aspiring writers should check out “The Sun,” an occasionally remarkable literary journal.
  - “Watch out for the Cubs!” – me at the beginning of every baseball season since 1965.
  - I don’t get all the fuss over “White Lotus.”
  - But “Adolescence” blows my teen-aged mind.
  - Happy May birthdays: Cher, 79; Bono, 65; George Clooney, 64; Tina Fey, 55; Catty Cakes, 4.

- My ultimate prom date? Eleanor Roosevelt.
- Or maybe Helen of Troy.
- RIP, Val Kilmer, a one-of-a-kind actor.
- RIP, John Scheibe, an MVP of The Times’ sports desk for many decades.
- Also, former National Editor Mike Miller, who hired me and changed everything.
- “The experience of ‘Tootsie’ taught me to never work with an Oscar winner who is smaller than the statue.” – screenwriter Larry Gelbart
- When your teacher says your report isn’t long enough, remind her that the Gettysburg Address was only 272 words.
- Remarkably, Lincoln didn’t even use ChatGPT.
- Mookie Betts does for baseball what sunlight does for daffodils.
- Third-favorite Dodger (after Freeman and Betts): Peanut vendor Roger Owens, returning after a long illness.
- Welcome back, my nutty friend.
- Best addiction: Nutty friends.
- Wait, is “nutty friends” redundant?
- Our life is our storybook. Only we get to figure if it’s fun or tragic.
- Just remember: Free will isn’t free.
- FYI, Dodger games are now available on streaming, meaning you don’t need that overpriced Spectrum cable package.
- Best belly rub: a bowl of Tommy’s chili.
- Fun fact II: James Patterson outsells Stephen King, Dan Brown and John Grisham combined.
- A pretty pal’s explanation: Airports.
- To me, lasting power = quality.



photo by Chris Erskine

A grilled burger cooks perfectly in the time it takes for the chef to drink one beer.

- Which explains Beethoven, Dupař’s and those never-ending reruns of “Seinfeld.”
- Favorite under-the-radar L.A. landmark: The Felix Chevrolet sign near USC.
- Unfun fact: Tuition, room and board will reach \$99k next year, according to The Daily Trojan.
- Fight on!
- But bring your wallet.
- “Take care of the many who, for no fault of their own, get the short straws in life. They deserve better.” – Warren Buffett, while filing his record \$27 billion tax payment
- Trivia answer: George Harrison

- was only 14 when he joined the Beatles.
- Obviously, he should’ve been studying.
- “[Bird] conversation was fantastically boring. It was all to do with windspeed, wingspans, power-to-weight ratios and a fair bit about berries.” – Douglas Adams
- Yep, a wonderful world indeed.

A few spots remain for the May 10 Gin & Tonic Society backyard bash in Hidden Hills.  
Interested? Email Letters@ChrisErskineLA.com for details.



photo by Edwin Folven

The public is invited to a celebration at the new store on May 2.

## Vine American Party Store finds new home in Hollywood

Four months after closing the doors of its home of 90 years on Melrose Avenue, Vine American Party Store has reopened six blocks away at 901 S. Vine St.

A grand reopening celebration is planned on May 2. Owner Leslie Macias said she is eager to welcome the community to the store’s new home.

“I’m very excited about the new location,” Macias said. “It’s still a party store, just a little smaller than the original location. We will be doing a lot of balloons, and we have candles and banners and gift wraps. We’ll have a little bit of everything.”

Vine American Party Store, a fixture for 90 years at at Melrose and Wilcox avenue, was acquired by Macias in 2008. She said balloons are in demand, which have long been among the store’s most popular items.

“That’s the big thing right now. I’ve been taking a lot of balloon orders over the phone,” Macias added. “Customers who are calling are excited about the new place. It’s a busy street and a great location.”

Vine American Party Store is located at 901 S. Vine St. For information, call (323)467-7124, or email decorparty@aol.com.

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## Craft Contemporary celebrates a legacy of creativity

Craft Contemporary is holding the 2025 Benefit & Art Auction on Saturday, May 10, at the museum, 5814 Wilshire Blvd. The event will honor the visionary legacy of founder Edith R. Wyle (1918–1999), the Egg and The Eye and the contributions of Bari Ziperstein (BZIPPY), a Los Angeles-based contemporary artist specializing in ceramics and mixed media.

“We are honored to celebrate our visionary founder Edith R. Wyle, and to recognize her singular contributions to craft and to the Los Angeles community. We are also thrilled to honor Bari Ziperstein whose work represents a bold, inspiring direction for contemporary art,” Craft Contemporary executive director Rody N. Lopez said. “It is a testament to these two women that the dinner portion of the evening is sold out, but we hope people will join us in celebrating them at the equally engaging after-party.”

Wyle will receive the museum’s Legacy Award. She opened the Egg & The Eye in 1965 – a blend of

gallery and omelet restaurant led by chef Rodessa Moore. The Egg & The Eye celebrated craft and folk art and brought together the community to experience art from different cultures. In 1973, the Egg & The Eye became the Craft and Folk Art Museum and transitioned to Craft Contemporary in 2018, shifting focus to exhibiting contemporary artists and craft processes. Today, Craft Contemporary showcases artists and their processes through exhibitions and programs, and supports more than 90 educational programs.

Ziperstein will receive the Visionary Award. She primarily

works in ceramics and experiments with materials that explore themes of consumerism, propaganda and the built environment.

The public is invited to a lively museum-wide 1960s-themed after-party with craft cocktails from Kikori Whiskey, sweet and savory bites from Descanso, live DJ music from Gingee of La Papaya Club collective, a raffle, puppet show by the Bob Baker Marionette Theater and a special drag performance by Chantal. The afterparty runs from 8-11 p.m. Craft Contemporary is located at 5814 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit [craftcontemporary.org](http://craftcontemporary.org).



photo by Edwin Folven

The event on May 10 recognizes the history of the museum and its founder.

## Latina-focused haircare launches in WeHo

The beauty industry celebrated a groundbreaking milestone as LATINA, the first Mexican-founded haircare line, which has officially launched at ULTA Beauty USA. The brand’s West Hollywood launch on April 27 event marked a new era for Latina entrepreneurship and representation on shelves across the United States.

Founded by Central Valley native and curly hair advocate Pili, LATINA is rewriting beauty standards for women with textured and curly hair. In 2018, Pili established Rizos Latinos, a vibrant global community of more than 700,000 Latina women, celebrating curls as symbols of identity, self-love and Latin pride.

In 2020, her mission came to life with the creation of LATINA, a clean haircare brand designed to nourish, protect and elevate natural curls.

Within a year, LATINA became the first Mexican haircare brand to be featured at Sephora Mexico. Now, the brand is making history once again, becoming the first Mexican haircare line to launch at ULTA Beauty USA. LATINA’s arrival at ULTA signifies more than commercial success – it stands as a movement of empowerment, identity and pride for Latinas nationwide.

For information, visit [ulta.com/brand/productos-latina](http://ulta.com/brand/productos-latina). ULTA Beauty USA has several locations in Los Angeles, including at the West Hollywood Gateway, 7100 Santa Monica Blvd. Suite 210.



photo courtesy of LATINA

The LATINA haircare line celebrates curls as symbols of identity, self-love and Latin pride.

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# AJU honors exemplary educational leader

American Jewish University hosted its annual gala at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel on Sunday, April 27. The evening honored Harold J. Masor, outgoing chair of the board of directors, celebrating his visionary leadership, transformative impact on Jewish education and communal life and the growth of the university's programs.

The event was emceed by comedian and actor Elon Gold and featured remarks by AJU president Dr. Jeffrey Herbst and Dr. Bruce Powell, dean of the Masor School for Jewish Education and Leadership.

"To serve this increasingly complex, messy and exciting world, Jewish institutions must evolve rapidly," Herbst said. "I came to American Jewish University in 2018 because I believed that the power of a non-denominational university – devoted to Jewish wisdom and spirituality to serve the entire Jewish lifecycle, from young people at Camp Alonim to young adults in

the Brandeis Camp Institute, to college and graduate students to people starting families who were thinking of converting through our Miller Program, to adults who participate in our Whizin Center for Open Learning programs – could be of tremendous service to the changing Jewish world."

Powell highlighted the importance of leadership in making the vision a reality.

"Harold embodies the definition of leadership: have a vision, support the vision and support the professionals who execute the vision," he said. "Because of his financial support, the newly named Masor School for Jewish Education and Leadership has experienced exponential growth and is now the largest degree-granting program in the nation in Jewish early childhood education."

