



Clear, with temp in the mid-70s

BEVERLY PRESS

INSIDE

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Volume 35 No. 21

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

May 22, 2025

BHUSD irons out specifics of Nike sports apparel deal

■ Costs of new uniforms remain unclear

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education on May 13 approved a five-year agreement with sportswear distributor BSN Sports for participation in the Nike 360 Rewards Program. The deal will provide the district with Nike-branded apparel and gear for sports teams at a discounted price.

While the deal was celebrated by some board members as a long overdue upgrade to sportswear in the district, Board Member Amanda Stern and Board President Rachelle Marcus abstained from voting, arguing that they needed to hear more about the deal before approving it.

Now, after board approval, many of the specifics – including the

See **BHUSD** page 30



photo courtesy of BHUSD

The deal with BSN Sports provides discounted Nike apparel for BHUSD.

Gutted Fairfax Theatre may get second act

■ Any new project at site must maintain Art Deco facade

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Fairfax Theatre, once an important institution at the center of the community but now a concrete shell surrounding a vacant lot, has been listed for sale for \$45 million.

The property, located at 7901 Beverly Blvd. at the northwestern corner of Beverly Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue, is listed by the real estate company Major Properties as a “once in a generation” development opportunity. The 28,925-square-foot site already has city entitlements for a six-story, 73-unit housing project with 10,000 square feet of retail space. Any new plans will have to be resubmitted to the city by a new owner if they plan to build more housing or a hotel, medical office or retail project. The Fairfax Theatre site is designated as a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument, and any plans would require the building’s Art Deco outer façade and theater marquee



photo by Edwin Folven

Only the exterior of the Fairfax Theatre building remains at the corner of Beverly Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue.

to be retained.

The Fairfax Theatre site is owned by Alex Gorby, who has held the property since 1970. Regency Theatres was the final operator of the Fairfax Theater, which permanently closed in 2010. In 2012, the Los Angeles City Council approved the 71-unit

project but work never started. It remains unclear why it was allowed to remain vacant so long. Attempts to reach Gorby were unsuccessful.

The Fairfax Theatre building dates to 1939. It was an important component of the history of the

See **Fairfax Theatre** page 31

WeHo shows love to Rainbow District businesses

■ City Council approves \$465,000 in support for WeHo Loves Locals

BY MADELINE ARMSTRONG

The West Hollywood City Council unanimously passed an initiative on May 19 aimed to increase foot traffic in the Rainbow District and revenue to the local businesses. Mayor Chelsea Byers brought “WeHo Loves Locals,” an initiative

allocating \$369,960 of reserves in the general fund, to support a 12-week gift card program that would allow local businesses to offer consumers a buy one, get one half-off deal on gift cards.

“I brought the gift card program idea because a lot of other cities are doing this and it works really well to generate interest from the local community for the restaurants and business community broadly,” Byers said at the City Council meeting. “I think that this is a really

unique opportunity to invest in the whole of our community and uplift all of us.”

The Rainbow District has seen a decline in tourism in recent years, forcing businesses to shut down. Additionally, the area has seen a 14% decline in visitation since 2018.

“Like many businesses in the Rainbow District, The Abbey continues to feel the long-term effects of the pandemic and the rising cost of doing business,” said Tristan Schukraft, owner of The Abbey Food and Bar. “Overall foot traffic is still significantly lower than what we saw in previous years. Business hasn’t rebounded the way we’d hoped – and certainly not at the pace required to keep up with inflation and increased operational costs.”

The gift cards will be available through Yiftee, an organization that aims to support local businesses by creating e-gift cards for cities that can be used for multiple businesses in one area. Yiftee has been used for similar programs in Palm Springs, Lake Forest, Murrieta, Upland and Carlsbad.

“The city of Lake Forest began implementing the program in 2022 and recently released its 10th phase

See **WeHo** page 31



photo courtesy of The Abbey Food & Bar

WeHo Loves Locals aims to support businesses in the Rainbow District such as The Abbey Food and Bar.



photo courtesy of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass spoke at the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce luncheon on May 20.

Bass calls ‘cut’ on L.A. production red tape

■ Mayor looks for ways to make filming easier

BY RANCE COLLINS

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass has responded to growing community concerns over the decrease in film and television

production in the city with an executive order aimed at cutting red tape. Bass announced the order in a press conference on May 20, later expanding on her initiatives during the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce luncheon that same day.

“After meeting with the enter-

See **Mayor** page 30



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Join the Autry for Autry After Hours, May Music Nights and Cowboy Cocktails with Smoke Holler on Thursday, May 22, from 6-9 p.m. Enjoy live music and dancing on the plaza with performances by the old-time string band Smoke Holler, and try an exclusive cocktail featured in the book “Cowboy Cocktails” by Andre Darlington. The event includes music, pub games, a cash bar, food trucks and after-hours museum access. General admission is \$18. 4700 Western Heritage Way. theautry.org.



‘Lear Redux’

Odyssey Theatre Ensemble, New American Theatre and Not Man Apart-Physical Theatre Ensemble reunite for “Lear Redux: A Quantum Fantasia” running Thursday, May 22, through Sunday, July 13, at the Odyssey Theatre. Inspired by William Shakespeare’s “King Lear,” the production is the latest in adapter, director and choreographer John Farmanesh-Bocca’s Redux series. In the evocative and perpetually surprising reconstruction of the Bard’s powerful drama, Jack Stehlin inhabits the role of an aging actor whose last days strangely parallel those of Shakespeare’s tragic king. Previews will be held at 8 p.m. on



May 22-23. Regular showtimes are at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 3 p.m., Sunday. Tickets start at \$20. 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd. odysseytheatre.com.

‘Little Women’ ballet

Little Women Ballet and ArtistsPlus Productions present a “Spring Immersive Site-Specific Experience” from Friday, May 23, through Sunday, May 25, at the Heritage Square Museum. Audiences will experience several 15-minute vignettes of the “Little Women” story presented in ballet form as they are escorted through historic Victorian era houses in Heritage Square. Join Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy as they tell their story of sisterhood, love, loss and family. Showtimes are at 6:30 p.m., May 23; 3 and 6:30 p.m., May 24-25. Tickets are \$62 and include a goodie bag with items to be used throughout the performance; complementary beverages and desserts and a tour of Heritage Square Museum. 3800 Homer St. littlewomenballet.com.

‘Jaws’

Film fans are invited to a screening of the 1975 classic “Jaws” on Friday, May 23, at 7 p.m. at the Los Feliz Theatre. Based on the best-selling novel by Peter Benchley, “Jaws” became the first true summer blockbuster, shattering every record and becoming the highest-grossing film of the year. It earned a nomination for Best Picture and won three Academy Awards, including an Oscar for John Williams’ iconic musical score. Five decades later, “Jaws” has inspired multiple generations of filmmakers and remains one of the most thrilling, terrifying and unforgettable films of all time. General admission is \$15. 1822 N. Vermont Ave. americancine-matheque.com.

‘Music and Magic of Tumble Leaf’

Join Salastina for “The Music and Magic of Tumble Leaf” on Saturday, May 24, at 11 a.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium at the Ebell of Los Angeles. Don’t miss the whimsical creative event, which is Salastina’s first for children. Sing along with Lisbeth Scott and meet Tumble Leaf creator and director Drew Hodges and executive producer Kelli Bixler. Create stop-motion animation with puppets and behind-the-scenes technology from the show and build instruments like Fig and the Beetle Band Bus. Play child-sized classical instruments with the help of Salastina musicians and write songs for the musicians to play. Snacks are included. General admission is \$25; \$10 for students and free for children under 2. 4401 W. Eighth St. salastina.org.

Tonality at The Wallis

Grammy Award-winning vocal choir Tonality presents “Put Your Guns Down” on Saturday, May 24, at 7:30 p.m. at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. Join Tonality for a powerful and moving concert exploring hope and peace in the battle against gun violence in America. “Put Your Guns Down” discusses issues related to gun violence such as mass shootings, police brutality, the effects on victims, school shootings and suicide prevention. The concert also focuses on peace and coming together to find solutions to the epidemic of gun violence. It features the world premiere of Alexander Lloyd



Blake’s “Running From, Running To: A Musical Reflection on Ahmaud Arbery.” Tickets start at \$11. 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd. thewallis.org.

Tina Turner tribute

Music fans are invited to “Tina Turner: Simply the Best” on Sunday, May 25, at 4 and 7 p.m. at the Barnsdall Gallery Theatre. The tribute show produced by Meek Entertainment and P.R. celebrates Turner’s life, from humble beginnings in Nutbush, Tennessee, to her tumultuous relationship with Ike Turner and her rise to stardom as the “Queen of Rock ‘n’ Roll.” Tickets are \$45. 4800 Hollywood Blvd. eventbrite.com/e/meek-ent-pr-presents-tina-turner-simply-the-best-live-tribute-show-tickets-1311100489859.

‘Writings of Clara Porset’

The Hammer Museum is holding “Rediscovering a Modernist Visionary: Clara Porset’s Design Legacy” on Wednesday May 28, at 7:30 p.m. In an illuminating conversation celebrating the new book “Living Design: The Writings of Clara Porset,” Hammer Museum Director Zoë Ryan will be joined by art historian Brenda Danilowitz, editor of “Anni Albers: Selected Writings on Design,” and architectural historian Jane Hall, author of “Breaking Ground: Architecture by Women.” Admission is free; tickets required to attend the event. 10899 Wilshire Blvd. hammer.ucla.edu.

Contracting webinar

L.A. County is holding virtual small business webinar on Thursday, May 29, from 3-4:30 p.m., via Zoom. The free webinar will help business owners navigate the challenging bidding and estimating process, and will offer information on delivery models, insurance and bonding. Registration is required. eventbrite.com/e/principles-of-bidding-estimating-tickets-1326022672509.



photo courtesy of CNPA

Editor Edwin Folven, left, columnist Chris Erskine, reporters Rance Collins and Tabor Brewster and publishers Karen and Michael Villalpando attended the awards gala on May 17.

Beverly Press & Park Labrea News wins multiple journalism awards

The Beverly Press and Park Labrea News won multiple California Journalism Awards, including three first-place awards, at the California News Publishers Association Awards Gala on May 17. The annual awards given by the CNPA honored outstanding journalism across California in 2024.

Reporter Tabor Brewster placed first in the “Profile Story” category for his article, “The WWII hero of Hancock Park: Veteran Harry Corre looks back.” Reporter Rance Collins placed first in the “Enterprise News Story or Series” for his series on Fountain Avenue bike lanes. Additionally, columnist Chris Erskine placed first in the “Columns” category for his piece, “The Bride Wore Raindrops.” Erskine also delivered uplifting and humorous remarks as one of the evening’s guest speakers.

Overall, the Beverly Press and

Park Labrea News placed in six different categories. Editor Edwin Folven placed second in the “Enterprise News Story or Series” for his series on efforts to address homelessness in Los Angeles. Brewster placed fourth in “Food Writing/Reporting” for his story, “Alta: Keith Corbin’s recipe for change” and fifth in “Investigative Reporting” for a series on the Wires Only auto showroom in Beverly Hills. The 2024 edition of the Beverly Press’ annual magazine, “Our People Our Places,” was awarded fourth place in the “Print Special Section” category.