Masor, who served as board chair for four years, remains committed to elevating Jewish education across generations. An active leader

in the Los Angeles Jewish community, he is a founder of de Toledo High School and past president of Adat Ari El synagogue. In 2024, Masor and his wife, Amy, made a landmark gift to AJU's endowment, leading to the renaming of the School for Jewish Education and Leadership in their honor.

"Over the many years of my involvement with the Jewish community in various leadership positions, my main focus has been on the continuity of the Jewish people," Masor said. "I believe that the university has a bright future. As the Jewish world continues to evolve, AJU has the flexibility to grow, adapt and have a presence where it matters most, today and for generations to come."

AJU operates the Familian Campus at 15600 Mulholland Drive and the Ziegler Campus at 350 S. Beverly Drive in Beverly Hills, as well as the Brandeis-Bardin Campus near Simi Valley. For information, visit [aju.edu](http://aju.edu).



photo courtesy of the office of Laura Friedman

Friedman awarded a first place certificate of recognition to Mela Gainer for her piece "Out of Water."

## Friedman hosts art competition

U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) hosted her first Congressional Art Competition on April 23. The contest took place at Glendale Central Library, where student artists, community members and art show judges were able to view more than 30 submissions from 12 schools. Every year, Congressional offices host a Congressional Art Competition and collect submissions from students who live in their district. The first place winner is then invited to travel to Washington D.C. to be recognized at a ceremony with other winning art pieces from other states.

"I am completely in awe of the

sheer amount of talent in this room," Friedman said. "Thank you to our young artists, who spent countless hours creating their masterpieces. Whenever I or a community member steps into our Burbank district office, Washington D.C. office, or the Capitol tunnels, they're going to see the heart and soul of our district."

Friedman presented all student participants with congressional certificates of recognition and took pictures with those present. She also met and spoke to parents of students, as well as art teachers and the contest judges, which included leaders of local museums and art galleries.

## L.A. Zoo hosts bilingual 'Día de los Niños/Children's Day'

The Los Angeles Zoo is hosting "Día de los Niños/Children's Day" on Saturday and Sunday, May 3-4. Don't miss the celebration of children and childhood featuring bilingual (Spanish and English) storytelling, dance performances, education activities and crafts.

Special programming includes animal story time with students from North Hollywood High School Zoo Magnet's Spanish class, live performances by Danza Azteca Xinantecatl and Grupo Folklórico Tradición Mexicana, and an art demonstration with Self Help Graphics & Art in which artists print a custom design on posters using natural pigments. Guests can bring T-shirts for screen-printing. For the best results, light or white cotton or cotton-blend T-shirts are recommended.

The event also includes animal enrichment presentations, education stations, a Plushie Clinic where young visitors can bring stuffed animals or borrow one from the zoo to undergo an imaginary

veterinary exam, and Zoo Babies, highlighting fascinating facts about growth and development in the animal world. A mask craft and giveaway is also included, as well as a peninsular pronghorn observation

activity and giveaway, while supplies last.

The Los Angeles Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive. For information, call (323)644-4200, or visit [lazoo.org](http://lazoo.org).



photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Zoo

Live dance performances are included in the festivities at the zoo.

## El Rodeo students celebrate 'Twin Day'

El Rodeo Elementary School brought joy and creativity to campus on April 22 with its Spirit Week celebration, "Twin Day." Students arrived in coordinated outfits, celebrating friendship and school spirit through matching looks and shared smiles.

The event is part of a weeklong celebration to foster connection, creativity and community across all grade levels. From identical T-shirts to head-to-toe matching ensembles, the enthusiasm on campus was unmistakable.

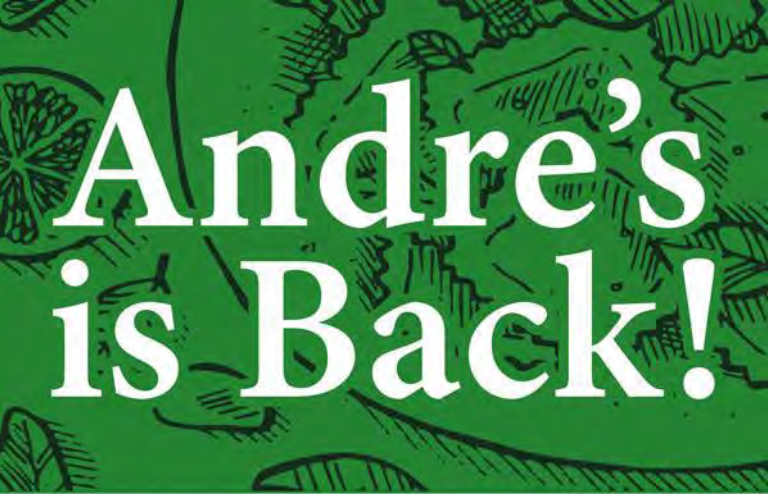
"These moments of joy are so meaningful," El Rodeo Principal Sarah Kaber said. "They reinforce the strong sense of community that defines El Rodeo and support our mission of helping students soar to success."

Spirit Week continues with daily themes that encourage student expression and unity, while strengthening school pride at every grade level.

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



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# BHHS senior to attend UCLA

Beverly Hills High School announced that Ben Bakshian, a member of the class of 2025, will be attending the University of California, Los Angeles. Bakshian will major in neuroscience at one of the top public universities in the nation.

Bakshian’s time at BHHS has been defined by excellence, balance and ambition. Whether in the classroom, in leadership or athletics, he



photo courtesy of BHUSD  
Ben Bakshian will study neuroscience at the university in Westwood.

made the most of every hour. He challenged himself with a demanding schedule of AP courses, completed four levels of French and spent three years in the Medical Science Academy, ultimately serving as MSA co-president.

Beyond academics, Bakshian’s leadership and service set an example. He founded the BHHS club Generation SOS, supporting students in conversations around substance abuse prevention and served as co-president of DECA, empowering young entrepreneurs. Bakshian was also a varsity athlete on the water polo and swim teams and found time to pursue his passion for creativity through the culinary arts program.

Bakshian’s BHUSD journey began in sixth grade at Hawthorne Elementary and continued through BVMS to BHHS.

“Ben is the kind of student who lifts every environment he’s part of,” BHHS Principal Drew Stewart said. “His intellect, leadership and heart have made BHHS a better place, and we can’t wait to see the incredible impact he’ll have at UCLA and beyond.”

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

# BHHS senior to attend Indiana University

Beverly Hills High School announced that Caio Azevedo, a member of the class of 2025, will be attending Indiana University. Azevedo will major in music business through IU’s Kelley School of Business in partnership with the Jacobs School of Music, joining the first cohort of a unique program that bridges the worlds of art and enterprise.

While at BHHS, Azevedo was a varsity soccer player, homecoming king, audio production student and founder of the Brazil club. Azevedo embraced every opportunity to lead and connect with others. Born in Rio de Janeiro and extremely proud of his Brazilian heritage, he has attended BHUSD schools since kindergarten, discovering his rhythm both in and out of the classroom.

Azevedo is also the lead singer and guitarist of Serratonin, a rock band he founded with BHHS peers that has performed on local stages with original music and energy. He’s been playing rock since age 11, pairing his creative passion with business coursework to prepare for

a career as a music producer.

“Caio is a rockstar in every sense,” BHHS Principal Drew Stewart said. “He has a gift for bringing people together through music and creativity, and I know he’ll continue to inspire others at Indiana University and beyond.”

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



photo courtesy of BHUSD  
Caio Azevedo will study music business as an undergraduate student.

# Dodgers and HollyRod Foundation partner for children with autism

The Los Angeles Dodgers, actress Holly Robinson Peete and the HollyRod Foundation hosted an event on April 28 at Dodger Stadium that brought together more than 30 participants in celebration of Autism Awareness Month. The gathering was dedicated to fostering creativity, self-expression and connection among children with autism.

Participants enjoyed a sensory-friendly environment as they explored their artistic talents using water-soluble oil pastels. The event helped the children build confidence and develop communication skills through engaging hands-on activities. The group was greeted by Dodger players Teoscar Hernández,

Tony Gonsolin and Jack Dreyer. Together, they made friendship bracelets using blue and white pony beads and letter charms.

The HollyRod Foundation was founded in 1999 by actress Robinson Peete and her husband, Rodney Peete. The foundation focuses on raising awareness about autism and providing resources for families who have a loved one who has received an autism or Parkinson’s disease diagnosis. The Peetes’ son, RJ, received an autism diagnosis when he was 3 years old. RJ currently works in the Dodgers home clubhouse as an attendant.