In addition to recognition by the CNPA, the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News has been named as a finalist for seven Southern California Journalism Awards by the Los Angeles Press Club. The winners will be announced at a gala in Downtown Los Angeles on June 22.

BEVERLY PRESS PARK LABREA NEWS

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The Beverly Press and Park Labrea News are weekly newspapers, published on Thursdays. Mail subscription is \$120 annually. Decreed newspapers of general circulation, entitled to publish legal advertising, Feb. 10, 1960 by Superior Court Order No 736637. Decreed newspapers of general circulation, entitled to publish legal advertising in the City of Beverly Hills and the County of Los Angeles, Dec. 22, 2020 by Superior Court Case Number 19STCP04891. Government Code 6008.

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Hollyhock House saved from L.A. budget cuts

■ Historic site will not lose UNESCO status

BY RANCE COLLINS

Earlier this month, the proposed Los Angeles city budget cuts raised concerns that the historic Hollyhock House would lose its status as a UNESCO World Heritage site, a status it gained in 2019. To maintain the distinction, a location must have four dedicated full-time staff members. Hollyhock House currently has only two, with two positions vacant. The two vacancies and one of the full-time staff positions were initially put on the chopping block in the proposed budget.

Councilman Hugo Soto-Martinez, 13th District, said on May 21, however, that the potential crisis had been averted, and the positions had been restored to the budget.

“We’re proud to report that after working with colleagues on the Budget Committee, funding to

restore Department of Cultural Affairs staff was included in the updated budget,” Soto-Martinez said. “[May 22’s] vote will finalize those restorations and help protect L.A.’s only UNESCO World Heritage Site.”

Hollyhock House, situated on Barnsdall Art Park in East Hollywood, generates its own income through tours. According to Soto-Martinez’s office, it requires about \$1.36 million annually to operate both the house and the park, but it was discovered it generates about \$5 million per year. This revenue is now accounted for in the revised budget, which will be voted on by the City Council on May 22.

Hollyhock House was built between 1919-21 by legendary architect Frank Lloyd Wright for heiress Aline Barnsdall. It has been open to the public as a museum since 1976. The discovery that Hollyhock House, which is also listed as a U.S. National Historic

Landmark, might lose its UNESCO status was met with widespread concern in the community. There are only two other UNESCO sites in California – Yosemite National Park and Redwood National and State Parks.

“Hollyhock House is a one-of-a-kind historic place for many factors, and the only in Los Angeles to have achieved this prestigious level of global cultural heritage recognition, making it the city’s first and only UNESCO World Heritage Site to date,” Los Angeles Conservancy president and CEO Adrian Scott Fine said. “While the city’s budget is still in motion, we’re confident the funding for the Hollyhock positions will be restored, keeping this historic place open to the public.”

Hollyhock House is also funded through the Barnsdall Art Park Foundation, which will host its annual Barnsdall Fridays Wine Tastings starting on June 6. The series will continue each Friday through Sept.



photo courtesy of Hollyhock House

The historic Hollyhock House was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and constructed between 1919-21.



photo courtesy of LACMA

The luncheon will be held on the Smidt Welcome Plaza, directly behind “Urban Light” at LACMA.

Miracle Mile Chamber hosts Tarfest Luncheon

The Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce is celebrating 22 years of Tarfest with a dynamic lineup of speakers at the Tarfest Luncheon on May 28 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Speakers include Dr. Erick Cheung, chief medical officer of the Stewart and Lynda Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at

UCLA; Eric Calhoun, director of Pan Pacific Park; and James Panozzo, founder of Tarfest and Launch LA.

The Tarfest Luncheon honors arts in the Miracle Mile and celebrates the area’s oldest community festival, Tarfest, which takes place on June 14 in Pan Pacific Park. Join 150 chamber members, friends of the chamber and government offi-

cials to celebrate the 22nd anniversary and kick off of the community-wide event. Tickets are \$35 for members, \$45 for non-members and are required to attend the event. The luncheon will be held on the Smidt Welcome Plaza (directly behind “Urban Light”) at LACMA, 5905 Wilshire Blvd.

For information and tickets, visit miraclemilechamber.org.

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photo by Tabor Brewster
The BHPD identified a vehicle as stolen after noticing existing damage on the front driver's side.

Two suspects arrested after brief pursuit in Beverly Hills

■ BHPD locates stolen vehicle near Burton and Maple

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Police Department on May 16 arrested two suspects driving a stolen vehicle following a pursuit that began near Burton Way and Maple Drive.

Officers at the scene said a gray Mazda SUV was identified as stolen by the BHPD after officers noticed extensive damage on the front driver's side. The suspects then fled in the vehicle.

After a short pursuit, BHPD cars blocked the stolen vehicle near the intersection of Charleville Boulevard and Palm Drive. A One male suspect and one female suspect were arrested at approximately 12:45 p.m.

A video of the incident livestreamed via the Citizen app showed several BHPD surrounding the vehicle after it was stopped on Palm Drive. BHPD officers appeared to have their weapons drawn as they confronted a male driver and a woman in the back seat.

BHPD Sgt. Billy Fair ordered both individuals to place their hands outside the car windows and exit the vehicle one-by-one. Both suspects were quickly arrested and placed into the back of a police car. The suspects were taken to jail and the vehicle was immediately towed.

"The car was reported as stolen, and then they tried to flee from us, so we're not going to have that in Beverly Hills," Fair said in the video. "In Beverly Hills, this is how we respond to calls – lots of police, and we end it fast."

Suspects ram stores with vehicles during burglaries

■ Businesses targeted on Melrose, Fairfax

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Detectives with the Los Angeles Police Department's Wilshire Division are investigating separate burglaries on May 16 and May 20 in which suspects drove vehicles through the front of stores and stole merchandise valued thousands of dollars.