For information, visit [hollyrod.org](http://hollyrod.org) and [mlb.com/dodgers](http://mlb.com/dodgers).

# BHUSD leaders visit Capitol Hill

Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education Members Russell Stuart and Sigalie Sabag, together with communications media specialist Colby Gilardian, represented the BHUSD in Washington, D.C. from April 27-30, standing among California’s top education leaders as part of the California School Boards Association’s Coast2Coast Federal Advocacy Program.

Over several days of briefings and strategic meetings, the BHUSD delegation engaged directly with members of Congress, senior federal officials and leading education policy experts. High-level discus-

sions centered on strengthening local control, securing sustainable federal funding, enhancing student safety and protecting the future of public education.

A highlight of the advocacy trip was forging new partnerships with key congressional leaders, including U.S. Rep. Kevin Kiley (R-Rocklin). “We came to Washington to stand for what’s right – parental rights, local control and real opportunity for our kids,” Stuart said. “Education decisions should be shaped by families and communities, not dictated by federal bureaucrats. We’re here to make sure those voices are heard.”

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



photo courtesy of BHUSD  
BHUSD Board Member Sigalie Sabag, right, met with U.S. Sen. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.).

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MAY 4**

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of paramedics  
saving the  
lives of Israeli  
soldiers in  
Gaza

**FRIDAY  
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**Intimate SHABBAT SERVICE - 8 PM**  
“THOSE WHO CHOSE” Men and Women who chose to convert to Judaism  
Led by **Rabbi David Baron**  
with **Cantor Ilysia Pierce,**  
**Hazzan Nathan Lam**  
Music Director **Sharon Farber &**  
joined by **Rabbi Neal Weinberg**

**FRIDAY  
MAY 9**

*Young Adult*  
**SOCIAL SHABBAT**  
at a private home – by invitation only

**THURSDAY  
MAY 15**

Jewish  
comedy,  
culture and  
connection  
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**AVI LIBERMAN**  
**KIRA SOLTANOVICH**  
**JAMIE BLISS**  
**SHAWN PELOFSKY**  
**COMEDY**  
HOST: MEIRAV

**LAnu LAUGHS**

**SATURDAY  
MAY 17**

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A mesmerizing ballet,  
an  
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tale  
**The State Ballet**  
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**Dr. GAD SAAD**  
Professor, evolutionary behavior scientist,  
author, creator of The Saad Truth

**8440 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, CA 90211**  
[boxoffice@wmmts.com](mailto:boxoffice@wmmts.com)



# Stephen Schwartz hosts ASCAP Musical Theatre Fest at The Wallis

The ASCAP Foundation announced programming for the 2025 ASCAP Foundation Musical Theatre Fest, hosted by legendary composer and lyricist Stephen Schwartz. Returning for a third year for two dazzling nights at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts on May 5-6, the fest offers a rare glimpse into the process and craft of musical theater with some of Broadway’s biggest composers.

On Monday, May 5, the fest curtain raises on “Songs from the Cutting Room Floor,” a look at the unheard gems that didn’t make it into some of Broadway’s biggest shows. Schwartz, together with composers, lyricists and librettists Irene Sankoff and David Hein (“Come From Away”) and Karey Kirkpatrick (“Something Rotten,” “Mrs. Doubtfire”), will deliver an evening of intimate performances and stories about spectacular songs

that had to be sacrificed to create a perfect musical. Additional performers will be announced.

The evening is presented with support from the Gary Geld Musical Theatre Foundation.

On Tuesday, May 6, Schwartz hosts the ASCAP Foundation Musical Theatre and Librettist Workshop, featuring a unique double bill of new musicals that gives audience members a sneak peek at what could be the next big ticket on Broadway. Composers will present excerpts from their new musicals and following each presentation, Schwartz will host a feedback session with the writers and other masters of the craft.

The workshop will kick off with the creative team of Roslyn Catracchia and Peter Seibert, who will present an excerpt of their new musical “Piney Needlesmith and the Road Less Traveled.”

For the second show of the evening, Julian Hornik, Khyon Hursey and Mark Sonnenblick will present selections from their new musical, “WEEKEND.”

The concert and workshop double bill are free and open to the public. Reservations are required for both nights and are available at the-wallis.org/concert and thewallis.org/workshop.

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd.



photo courtesy of The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts  
The festival will take place May 5-6 at The Wallis in Beverly Hills.



photo courtesy of the Windsor Square-Hancock Park Historical Society  
The annual tour offers a behind-the-scenes look at some of the most carefully crafted gardens in Windsor Square-Hancock Park.

# Tour the gardens of Windsor Square and Hancock Park

Join the Windsor Square-Hancock Park Historical Society for its annual garden tour on Saturday, May 3, from noon-4 p.m. Pick up wristbands and programs at 355 S. Windsor Blvd. Food and beverages will be available at the location.

This year’s tour features a selection of lovely gardens and personal styles. There are two gardens on Wilton Drive in the Wilton-Ridgewood Historic District. One is a colorful property with true backyard outdoor living, while the other is directly across the street and can be called an urban oasis. Both gardens were created by Sarah Alexander, of Rodriguez & Satterthwaite Landscape.

Another beautiful garden in the tour is located on Lucerne Boulevard at a house designed by architects Walker & Eisen. The 1920 French Normandy-style home features a drought-tolerant English garden designed by Cheryl Kellough.

A fourth extraordinary Windsor Square estate garden by landscape designer Patricia Benner will also be on display, and a fifth garden at a home on Rossmore Avenue adjacent to the Wilshire Country Club golf course was recently added to the tour.

The tour is \$55 for members, \$75 for non-members. For information, visit windsorsquarehancockpark.com/2025/04/2025-garden-tour.

# Obama musical gets second term at Kirk Douglas

Following its acclaimed, sold-out runs in Chicago and L.A., the smash-hit comedy musical “44: The Obama Musical” will return a second terms at the Kirk Douglas Theatre from May 2-June 22.

“44” is a satirical look at the rise and presidency of Barack Obama, as well as the eccentric political characters he met along the way. “44” is written, composed and directed by Eli Bauman, and is produced by Bauman alongside his partner and fellow lead producer Monica Saunders-Weinberg (Hana Black Productions), in association with Anthony “Brew” Brewster, Steve McKeever (Hidden Beach

Recordings), Conrad Bauer, and Shanice and Kerry Gordy.

Tickets start at \$44 and are on sale now at 44theobamamusical

.com/tickets.

The Kirk Douglas Theatre is located 9820 Washington Blvd., Culver City,



photo courtesy of Center Theatre Group  
The satirical “44: The Musical” will run from May 2-June 22.

# Three leaders join TV Academy Foundation

On April 24, the Television Academy Foundation named three industry leaders to its board of directors: Jackie Hayes, Netflix vice president, studio affairs legal; Philippe Maigret, ITV Studios America president and managing director; and Cindy Mori, Oprah Winfrey’s longtime talent relations executive.

Mori was elected for a three-year term by the foundation’s board, and Hayes and Maigret were appointed for a one-year term by foundation chair Tina Perry.

“We are thrilled to welcome these outstanding individuals to the foundation’s board of directors,” Perry said. “Their diverse expertise, passion for education and commitment to fostering the next generation of television leaders will be invaluable as we continue to expand our impact and provide unparalleled opportunities for aspiring professionals in the industry.”

For information, visit television-academy.com/foundation.

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# POLICE BLOTTER

# Deputies remind drivers to pull to the right

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between April 20 and April 26. 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**

**April 20**

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of S. Peck at 6:25 a.m.

At 11 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported at Rodeo and Carmelita.

**April 21**

At 5 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 400 block of S. Rexford.

**April 22**

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 300 block of N. Oakhurst.

**April 23**

At 3:23 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Olympic and La Cienega.

A vandalism incident was reported near North Santa Monica and Arden at 6:32 p.m.

**April 24**

At 12:56 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8900 block of Burton.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 400 block of N. Doheny at 9:04 p.m.

**April 25**

At 12:12 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8600 block of Wilshire.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 200 block of S. La Cienega at 5 p.m.

**April 26**

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 9500 block of Charleville at 12:30 p.m.

At 1:25 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Olympic.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 200 block of S. Elm at 2:26 p.m.

At 3:42 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 300 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 100 block of N. Hamilton at 3:45 p.m.