The burglary on May 16 occurred at approximately 4:50 a.m. at SoleStage, a footwear store at 455 N. Fairfax Ave. Security cameras captured footage of a vehicle crashing through the front of the store. Four suspects can be seen ransacking and wrapping merchandise in a blanket before dragging it to a waiting vehicle and fleeing. Lt. Mark Ro, with the LAPD's Wilshire Division, said the suspects were wearing hooded sweatshirts, masks and gloves, and police have been unable to get a good description. The vehicle that crashed into the store – a Hyundai Elantra – was left at the scene. Police determined it was stolen in the city of Lennox, Ro said. He added that police believe there were two getaway vehicles involved, and one was possible a dark-colored Tesla sedan.

"We'll process the vehicle left at the scene for DNA and prints," he said. "We do have video of the incident."

The second burglary occurred on May 20 at approximately 3:47 a.m.



photo by Edwin Folven
The front of Relevance at 7454 Melrose Ave. was boarded after two suspects drove a pickup truck through the facade.

at Relevance, a luxury goods store at 7454 Melrose Ave. Authorities said two suspects crashed a dark-colored four-door pickup through the front of the store, exited the vehicle and stole merchandise. The men then reentered the pickup, possibly a Ford or Chevrolet, and drove away from the scene. Police have not located the vehicle, LAPD spokesman Jeff Lee said.

Investigators do not know if the two crimes are related. The stores were closed when the burglaries occurred and no injuries were reported. The exact value of the stolen merchandise is still being tabulated. The suspects stole luxury items from the stores and the loss is estimated to be thousands of dollars.

Community members in the

Melrose area were outraged by the burglaries and hope they do not signal a new trend.

"We've had a relatively quiet period in our area and it's troubling, in light of the struggles that businesses in the area have had," said Peter Nichols, co-founder of Melrose Action, a neighborhood advocacy organization. "It's bad news. When they drive a vehicle into a building, it's very troubling. Many of these stores are barely hanging on and the community can't face another increase in crime."

Anyone with information about the burglaries is urged to call the Wilshire Division at (213)922-8205 or (213)473-0476. During weekends and off-hours, call the LAPD's hotline at (877)LAPD247.

Man stabbed at vacant duplex

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A woman stabbed a man in the back with a pickax during an argument on May 16 between the two unhoused individuals at a vacant duplex at the corner of Waring Avenue and Ogden Drive.

The man was taken to a hospital for treatment and is expected to survive. The woman fled the scene by the time officers arrived and police are still searching for her.

Lt. Mark Ro, with the Los Angeles Police Department's Wilshire Division, said the victim, a 53-year-old man, told police he met

the suspect, a 22-year-old woman, at a fast-food restaurant. Ro said the male victim told police he is homeless, but he has a vehicle. The man drove the woman to the house at Waring and Ogden and they were inside when an argument occurred around 6:30 p.m., Ro said. The female suspect armed herself with a pickax and stabbed the man in the lower back, Ro added. The man, who had a phone, called 911 for help and officers and paramedics were dispatched to the scene.

Ro said the victim provided basic information to officers and told

See **Stabbing** page 30



D LINE SUBWAY EXTENSION PROJECT
Section 2 – Beverly Hills

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

May Updates

Two lanes in each direction on Wilshire Bl will be maintained between Beverly Dr and Crescent Dr to support appendage work.



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Couple questioned after video shows antisemitic behavior

Beverly Hills Police Department officers detained and questioned two people on May 19 after they were captured on film making antisemitic gestures and displaying antisemitic messages in the 400 block of North Roxbury Drive. No arrests were made.

Police saw a social media post with video of a woman, identified on the social media post as Yasmeen Zohra Roubou, walking on a sidewalk making a Nazi salute and shouting "Heil Hitler," accompanied by someone in a nearby SUV with antisemitic messages written on it. Officers were dispatched to the scene and

found the woman and a male driver. BHPD Sgt. Audra Alatorre said the man is 30 years old and the woman is 31 years old, and they are both from Orange County. Officers took a crime report and allowed the individuals to leave. Alatorre said the report has been forwarded to detectives for possible further investigation. It has not been classified as a hate incident pending further investigation.

Police monitored the individuals, who left the city shortly after the incident. Alatorre had no further information. Anyone with information is urged to call the BHPD at (310)550-4951.



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WeHo passes increased firearm regulations

BY BEVERLY PRESS STAFF

The West Hollywood City Council voted 5-0 at its May 19 meeting to strengthen firearm regulations that ban the sale of firearms within 1,000 feet of businesses that sell alcohol, require gun owners to obtain firearm liability insurance, and prohibit firearms at city buildings, parks and their connected parking lots.

“This ordinance builds on West Hollywood’s legacy of proactive, progressive gun safety policy,” Councilman Danny Hang said. “We’ve done it before and we’re going to do it again. If the federal government won’t act, it’s on cities like us to act and lead.”

Councilman John Erickson originally introduced the firearm regulations about two years ago, he said, but the measures faced legal challenges especially after the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2022 ruling that

struck down New York’s requirement for people to demonstrate “proper cause” to obtain a concealed carry license, which limited local and state governments from passing restrictions on gun ownership.

Although gun stores are permitted in West Hollywood, there currently aren’t any within city limits, though there are firearm stores in nearby cities including Beverly Hills and Culver City, West Hollywood City Attorney Lauren Langer said during the meeting. Langer added that the measures build on previous laws that prohibit stores from selling firearms within 1,000 feet of another establishment selling firearms, in addition to the same distance requirement regarding schools, parks and daycare centers.

Erickson said West Hollywood needs to do everything it can to curb gun violence, which he said disproportionately affects members of the

LGBTQ community and women. Erickson, who is running for state senate in 2026, also said that state governments can do more to encourage municipalities to pass ordinances promoting firearm protections.