At 11:15 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 300 block of N. Cañon.

**West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station**

**April 20**

At 1:30 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident near Santa Monica and Robertson.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8400 block of Sunset at 2:24 a.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of Hayworth.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 800 block of Larrabee at 6:15 p.m.

**April 21**

At 12:25 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8000 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 12:30 p.m.

At 3:43 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Romaine and Sweetzer.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 8:05 p.m.

**April 23**

At 6:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 8100 block of Santa Monica.

**April 24**

At noon, an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8700 block of Melrose.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8600 block of Melrose at 1:40 p.m.

At 3:22 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8600 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at 6:30 p.m.

At 7:20 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8700 block of Santa Monica.

**April 25**

At 2:30 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8400 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8500 block of Holloway at 4:30 a.m.

At 12:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8900 block of Melrose.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 12:50 p.m.

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

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Robertson and Santa Monica at 1 p.m.

At 4:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8500 block of Melrose.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Fairfax and Santa Monica at 7:15 p.m.

At 4:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8700

The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department has launched its latest public safety campaign, “Emergency Lights? Pull to the Right.” The campaign aims to educate drivers about the importance of staying vigilant when maneuvering near emergency vehicles and always pulling to the right when they see emergency red and blue lights.

“Too often, we encounter drivers who are unsure of what to do or worse, ignore the sirens altogether,” Sheriff Robert Luna said. “This campaign is about saving lives by making sure every driver knows how to react when they see those flashing lights in their rearview mirror.”

Every second counts during an emergency response. Whether it’s a sheriff’s vehicle, fire engine or ambulance, emergency vehicles rely on drivers to do their part and clear the path quickly and safely. California law requires motorists to pull to the right and stop when an emergency vehicle approaches with lights and sirens activated. It ensures a safe right-of-way for first responders when traveling to an emergency.

To reinforce the message, the LASD will share educational content across social media platforms and conduct public service



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

The LASD has created a public awareness campaign to educate motorists about the importance of pulling over and stopping when they see emergency lights.

announcements. “Being aware and reacting properly isn’t just about following the laws about being a responsible member of our community,” Luna added. “When you see emergency lights, pull to the right. It could make the difference between life and death.” For information, visit lasd.org.

## Defendants charged for fraudulent fire relief claims

Five defendants, including a man from East Hollywood, were recently arrested on federal criminal charges alleging they fraudulently obtained federal disaster relief funds by falsely claiming their properties were damaged in the January 2025 wildfires.

Victims of the Eaton and Palisades fires, including renters who lost residences, could qualify for a one-time \$750 FEMA relief payment and \$43,600 for other needs assistance (personal property, transportation, medical, etc.) and housing assistance for up to 18 months. Homeowners are also potentially eligible for additional relief up to \$43,600 for home repair. The defendants were charged with fraud in connection with major disaster or emergency benefits, which carries a statutory maximum sentence of 30 years in federal prison.

Delvonne Dashon Johnson, 31, of East Hollywood, allegedly submitted a fraudulent claim for FEMA benefits on Feb. 4 related to the Palisades fire, listing an address in Pacific Palisades as a purported dwelling that he owned. In February 2025, FEMA sent Johnson \$64,138 in federal disaster relief.

On April 2, law enforcement interviewed the property’s actual owner, who stated she had lived at the residence since 2015, that it was her primary residence and she was living there at the time of the Palisades fire. She also said she never rented the property to anyone and did not know Johnson. She further said when she submitted a disaster assistance application to advise authorities that her house had been destroyed, FEMA notified her that someone already filed a claim for her property.

The additional defendants are Deannah Hogan, 32, of Compton; Keandre Lowe, 21, of Long Beach; Zenalyn McIntre, 38, of Sherman Oaks; and Katrina Woods, 33, of Maricopa, Arizona. All four are charged with submitting false claims for disaster relief. Hedeshia Robertson, 36, of Lakewood, who was arrested last month, is scheduled to plead guilty on May 2 to one count of fraud in connection with major disaster or emergency benefits. Robertson admitted in her plea agreement that she filed a fraudulent application for FEMA benefits on Jan. 28, seeking disaster relief for a Pacific Palisades prop-

erty that she neither owned nor rented. Another defendant, Jaime Arturo Carrillo, 48, of South Los Angeles, pleaded guilty on April 23 to one count of fraud in connection with major disaster or emergency benefits. On Jan. 13, Carrillo falsely stated to FEMA on an application for wildfire-relief benefits that he rented property in South Los Angeles – approximately 20 miles from the Palisades and Eaton fires – and had suffered personal property damage and a disruption in his utilities. Carrillo was not renting at the South Los Angeles residence.

As a result of Carrillo’s false statements, FEMA authorized him to receive transitional sheltering assistance. Using these benefits, Carrillo received free lodging for 13 nights at two Los Angeles County hotels, with a total cost of approximately \$2,173. Carrillo also charged approximately \$107 to a room paid for by FEMA for food and incidental costs.

Carrillo’s sentencing hearing is scheduled on June 11.

To report fraud involving FEMA disaster-relief public assistance, call (800)323-8603 or (866)347-2423.

## City attorney secures guilty verdict in sex crime case

Los Angeles City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto announced on April 29 that her office has secured guilty verdicts against Christopher Rodriguez, a former preschool teacher at the Krieger Center of UCLA’s Early Care and Education department.

Rodriguez, 51, was found guilty of nine counts involving child sexual abuse, including sexual battery with restraint, penetration with a

foreign object and child abuse. “Sexual abuse is among the most horrific violations to be committed upon anyone, especially children,” Feldstein Soto said. “The acts that the defendant inflicted upon multiple children are unthinkable and reprehensible. My office will always work to hold accountable sex offenders and protect our children. Thank you to the attorneys and staff in my office who worked

tirelessly to bring justice to the victims and families.”

The crimes were committed between July 1, 2023, and Dec. 15, 2023. Rodriguez faces up to seven and a half years in county jail and will be required to pay a fine and register as a sex offender. A sentencing hearing will take place on May 9.

For information, visit cityattorney.lacity.gov.

block of Santa Monica.

**April 26**

At 1:45 a.m., an unknown suspect

assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the

900 block of Hilddale at 2:10 a.m.

At 4 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 8900 block of Keith.



# LACMA plans extraordinary music performance in new David Geffen Galleries

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art announced that composer, bandleader and saxophonist Kamasi Washington will bring unprecedented performances to LACMA’s new David Geffen Galleries on June 26, 27 and 28.

With an ensemble of more than 100 musicians, Washington will perform his work Harmony of Difference. The massive ensemble will be dispersed over approximately 110,000 square feet of gallery space, making the building itself an acoustic instrument and integral part of the piece.

Tickets for Kamasi Washington Live at LACMA’s David Geffen Galleries go on sale on three dates, and a limited number of tickets will be available on each date. Tickets will first be released on May 2 at 10 a.m. (\$60 for the public, \$48 for LACMA members), followed on May 22 at 10 a.m. (\$75 for the public, \$60 for members) and June 12 at 10 a.m. (\$100 for the public, \$80 for members). For tickets, visit [lacma.org/kamasiwashington](http://lacma.org/kamasiwashington).

Harmony of Difference explores the beauty of contrast and unity through the musical concept of

counterpoint: diverging melodies that ultimately unite as a harmonious whole.

“This sonic preview will be an unforgettable experience,” LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director Michael Govan said. “An Angeleno born and raised, Kamasi will breathe life into the David Geffen Galleries with music, offering visitors a unique opportunity to explore the building through waves of sound. This performance marks the beginning of our countdown to the grand opening of the new building in 2026. We are incredibly grateful to Dominic Ng and East West Bank for their ongoing support of this special preview and the opening celebrations.”

“I wrote Harmony of Difference in 2017 to celebrate the beauty of humanity’s diversity through a metaphor of music,” Washington said. “In music it is the combination of different notes, chords and rhythms that create beautiful songs. The same is true in life; most of humanity’s greatest achievements came from the combined efforts of people of different backgrounds with different knowledge and abili-

ties. As we come together to learn and work with each other humanity advances and grows. This June at LACMA will be the first time I will be performing the entire Harmony of Difference suite in front of a live audience, and to do it in L.A., a true haven of diversity and my hometown, is really special. The Geffen Galleries has a truly unique acoustic environment that is perfect for Harmony of Difference. This will be a truly once in a lifetime sonic experience that I’m so excited for people to witness.”

Spanning Wilshire Boulevard, major construction was completed on the David Geffen Galleries at the end of 2024 and LACMA is moving in key operating functions. As the process continues, the building and its surroundings will come alive with outdoor sculptures and the opening of dining and retail spaces. The Kamasi Washington Live performances are the only opportunity for the general public to view the building before it is closed for art installation.

LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit [lacma.org](http://lacma.org).



photo by Vincent Haycock

Kamasi Washington will lead musical performances at LACMA’s new David Geffen Galleries on June 26-28.

# Brazilian dance company steps onto the Ahmanson stage

Grupo Corpo, one of Brazil’s most renowned contemporary dance companies, will grace the stage at The Music Center’s Ahmanson Theatre for three performances, from May 2-4, celebrating the vivacity and diverse heritage of South America’s largest country. As the next dance troupe presented in The Music Center’s exhilarating 2024-25 season of Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center, Grupo Corpo – whose name means “body group” in Portuguese – returns to L.A.’s performing arts center for the first time since 2011 and promises to captivate Angelenos with two intoxicating works, “21” and “Gira,” which blend classical ballet, folk traditions and bold choreography.

Rodrigo Pederneiras’ groundbreaking work “21” (1992) is a ballet divided into three movements that weaves the company’s 22 dancers into rhythmic and timbral

combinations around the number 21. Featuring a captivating score by Marco Antônio Guimarães, the choreography pulses with mathematical precision, progressing through a series of mesmerizing movements that blend the energy of Brazilian folk dances with the formality of classical ballet. The 40-minute piece, which amplifies the unique sounds emanating from Guimarães’ unusual instrumental creations, culminates in a dynamic and colorful finale, transporting audiences into a celebration of Brazilian cultural vibrancy.

In contrast, Pederneiras’ other creation “Gira” (2017) draws its inspiration from the Afro-Brazilian religious rituals of Umbanda, one of the most prevalent sects in Brazil. His choreography reconstructs the powerful gestures of Umbanda and Candomblé ceremonies, capturing the raw and dizzying energy of these sacred

rites. Set to 11 musical themes created especially for the company by the Brazilian fusion group Metá Metá, the spectacular Gira offers a primal, ritualistic energy that pulses through the mesmerizing 40-minute



photo courtesy of Grupo Corpo

Grupo Corpo will perform at The Music Center May 2-4.

piece.

Tickets to Grupo Corpo are available for purchase by visiting [music-center.org/grupocorpo](http://music-center.org/grupocorpo) or by calling (213)972-0711. The Ahmanson is located at 135 N. Grand Ave.

## 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.

# Explore the Catskills in new Skirball exhibition

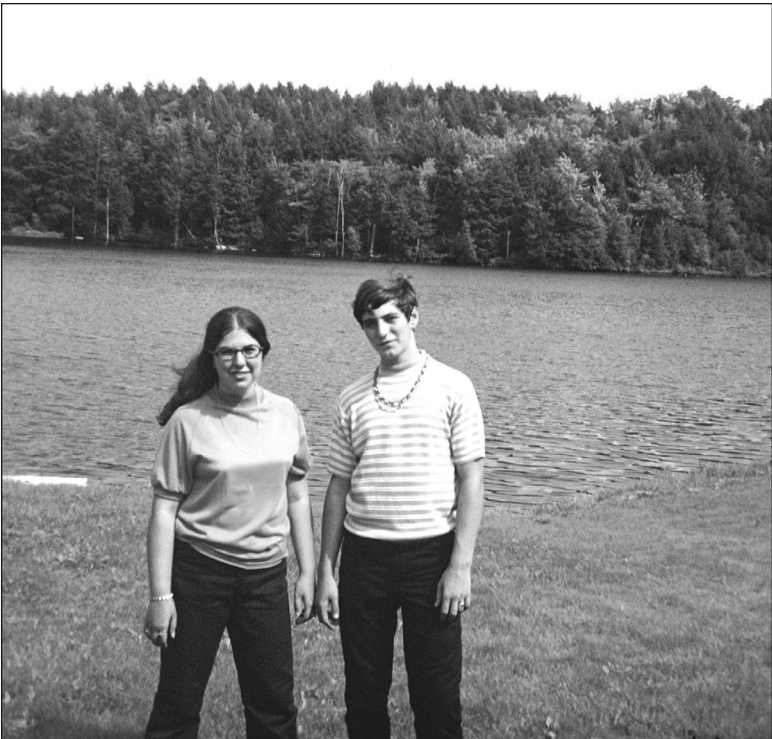


photo courtesy of the Skirball Cultural Center

Artist Marisa J. Futernick takes visitors on a family vacation to the Catskill Mountains in her new exhibition.

Pack your bags and join artist Marisa J. Futernick as she sifts through inherited and imagined memories of family vacations in the Catskill Mountains of New York with the Skirball Cultural Center’s new exhibition “Away in the Catskills: Summers, Sour Cream and Dirty Dancing,” opening May 1.

Colloquially known as the “Borscht Belt,” the region catered to working- and middle-class American Jewish families who, along with other minority groups, were excluded from many leisure spaces. The Catskills offered vacationers a newfound break from wage labor and forms of domestic labor, as well as a safe and welcoming place to enjoy family time.

“A Jewish contemporary artist sharing a lesser-known corner of Jewish American cultural history – this is a fabulous way to kick off Jewish American Heritage Month and the summer season,” said Jessie Kornberg, president and CEO of the Skirball Cultural Center.

The exhibition includes a series of 15 prints drawn from vintage color slides of the artist’s maternal family on vacation in the Catskills during the 1960s, capturing the pleasure and freedom of the Catskills and asking questions about leisure, class and the lives of women in the U.S. at mid-century (1945-68). Additionally, visitors can see an installation created from the artist’s family mementos with an accompanying zine, using objects to connect to what leisure looked and felt like for Jewish vacationers. Attendees can also watch a new video artwork with several hundred still photographs and voiceover narration by the artist. In the video work, Futernick juxtaposes her mother’s and grandmother’s strong feelings of Jewish community – bolstered by their experiences in the Catskills – with her own relative lack thereof, provoking a conversation about assimilation and loss.

For information, visit [skirball.org/museum/away-catskills-summers-sour-cream-and-dirty-dancing](http://skirball.org/museum/away-catskills-summers-sour-cream-and-dirty-dancing).

The Skirball Cultural Center is located at 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd.







# The Wallis kicks off 2025-26 Scott Dunn Orchestra season

The Scott Dunn Orchestra has its inaugural concert at the Bram Goldsmith Theater at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts on Thursday, May 22, at 7:30 p.m., “Henry Mancini at 100 – A Celebration of the Man and His Music.”

It is the first in a series of four concerts that give a curated tour through the first three golden ages of Hollywood film music – a large scale retrospective of the key art form in the eras that defined the role and place of music as a part of dramatic storytelling, in Hollywood and international filmmaking.

The series begins with a concert that traces the career of Henry Mancini, one of the most popular, important and enduring film composers – a master of dramatic scoring and a composer of themes that are among the most popular and enduring songs of the 20th century.

Dunn, who conducts and curates

the series, is a noted advocate for American contemporary film music. He has had a remarkable career as a pianist, conductor and orchestrator.

“I’ve long been in love with film music, and I’ve had the great, personal fortune to know such luminaries as Leonard Rosenman, Richard Rodney Bennett, David Raksin, Elmer Bernstein, as well as such distinguished contemporary film composers as Rachel Portman and Danny Elfman,” Dunn said. “The music they produced has never been surpassed and is well worth presenting as absolute music – many are as great as any orchestral works written in our century. All of this we can remedy in concert and shed light on the music of these great and highly trained composers.”

“Henry Mancini at 100” highlights Mancini’s early background as pianist and arranger for the

Glenn Miller/Tex Beneke Band, and later as staff composer at Universal Pictures. The program illustrates how his big band background influenced his work and, in his early work, created a new style of scoring that transformed it by incorporating full-fledged jazz numbers, including from “Touch of Evil,” “Peter Gunn,” “Mr. Lucky,” “The Pink Panther” and “Breakfast at Tiffany’s.”

Following the Mancini concert, the inaugural season continues with three concerts celebrating three golden eras of film scoring, with “Hollywood Modernists” on Nov. 22, “Monsters, Murders, Spies and Space” on Jan. 17, 2026, and “From Hell to Hollywood” on May 30, 2026.

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd. For tickets and information, call (310)746-4000 (Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.) or visit thewallis.org.



photo courtesy of the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts  
The season begins with a concert featuring the music of Henry Mancini on May 22.