“Statewide governments need to step in and be advocates to help end the epidemic of gun violence,” he said. “Providing these ordinances is a great blueprint for not only local cities, and something I continue to advocate for, but something I would like to expand at the statewide level.”

During the meeting, Councilwoman Lauren Meister pointed out that there are no establishments that sell guns within the city, but still supported the measure.

Hang also said it is important for local governments to take the lead on gun violence prevention when the federal government won’t act. West Hollywood became the first city to prohibit the sale of cheaply made guns sold at reduced prices known as “Saturday Night Specials,” in 1995, according to the city manager’s report on the ordinance. In addition to banning the sale or possession of semi-automatic rifles, West Hollywood also became one of the first cities to require licensed gun dealers to post firearm warnings in 2007, according to the report.

No members of the public spoke in opposition. Once passed, the regulations were met with scattered applause from members of the audience.



photo by Jon Viscott

Councilmen John Erickson spoke in support of increased firearm regulations at the May 19 West Hollywood City Council meeting.

Getty Villa Museum plans reopening after wildfire

The Getty announced on May 19 that the Getty Villa Museum will reopen to the public on Friday, June 27, following its temporary closure due to the Palisades Fire.

The Villa closed on the morning of Jan. 7 when the site was threatened by the fire. Since then, Getty has worked closely with its staff and partnering agencies to test the grounds to ensure that the site and buildings are safe for the public to return.

The Villa will be open on a limited schedule from Friday through Monday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. to limit the amount of traffic on Pacific Coast Highway. The Villa is currently not accessible via Sunset Boulevard, and guests must enter from PCH only. Reservations are limited to 500 visitors daily. Free timed-entry reservations are available online.

“It is with the utmost gratitude and appreciation for Getty staff, first responders and other agencies that we can announce the reopening of the Villa to the public,” said Katherine Fleming, president and CEO of the J. Paul Getty Trust. “Without their tireless efforts, we would not be in the position we are in today, where we can welcome back visitors and the surrounding community to enjoy the Villa grounds and collection.”

On Jan. 7, 17 Getty facilities, grounds and security team members volunteered to stay on site to protect the museum. Staff sealed the galleries and extinguished small fires. The Villa was spared through the valiant efforts of LAFD firefighters in the surrounding neigh-

borhoods and targeted water drops.

Getty’s facilities and grounds teams have coordinated an extensive cleanup, including deep cleaning indoor and outdoor spaces, flushing the water system, replacing all air and water filters and removing more than 1,300 fire-damaged trees. The site has less vegetation and some burn damage to the outer grounds.

The museum’s next exhibition, “The Kingdom of Pylos: Warrior-Princes of Ancient Greece,” will be on view from June 27 through Jan. 12. The exhibition showcases more than 230 works of art and artifacts from Messenia, an epicenter of the Mycenaean civilization that flourished in Late Bronze Age Greece.

The previous Villa exhibition, “Ancient Thrace and the Classical World: Treasures from Bulgaria, Romania, and Greece,” was forced to close prematurely due to the fire. The Getty has created a virtual tour of the exhibition to allow visitors to explore the fascinating culture of the ancient Thracians.

Getty’s Outdoor Classical Theater will also return this fall, with “Oedipus the King, Mama!,” co-produced by Troubadour Theater Company. The Villa’s public programs schedule will continue, with a robust schedule of talks and events in-person and online.

Visitors may experience traffic and arrival delays when traveling to the Getty Villa Museum. The Getty Villa is located at 17985 Pacific Coast Highway. For information and reservations, visit getty.edu/visit.



photo by Cassia Davis. © 2022 J. Paul Getty Trust

The exhibition “The Kingdom of Pylos: Warrior-Princes of Ancient Greece” will be on view at the Getty Villa Museum from June 27-Jan. 12.

Original Photo of Sarria, Milk and Mavis by Daniel Nicoletta

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wehopride.com/harveymilkday

BHUSD reaches tentative agreement with teachers union

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Unified School District and Beverly Hills Education Association on May 20 reached a tentative agreement for teachers' contracts in the 2025-26 school year. The district and school teachers' union announced the agreement on May 20.

According to the district, the agreement includes a 4.75% increase to all salaries and extra pay, a \$66.46 per hour certificated hourly rate, a \$1,500 increase to the benefits cap – with a new total of \$14,750, new paid evacuation leave policies in the event of a disaster, updated class size ratios for TK-5th grade, a counselor “caseload guideline” of 325 students per counselor, “enhanced co-teaching language to

support inclusive instruction and collaborative planning” and the addition of a second district librarian, among other specifications.

“This agreement represents a major achievement for our entire community,” BHUSD Board President Rachelle Marcus said. “As a former teacher, I am thrilled to see us reach this agreement before the school year concludes. Both sides came to the table with respect and a shared focus on what is best for our students and educators. I am proud of the balanced outcome we achieved together.”

The district and union began negotiating in January. According to BHEA President Katherine Warren, negotiations were delayed by the district due to changes in leadership. Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss

was appointed in April, following former Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy’s abrupt resignation in February. Additionally, the BHUSD Board of Education reshaped several administrative and leadership positions in March, which concerned members of the teachers’ union who alleged the district’s actions lacked transparency, she said.

“Since March, these educators have faced profound and sudden changes,” Warren said at an April 29 board 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.”

Warren also said that many teachers were concerned that an agreement would not be reached by the end of the school year, and teachers would leave for summer break without knowing their salaries for



photo by Tabor Brewster

Members of the Beverly Hills Education Association, led by president Katherine Warren, center, have been in negotiations with the district since January.