# Fashion gurus honored at Beverly Hilton

On Thursday, April 24, The Daily Front Row hosted its ninth annual



photo by Stefanie Keenan  
Selma Blair appeared with Lifetime Achievement Award winner Betsey Johnson.

Fashion Los Angeles Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. The Daily Front Row’s Fashion Los Angeles Awards celebrates the visionaries who make the intersection between fashion and Hollywood the most stylish place to be. The event was presented by LAGOS, Moroccanoil, DAOU Vineyards, MILLY and Casamigos.

Honorees included Adriana Lima, Alexx Mayo, Betsey Johnson, Brad Goreski, Dimitris Giannetos, Genesis Webb, Hailey Bieber, Tyra Banks, and Wayman + Micah. For information, visit fashionweekdaily.com.

# Freehand Gallery plans annual jewelry show in May

Freehand Gallery will hold the annual Freehand Jewelry Show from May 10-June 28.

The jewelry show has been a mainstay since the store opened in 1980. This year, Freehand Gallery is celebrating the work of California jewelers and the wide variety of craftsmanship and creativity that artists from the state have to offer. The 13 participating artists will share their most bold and innovative work, from Bakelite bracelets to river stone pendants, sculptural rings, nature-inspired brooches and strings of pearls. Each piece is conceived and crafted in the Golden State. The show features new works by Lucia Antonelli, Michael Bayes, Deborah Boskin, Simma Chester, Susan Chin, Yu Jean Choi, Lynn Leatart, Vanessa Mellet, Valerie Mitchell, Thomas Rhodes, Julia Turner and Kay Yee.

The Freehand Jewelry Show will open the day before Mother’s Day, offering a perfect opportunity to find something special. All of the

work will be offered for sale.

An opening reception with the artists will be held on May 10 from 4-7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public; wine and refresh-

ments will be served.

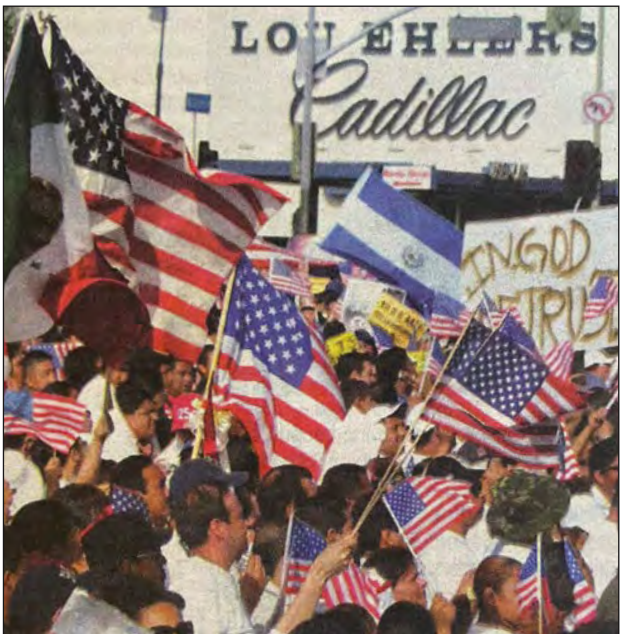
Freehand Gallery is located at 8413 W. Third St. For information, call (323)655-2607 or visit freehand.com.



photo courtesy of Freehand Gallery  
A Bakelite bracelet by Petaluma artist Lucia Antonelli is among the pieces in the upcoming show.

## VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

# Fight for immigrant rights comes to the Miracle Mile



Thousands of people protested at Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue on May 1, 2006, during a “Day Without Immigrants” demonstration to show the economic impact of immigrants in the United States. This photograph in the May 4, 2006, issue of the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News showed demonstrators as they arrived at the intersection at the end of a march from Mac Arthur Park. The May Day rally, which was attended by Archbishop of Los Angeles Roger Mahoney and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, was among many demonstrations in 2006 in which protestors called for immigration reform. The LAPD estimated that the crowd on Wilshire Boulevard included more than 400,000 people.

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# Streetlight repair remains a struggle in L.A.

From page 1

Mile, Sycamore Square, La Brea-Hancock and Carthay communities. The council office is using discretionary funding to expedite emergency repairs in neighborhoods experiencing significant problems, and streetlights have been fixed recently in portions of the Miracle Mile, Carthay and Wilshire Park. Cindy Chvatal-Keane, president of the Hancock Park Homeowners Association, said crews have not been to Hancock Park since last November, and since then copper wire thefts and other problems have caused blackouts on entire streets.

“Carthay Circle and Wilshire Park did get some repairs, but most of us are in the dark,” she said. “We can’t keep playing whack-a-mole. We’ve got to have a plan, especially with all these budget cuts coming up.”

Hakopiants said residents should continue notifying the district office to identify locations that need to be prioritized for repairs. The council district office will work to ensure repairs are scheduled equitably in each neighborhood in the district.

The city of Los Angeles has more than 223,000 streetlights and the Bureau of Street Lighting reported

in October 2024 that it can take up to 146 days to make repairs in areas where there are multiple streetlights out. The bureau has a maintenance staff of approximately 200 people, according to the report. In fiscal year 2023-24, the Bureau of Street Lighting recorded 9,825 requests of lights out due to theft and vandalism, accounting for 30% of all street lighting incidents reported.

Residents in the virtual meeting said broken streetlights are a public safety issue. Kari Garci, a member of the Miracle Mile Residential Association, said she has been cataloging all streetlights that are out in the Miracle Mile and reporting them to the council office and the police. Senior lead officer Tyler Shuck of the LAPD’s Wilshire Division participated in the meeting and said authorities have difficulty in addressing copper wire theft from streetlights because the outages are not always reported by the Bureau of Street Lighting or members of the public to the police department. He added that blackouts on streets are a public safety concern and that he will work more closely with residents and the council office to identify areas where outages are occurring. Once neighborhoods with outages are identi-

fied, police can deploy additional patrols to those areas.

“Part of the reason why burglaries are happening is because, even though when the lights are working, it’s still a poorly lit street. Lighting is always a factor, so that comes into play in our extra patrols, and we’re aware of that,” Shuck said. “What’s happening is when [Bureau of Street Lighting crews] come out to replace it and to fix it, they’re just fixing it and it’s not becoming a reported crime. Let’s get this documented, because once it’s documented, then we can get the resources we need and go from there.”

To contact shuck, email 40740@lapd.online.

Chvatal added that she is also documenting streetlights that are out of service in the Hancock Park area and is submitting requests to the council office and city. In a survey conducted on April 29, she said large sections of Rossmore Avenue, Third Street, Muirfield Road, June Street, Oakwood Avenue, Cahuenga Boulevard, Rosewood Avenue, Rimpau Boulevard and Clinton Street are experiencing outages.

“[The city has] to make this a priority,” Chvatal-Keane said. “We



photo courtesy of the HPHOA

Lights on many streets in Hancock Park have been out for weeks, residents said.

understand the city is in a crisis, but when you’re in a crisis, there has to be a plan to work your way out of this.”

In the meantime, residents are encouraged to continue reporting street light outages to the city by calling 311 or using the 311 app, and can report them to Yaroslavsky’s District Office by calling (323)866-1828 and emailing councilmember.yaroslavsky@lacity.org.

Hakopiants said the outages near

schools and sensitive areas will be prioritized, and he plans to work more closely with the Bureau of Street Services and the LAPD to ensure all instance of copper wire theft and streetlight vandalism are reported to the LAPD.

The City Council started budget considerations this week, and the amount of funding for services such as streetlight repair will become clearer as negotiations proceed. The city 2025-26 budget must be approved by June 1.

# Mirisch outlines goals as Beverly Hills vice mayor

From page 1

In his swearing in speech, he floated the idea of Beverly Hills becoming a charter city, which would be a change from its current designation as a general law city. According to the California Lawyers Association, charter cities have greater authority over municipal affairs through its voter-approved city charter, which serves as a “local constitution.”

Mirisch pointed out that several neighboring municipalities – including Los Angeles, Santa Monica, West Hollywood and Culver City – are charter cities. He believes the possibility could benefit the city in several ways, including expanding revenue streams and allowing the city to set its own elections. He said that while he’s not fully committed to transitioning into a charter city, he’d like Beverly Hills to study the possibility.

“I’m not sure what the downsides are. I’d like to be able to explore that and to do the homework to allow us to make the right decision,” Mirisch said.