Beverly Hills faces four new builder’s remedy lawsuits

■ City now faces at least six legal battles on housing

BY TABOR BREWSTER

A developer for two proposed builder’s remedy projects at 8800 Wilshire Blvd. and 8820 Wilshire Blvd. filed two lawsuits against the city of Beverly Hills, alleging that the city illegally denied the two

projects. Additionally, two housing nonprofits have filed lawsuits against the city in regards to the proposed projects.

“The city’s actions here are egregious. The city has done everything possible to stop these two housing development projects, including by illegally preventing my clients from appealing the unlawful denials of the projects to City Council,” the developer’s attorney Ryan Leaderman said. “Both projects are

proposed by local property owners and would provide much needed market rate housing and affordable housing in well-designed buildings. The city has a massive shortfall of housing and the city’s actions show it is absolutely not serious about helping to solve our housing shortage. My clients will vigorously pursue all avenues under the law to hold the city accountable for its unlawful denials of these two housing development projects.”

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

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

The city of Beverly Hills’ housing element for the 2021-29 cycle was out of compliance for approximately three years between 2021-

24.

The preliminary applications for the two projects were filed in December 2023.

Both projects along Wilshire Boulevard were submitted by King’s Arch, Inc., which is owned by the Shamooilian family, according to the lawsuit. The properties sit immediately adjacent to each other and occupy the southern block of Wilshire Boulevard between Clark Drive and Robertson Boulevard.

The complaint states that the 19-story development at 8800 Wilshire Blvd. would contain 139 units, including 17 affordable units. Additionally, it would include 1,381 square feet of ground floor retail space and 225 parking spaces in an underground structure.

The development at 8820 Wilshire Blvd. would include 134 units, with 16 designated as affordable housing. Similarly, the project would contain 1,870 square feet of ground floor retail space and 223 parking spaces in an above-ground structure. The proposed building at 8820 Wilshire Blvd. would also be 19 stories tall.

In a statement, Beverly Hills City Attorney Laurence Wiener said the city’s actions were justified.

“We are confident that the city has treated the projects appropriately,” Wiener said. “Unfortunately, these projects increased their build-

ing construction area by more than 20% between the preliminary application and the final application, which disqualifies the projects from the builder’s remedy process.”

While state housing law stipulates that a builder’s remedy project can lose its vested rights if “the development application proposes a quantity of square footage that deviates from the quantity proposed in the preliminary application by 20% or greater,” the lawsuits argue that the developments’ overall square footage did not change by 20%.

In addition to the lawsuits filed by the developers, housing advocacy group Californians for Homeownership filed a lawsuit against the city for denying the 8820 Wilshire Blvd. project, alleging the city violated state housing laws. Additionally, a similar nonprofit, the California Housing Defense Fund, filed a parallel lawsuit against the city alleging that it violated state law by denying the project at 8800 Wilshire Blvd.

The city now faces at least six builder’s remedy lawsuits. The developer of a 19-story project at 125-129 S. Linden sued the city, alleging an illegal denial, while Californians for Homeownership also filed a lawsuit in regards to that project.



renderings courtesy of SPF Architects

The buildings at 8800 Wilshire Blvd., left, and 8820 Wilshire Blvd., right, would each be 19 stories tall and sit immediately adjacent to each other.

Notable Quotes

“Politicians are the same all over: they promise to build a bridge even where there is no river.”

Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev (1894-1971)

The Soviet Union premier gave this remark during a press conference in Glen Cove, New York, during U.S. visit in October 1960.

The U.S. House of Representatives seems to be doing exactly that as you read this.

Source: Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations



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10 Reasons Why I Don’t Want An Estate Plan

1. I want large sums of my hard-earned money to go to a law firm.

2. I want the government to decide who gets my life savings.

3. What for? My house is only worth a half-million dollars.

4. I really don’t care who raises our children.

5. I want a total stranger to go through all of my personal papers and financial affairs.

6. I like family fights – especially unnecessary ones.

7. I don’t care who inherits my hard earned money.

8. I’ve been messy in life; I’ll be messy in death.

9. They say you can’t take it with you, but what if you can?

10. Probate. Must be fun.

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

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WeHo looks to improve discourse, increase transparency

■ City Council passes several ethics directives

BY RANCE COLLINS

The West Hollywood City Council approved several ethics-related items at its May 20 meeting. The council voted to reconvene the city’s ethics reform task force, review the process for removing appointed city officials and expand disclosure requirements. It also voted to look at the city’s code of conduct, especially related to civil discourse at community meetings.

“Sadly, we’ve seen individuals come to council meetings and make it so hostile and toxic that other individuals who want to come and speak about matters on the agenda [do] not feel safe or [do] not feel welcome,” Councilman John Erickson said. “Specifically, as we saw this last political season, the rhetoric got quite personal and a lot of individuals that normally did come to the city council meetings no longer felt safe as a result of either sup-

porting a bike lane or supporting different types of micro mobility options. They were demonized by their fellow community members. So, I hope that we can come together and finally move past some of these differences.”

“I think West Hollywood thrives when we lead with respect and collaboration,” Councilman Danny Hang said. “We’re a passionate city and that’s a good thing, but sometimes the tone of public discourse can overshadow the work we’re actually trying to get done. When conversations become hostile or personal, it can discourage community members from getting involved. Our West Hollywood staff work incredibly hard for the community and deserve to be treated with dignity. We can disagree, but we should always aim to do it constructively.”

In regards to an item which expands disclosure requirements, Councilwoman Lauren Meister emphasized the money being poured into Political Action Campaigns that are technically separate from but support certain can-

didates.

“We have PACs that contribute a lot of money to either support or oppose candidates and that information is not disclosed by a candidate because the PAC is separate from the candidate, and [what] I would like for the ethics committee to look at is there a way to have disclosure – not necessarily by the council person, but somewhere in a staff report, in the back as an appendix or something so that is more transparent than having to go through [the] city’s website campaign finance section to find it,” Meister said.