He added that he hopes the mayor will consider launching an

effort to examine the possibility of becoming a charter city.

Greater municipal autonomy for Beverly Hills is a central theme of what Mirisch sees as issues facing the city. He has long been a critic of state-mandated housing policies, which he said take the power to make planning decisions away from cities such as Beverly Hills.

“There is absolute overreach in which [the state government is] more or less giving developers free reign to do what they want,” Mirisch said. “That’s going to result in a lot more intensification of development without the ability to, in theory, pay for the additional infrastructure and services that will be required from adding people.”

He said the city should conduct nexus studies to determine the fiscal impact of new developments, and charge developers for costs incurred by the city, including hiring additional police officers, firefighters and building new infrastructure.

“It would be completely unfair to have the existing residents have to pay for additional costs and infrastructure that they are not causing.”

Mirisch sees the incoming Metro D Line as an opportunity to boost connectivity in the city and provide residents an opportunity to travel without cars. However, he stated that getting to the stations may be a challenge, and suggested that the city develop an autonomous vehicle program to transport residents to and from the Metro stations at a low cost.

“I hope we could find a partner that would be willing to create something. We could be a pilot program, we’d be the perfect city for it considering our infrastructure, our geography,” he said.

A steadfast supporter of Israel, Mirisch has also been an outspoken critic of Qatar, which has sent hundreds of millions of dollars to Gaza that helped fund Hamas, according to the New York Times. Mirisch said the U.S. should declare Qatar a state sponsor of terrorism and sanction the country. He also believes the city should take a stronger role in denouncing Qatar.

“We’re the lowest level of government, basically, but we still have a voice. We have an even larger voice on this matter because the

Qatari consulate happens to be in Beverly Hills,” he said. “We the council should write to the state department and ask them to expel the Qatari consulate from Beverly Hills because as I say, state sponsors of terrorism and Jew-hating racists are not welcome in our community.”

Mirisch said he has made his concerns over Qatar known at nearly every City Council meeting for the past year and a half, but has not heard interest from any of his fellow council members in taking formal city action against the country. He added that he was saddened to see city council members and other city leaders attend events at the Maybourne Hotel, which is owned by the Qatari royal family.

“I’m hoping that the rest of the council will understand the severity of it,” he said.

Although Mirisch was sworn in as vice mayor on April 1, he will only serve six months in the position, as opposed to the usual full year. In October, Councilman Craig Corman will assume the role. This is due to the city’s complex rotating mayorship schedule, combined with the fact that according to the city, Mirisch is prohibited from holding office again as he will term out in July 2026.

However, Mirisch isn’t quite

sure if this term will be his last.

In 2022, Beverly Hills voters passed Measure TL, which established a three-term limit for City Council members during their lifetime. However, in the same election where Measure TL was passed, Mirisch was elected to a fourth term in office. Measure TL indicated that a council member’s previous terms should be counted when determining when a term limit is reached.

But in 2012, then-California Attorney General Kamala Harris issued an opinion that stated terms served before a local term limit ordinance is passed do not count toward term limits.

“A term served on a town council that was served prior to the effective date of a local initiative term-limit ordinance may not be counted against the term limit imposed by that ordinance,” the opinion read.

“I think state law makes it clear that any term limits imposed are meant to be prospective,” Mirisch said.

Mirisch said he doesn’t know if he’s going to try to run again, but wants to “have the ability to.”

“I don’t want to be shut out for something because of a false interpretation,” he said. “But I certainly will leave that option open.”

## WeHo hosts small business webinar

In celebration of National Small Business Week, the city of West Hollywood invites local businesses to participate in “California Resources for West Hollywood Businesses,” a free virtual webinar on Tuesday, May 6, from 2-3 p.m. via Zoom.

Participants will gain insight into a wide range of state and federal programs and services to support small businesses in West Hollywood. Topics will include access to capital, technical assistance and general business resources.

The webinar is free and open to all West Hollywood business owners, entrepreneurs and stakeholders. It will feature speakers from the Office of California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, the United States Small Business Administration and the Small Business Development Center Los Angeles Network. Advanced registration is requested and a recording of the webinar will be sent after the event.

For information and to register for the webinar, visit [go.weho.org/caresources](http://go.weho.org/caresources).



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# L.A. considers help for film production

From page 1

workers and small businesses who built this iconic industry,” Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood) said. “Our goal is simple – make California’s Film and TV Tax Credit program competitive again, bring back lost productions and keep families working here at home.”

State representatives and industry professionals gathered for a rally in Sacramento on April 29, advocating for the bill’s passage.

“California has a proud history of partnering with industries like tech, auto and aerospace to grow our economy and protect workers,” Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D-Los Angeles) said. “We must take the same approach with the film and television industry to keep

homegrown jobs here.”

In recent years, states such as Georgia and international locations like Vancouver, Canada, have provided extensive tax credits for film and television production, which has greatly impacted Los Angeles’ star industry. Additionally, the City Council looked to address regulatory fees and red tape that has added to the expense for studios.

“I know firsthand how challenging it can be to break into this industry and build a sustainable career,” actress Yvette Nicole Brown said following of the City Council motion. “The dream of moving to Los Angeles is the hope of working in Los Angeles. That’s why it’s essential we support Councilmember Nazarian’s efforts

to protect these jobs, uplift working-class professionals and ensure that Los Angeles remains the entertainment capital of the world.”

“This motion speaks to something deeply personal for so many of us. It’s about protecting the soul of Los Angeles,” local Costume Designer Guild president Brigitta Romanov said. “It’s getting harder to make a living in this business – not only because we’re working less, but because the system productions work within has become too costly, too complex and too out of reach for many productions. This motion is a crucial step towards reversing that.”

Nazarian was previously a member of the California Assembly, and while there he authored a bill to



photo courtesy of the office of Rick Chavez Zbur

Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur held a press conference advocating for the passage of the California Film and TV Jobs Act on April 28.

expand statewide tax credits. The councilman views this motion as a way L.A. can act immediately to

help the industry.

“Keep Hollywood home,” Nazaian said.

# Lawsuit claims civil rights violation

From page 1

According to invoices provided by DuPont Clinic in the new lawsuit, it spent over \$2 million on construction of the planned clinic and approximately \$1.4 million in additional expenses including salaries for staff members.

The controversy is already the subject of two ongoing lawsuits filed separately against Douglas Emmett and the city. In December 2024, a judge ruled partially in favor of the city in DuPont’s lawsuit, granting an anti-SLAPP motion filed by Beverly Hills. The motion

dismissed evidence including a letter created by the city and the police department that was to be sent to tenants of 8920 Wilshire Blvd., warning them of potential safety threats if the clinic were to open. While the city was drafting the letter, then-mayor Julian Gold said he did not “mind turning up the heat a little,” and pushed that the letter should contain warnings of “bomb threats” and “lone wolf active shooters” if the clinic were to open.

The city is currently seeking to recover approximately \$400,000 in

attorney fees from DuPont Clinic for the initial lawsuit which resulted in the anti-SLAPP motion.

DuPont Clinic filed an appeal of the anti-SLAPP motion, which is currently awaiting review.

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

“It is troubling that, even here in California where access to reproduc-

tive health care is a constitutional right, Beverly Hills officials have taken actions reminiscent of those in extremist red states by illegally interfering with, and ultimately preventing a new reproductive health care clinic from opening,” Bonta said.

According to Bonta, the city illegally withheld the clinic’s permits and engaged in a “pressure campaign” against the landlord until it rescinded the lease.

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

The city has maintained that it did not interfere with DuPont’s lease.

“It is disappointing that DuPont

Clinic appears to be more interested in continuing litigation than resolution of this case,” Beverly Hills City Attorney Laurence Wiener, who is named in both lawsuits and Bonta’s investigation, said in a statement. “Last December, a Los Angeles County Superior Court ruling upheld the city of Beverly Hills’ motion to dismiss the vast majority of DuPont Clinic’s claims. As the city has consistently stated, it vigorously supports a woman’s right to choose, and the decision to rescind DuPont Clinic’s lease was not made by the city of Beverly Hills. The city will, once again, respond to the allegations in the lawsuit, which are based on the same set of facts as the previous lawsuit.”

# Goldsmith joins race in State Senate’s 24th District

From page 3

we can do in commercial corridors and transportation corridors to expand housing.”

Goldsmith said that while he certainly thinks the state could be more efficient with spending, he subscribes to the “Al Gore reconvening government initiative” and not Elon Musk’s DOGE model.