The Ethics Reform Task Force will review disclosure requirements for elected officials, appointed officials, city staff and anyone doing business with the city.

“Bringing back the ethics task force is a chance to look at what’s working, what’s not and how we can improve,” Hang said. “Not just for elected officials, but across the board with appointed officials as well. It sends a message that we’re not afraid of self-reflection and that we take our responsibility to the public seriously.”

Hang said that, during the President Donald Trump era, the “the bar for ethical behavior in public life has been dragged lower than



photo courtesy of the city of West Hollywood

West Hollywood is looking at ways to further disclosure requirements for city officials.

it should be,” and that West Hollywood prides itself in “doing the right thing ... even when no one’s watching.”

“It’s more important than ever for local governments like ours to lead by example,” he said. “That starts with how we treat each other and how we do our jobs.”

Longtime resident Anita Goswami agreed with further transparency being implemented by West Hollywood to avoid corruption.

“I tend to think of this on a national scale, the reality it’s happening here in our backyard, and we need to be looking at that. Because we’re seeing that voices are not being heard in the city fully, we are seeing a lot of challenges in the city,” Goswami said. “So, these kinds of activities – to get the task force, looking at the [oath of office], looking at that code of conduct – all of these things together are improving the self-governance of the city of West Hollywood.”

David Wilson steps down as WeHo city manager



photo courtesy of the city of West Hollywood
David Wilson

BY RANCE COLLINS

West Hollywood City Manager David Wilson announced his retirement during the May 19 City Council meeting. He will stay with the city until early 2026.

“I feel incredibly fortunate to have spent my career surrounded by people who care deeply about this unique and vibrant community,” Wilson said.

Wilson has been with the city for over 25 years and was previously West Hollywood’s assistant city manager, director of finance and

technology services, budget and compensation manger, a senior management analyst and a project development administrator. The University of California, Berkeley graduate also holds a master’s degree from the University of Southern California.

“When I stepped into the role of city manager in July of 2021, a primary objective was to help guide the city through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery. I’m proud that together, we ensured continuity and essential services, prioritized public health

and safety and emerged in a strengthened financial position, laying the groundwork for future investments and continued progress,” Wilson said.

He said that “it’s rarely a perfect time to retire,” but that it was “right time” for him professionally and personally.

Wilson’s announcement was met with universal well wishes from the council, some of whom expanded on their thoughts after the meeting.

“David has been a steady, thoughtful and compassionate leader through some of the city’s most challenging times,” Councilman Danny Hang said. “His love and deep commitment to West Hollywood and to public service is something I’ll

always continue to admire. We’re grateful for everything he’s done for the West Hollywood community, and we wish him nothing but much love and happiness in his next chapter. Thank you for everything David, you will be missed.”

“David Wilson is one of the finest public servants I’ve ever had the opportunity to work with,” Councilman John Erickson said. “His commitment to the city, our business community and our residents is exemplified by his decades of service. I’m thankful for his leadership during hard times and his exemplary attitude in pitting the city first, even during times of great personal sacrifice.”

State funds expand wildfire protections

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy announced on May 20 that it has awarded \$3.2 million in state funds to the Los Angeles County and Ventura County fire departments to implement wildfire prevention programs. The allocation will immediately improve local fire prevention and resiliency before fire season begins and address the growing severity of fire seasons in Southern California.

The grants, unanimously approved by the conservancy and its advisory committee at a meeting on May 19, include \$2.2 million to Los Angeles County Fire Department and \$1 million to Ventura County Fire Department. The grants provide for coordination with local cities to reduce fuels in densely vegetated parks, open spaces and urban interfaces adjacent to communities in the Santa Monica Mountains Zone and Rim of the Valley Corridor. The grant projects are supported by outreach and education from the departments.

The California Legislature enacted an early action measure authored by Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel (D-Woodland Hills) that was signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom in mid-April, allowing the conservancy to expend Proposition 4 bond funds for urgent wildfire prevention and resilience efforts. Proposition 4 was approved

by voters in the November 2024 general election. The conservancy, which has helped preserve more than 85,000 acres of local open space and habitat, was allocated \$31 million from Proposition 4 for watershed improvement, wildfire resilience, chaparral and forest restoration and workforce development.

“My community has seen firsthand the devastating effects of wildfires intensified by a changing climate.”

California Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica), author of Proposition 4

The fire department grants are the first of many the conservancy will award from the state funds as soon as possible to proactively reduce the risk of wildfire, strengthen wildfire resilience, increase carbon sequestration, fight the effects of climate change and dedicate more resources to local community infrastructure.

“In less than two weeks the conservancy has granted funds and begun to put extensive preventative

management strategies in place before the next fire season,” Conservancy chair Steve Veres said. “We will move quickly and fund the entities who will most effectively protect our communities now.”

California Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) and Assemblywoman Jacqui Irwin (D-Thousand Oaks), who are legislative participants in the conservancy and whose districts were impacted by the Palisades fire, championed the early action funding.

“My community has seen firsthand the devastating effects of wildfires intensified by a changing climate, and we know we will have so much more work to do to minimize the risk of fire in the future,” said Allen, author of Proposition 4. “We have been working with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy with a sense of urgency to get these Prop. 4 dollars to work as soon as possible to better protect vulnerable communities through fuel reduction efforts – a core priority for our wildfire management efforts.”

The conservancy has led regional collaborative wildfire strategies and has been an anchor of the statewide Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program.

For information, visit smmc.ca.gov and mrca.ca.gov.