“We have a lot of power. We’ve got to do everything we possibly can to fight the Trump administration where we have to – on issues like tariffs. Trump got elected to make life more affordable, and his policies are doing the exact opposite,” he said. “But can we make up for the federal government cutting off support to California, even though we contribute \$83 billion a year more to Washington than they send back to us? No, we can’t make up for that. But we need to do everything possible to fill in some of those gaps. And that means that we can’t have another episode of wasting, billions of dollars on EDD fraud or spending billions of dollars on homelessness services that don’t

work and don’t move the needle. We’ve got to look at all of our spending fresh. If I were in charge, I’d look at zero-based budgeting, starting from scratch and seeing what works. [If it works], you double down on it. [If it] doesn’t work, you get rid of it.”

If elected, Goldsmith would be representing one of the state’s most diverse districts, an area that includes Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, Hollywood and the Miracle Mile. Goldsmith lives on the border of Beverly Hills and West Hollywood with his wife, who works in the educational nonprofit sector, and two children.

“This is the place where I was born and raised. It’s where I’ve lived most of my life. I care deeply about these communities. It’s personal to me – it’s not political,” he said. “I take seriously the responsibility of representing arguably, the LGBTQ capital of America in West Hollywood. But [also] all the way from Agoura and Calabasas down to Torrance and Manhattan Beach, these are

diverse, remarkable communities – the crown jewels of California in a lot of ways. Some places like Malibu and Palisades obviously need unique care and attention right now. It’s a very serious responsibility, and that’s one of my motivations for jumping in.”

Other Democratic candidates for the seat include West Hollywood Councilman John Erickson, Santa Monica College trustee Dr. Sion Roy, Doheny Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Council president Ellen Evans, Los Angeles Human Relations Commissioner Brittany McKinley, Los Angeles Planning Commissioner Mike Newhouse and Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District board member Eric Alegria. The lone Republican to declare, thus far, is Palisades Charter High School trustee Kristina Irwin, who was the runner-up for Allen’s seat in 2022.

For information about Goldsmith’s campaign, visit [brigandgoldsmith.com](http://brigandgoldsmith.com).

# WeHo celebrates Russian-speaking community

West Hollywood will celebrate the rich traditions brought to the United States by Russian-speaking immigrants from the former Soviet Union in May.

The city will host the annual Victory in Europe Day commemoration on Sunday, May 4, at noon at Fiesta Hall in Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. The remembrance event marks the defeat of the

Nazis and honors the estimated 50 million lives lost during World War II.

On Saturday, May 10, the city will host the 19th annual Russian-Speaking Community Awards Ceremony and Classical Night Concert. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the ceremony begins at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. The 24th annual WeHo Mishka Festival is

planned on Sunday, May 18, from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Plummer Park. The family-friendly outdoor event showcases music, food, dance and storytelling traditions.

Approximately 11% of West Hollywood’s residents identify a former region of the Soviet Union as their primary ancestry. For information, call (323)848-6501, or email [wehorusevents@weho.org](mailto:wehorusevents@weho.org).

# Arrest made at Beverly Hills protest

From page 4

in the assault with a deadly weapon charge. A second video showed Slivka being detained by police. The incident marked the only arrest during the demonstration.

The event was organized by Brandon Straka, a conservative activist who was convicted for his role in the 2021 U.S. Capitol attack, and later pardoned by Trump. Straka founded the “Walk Away” campaign, encouraging Democrats to leave the party. The rally began in West Hollywood’s Rainbow District, on the corner of Santa Monica and Robertson boulevards. Attendees marched to Beverly Gardens Park, where several political commentators and activists spoke. Speakers included Matt Gaetz, Trump’s onetime U.S. attorney general nominee and a former U.S. representative from Florida. In 2024, Gaetz withdrew himself from consideration for attorney general and resigned from Congress shortly before the House Ethics Committee released a report that found Gaetz used illegal drugs, solicited prostitution and engaged in sexual activity with a minor while serving in Congress.

remains steadfast in uplifting the dignity and rights of our community members and remains vigilant in denouncing words and actions that may seek to devalue, divide or diminish us ... The city’s outspoken advocacy and commitment to promoting social justice and equal rights is unwavering and the city does not condone or support actions that seek to harm, divide or undermine our community and its values.”

The city of Beverly Hills did not comment on the event. However, public notices were sent in advance to residents in the area near Beverly Gardens Park notifying them that a “permitted demonstration” would take place.

Beverly Gardens Park is frequently used for political demonstrations and rallies in Beverly Hills. On April 19, many demonstrators gathered in the park to voice concerns over actions taken by the Trump administration and Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency.

## Answers From Page 27

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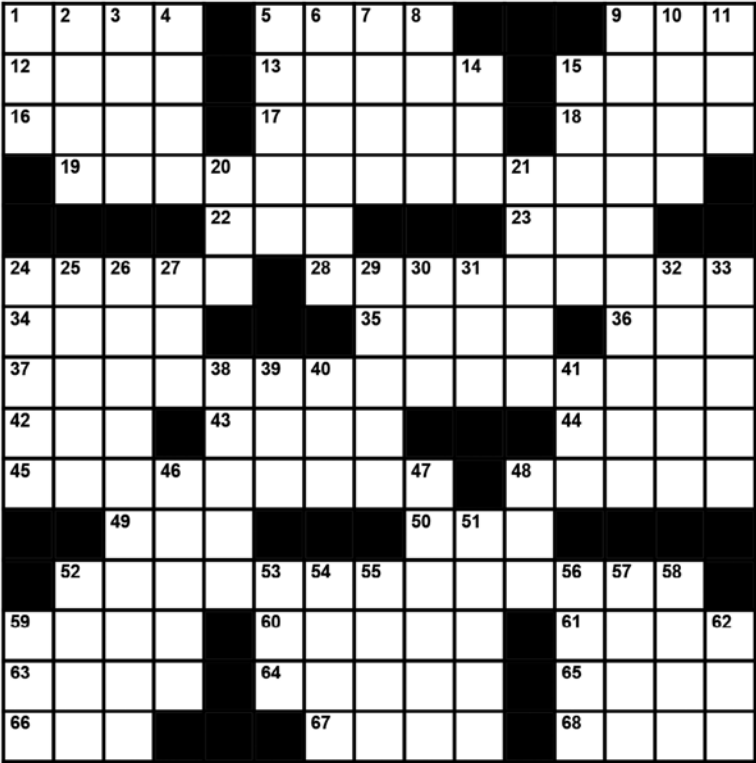
Across

- Bradley, the G.I.'s General
- Cobblers' tools
- Business degree
- Gift wrapping need
- Embezzler
- Haughty manner
- Study for finals
- Kind of pool
- Fargo's state, abbr.
- Profiling expert perhaps
- Rocket
- Hiver's antithesis
- Leaking
- Scene
- Fuel
- Gazillions
- Word before Maria
- Expert in hormonal imbalances
- Ribosome component
- Hair's partner
- Smidgin
- Locks equipment
- Art able to
- Postal abbr.
- Resident's org.
- Expert with needles
- Lunkhead
- Vault jumper, perhaps
- Kind of cheese
- Glimpse
- Marabou, for one
- One of Chekhov's Three Sisters
- Author who influenced Conan Doyle

- Website for crafty sorts
- Take five

Down

- Not needing a prescription (abbr.)
- Painter Chagall
- On \_\_\_ with (equal to)
- Do followers
- High room
- Complains
- Italian resort
- Notary stamp
- It's often left bare fashionably
- No angel
- One way to stop wondering
- Andy Capp's wife
- Baker who was a singer
- Travel need
- Reach
- Caustic
- Summer of song
- Scanning screen
- UN labor agency (abbr.)
- Discussion group
- Rock group
- Sanders of KFC, e.g.
- Chronicles
- Really bother
- Aviary sound
- Put tears in
- Wedding vow
- Angelina Jolie biopic about a fast-living model
- Flashy
- Cafeteria-goers



- Hatchback, e.g.
- Like swamp water
- Start of an afterthought
- Kind of driver
- Missive
- Become solid, of a liquid
- Aeronautical engineer Sikorsky
- Shoe bottom
- Names
- Mushroom
- Use a shuttle, in a way

answers on page 26

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

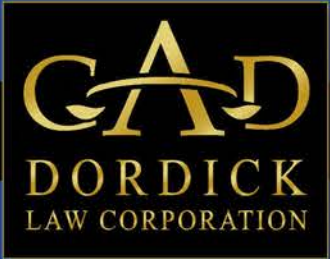
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