Arts festival revs up WeHo Pride

Each year, the city of West Hollywood celebrates the LGBTQ+ community through the arts with its WeHo Pride Arts Festival. This year, the WeHo Pride Arts Festival will feature theatre, cabaret, music, dance, film, literary arts and art-making workshops. Held as part of WeHo Pride, the arts festival will take place May 23-25, at the Los Angeles LGBT Center’s Village at Ed Gould Plaza, located at 1125 N. McCadden Place in Los Angeles. Since its inception in 2007, the City’s LGBTQ+ Arts Festival has showcased artists and storytellers who amplify LGBTQ+ pride through the arts, and this year there is special emphasis on the individual participant as an artist.

Among the many free participatory art-making workshops and events are: Fabric Patch Making, Live Model Drawing, Painting and Mantra Making, a Sing-Along with the Gay Men’s Chorus of Los Angeles and an improv workshop with West Hollywood City Poet Laureate Jen Cheng leading to development of a collaborative poem.

Also returning are the Pride Poets, an LGBTQ+ poetry collective who had their genesis at the Arts Festival in 2019. Since then, Pride Poets have taken their talents to Grand Performances, the

Getty Museum and other Pride celebrations throughout the region.

The WeHo Pride Arts Festival is organized in a choose-your-own-adventure model, with several concurrent programs. All events and workshops are free to attend, however some events are ticketed by advance RSVP, with ticketholders provided priority seating. RSVP is strongly encouraged.

For full listings and ticketing information, visit wehopride.com/artsfestival.



photo courtesy of the city of West Hollywood
West Hollywood City Poet Laureate Jen Cheng will lead an improv workshop on May 23.

Council looks to curtail staff cuts in L.A. budget

■ Plan to save at least 1,000 jobs under consideration

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles City Council is scheduled to consider changes on May 22 to Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass’ proposed city budget for the 2025-25 fiscal year, which initially included approximately 1,600 employee layoffs.

The council’s Budget and Finance Committee has spent the last two weeks going over the proposed budget and meeting with city department heads to determine how potential layoffs can be avoided and services can be maintained, and has a plan to reduce layoffs by at least 1,000 jobs. During a luncheon hosted by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce on May 20, Mayor Karen Bass said the goal is to reduce the number of layoffs even further.

“By the city charter, which is our constitution, I have to present a

budget on a specific date ... and the budget has to be based on the revenue we have at that date. So I had to present it with 1,600 layoffs. But at the same time, I said as the budget goes through the process, we’re hoping to avoid layoffs, and we’ve been working ever since to either reduce or eliminate the need for layoffs,” Bass said. “It’s still our goal to have a budget with no layoffs and we’ve had very good progress.”

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, serves as chair of the council’s Budget Committee and has led the council’s efforts to reduce layoffs.

“The Budget Committee spent weeks making hard decisions and looking for ways to save positions to make sure departments can still do the work and deliver the core services our constituents deserve. The result is a revised budget proposal that cuts the number of layoffs by more than half, and restores core services like street cleaning, tree trimming, traffic safety, illegal dumping response and street light-

ing repairs,” Yaroslavsky said. “We’re also increasing oversight of homelessness spending, adding critical resources to the fire department and restoring 150 positions to the LAPD, ensuring our first responders have the tools they need to keep us safe.”

Yaroslavsky’s spokesman Leo Daube said the layoffs were reduced by making adjustments to the proposed budget. For example, the initial budget called for 480 new police officers, and the number was reduced to 240. Approximately 240 layoffs were avoided by eliminating a program for “homeless street teams” to address homelessness. The revisions restored 122 positions at the Bureau of Street Services so street paving and sidewalk repair will continue. The budget includes a nearly \$50 million year-over-year increase for the Los Angeles Fire Department, including \$80 million for new fire trucks and helicopters and funds for new mechanics. Through deliberations, 150 key civilian LAPD positions that support investigations and



photo by Edwin Folven

The City Council will consider the city budget during a meeting on May 22 at L.A. City Hall.

crime-solving were spared, ensuring officers can stay in the field patrolling the streets.

“This proposal reflects the values we brought into this process from Day One, protecting essential services, holding ourselves accountable and doing right by the people of Los Angeles,” Yaroslavsky

added.

The City Council meeting to consider the budget begins at 9 a.m. on May 22 in Los Angeles City Hall, 200 N. Spring St. The meeting can be viewed online by visiting clerk.lacity.gov/calendar and clicking on the tab for the May 22 City Council meeting.

L.A. Jewish Health receives state funds for senior behavioral health services

As a leading provider of coordinated senior health services, Los Angeles Jewish Health has been awarded \$28 million by the California Department of Health Care Services as part of the Proposition 1 Bond Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program Round 1: Launch Ready Initiative.

The funding, announced by Gov. Gavin Newsom, is part of an historic \$3.3 billion investment in behavioral health infrastructure, supporting 124 projects statewide.

At Los Angeles Jewish Health, the

funding will support the expansion of inpatient behavioral health services for seniors, a critical step in addressing California’s growing senior behavioral health crisis. The expansion comes at a time of intensifying need. California’s senior population is projected to double by 2040, and the number of older adults experiencing behavioral health challenges – particularly those who are low-income, medically complex or socially isolated – is rising sharply.

“California is facing a senior behavioral health crisis,” said Dale

Surowitz, president and CEO of Los Angeles Jewish Health. “This transformative investment allows us to act urgently and proactively by expanding access to high-quality, compassionate inpatient care for seniors in acute psychiatric distress. We are deeply grateful to Gov. Newsom and DHCS for recognizing the urgency of this need and investing in a more sustainable, responsive future for our aging population.”

Newsom underscored the importance of Proposition 1 in his

remarks announcing the awards.

“Californians demanded swift action to address our state’s behavioral health crisis when they voted for Prop. 1 in March 2024,” Newsom said. “We’re delivering our biggest win yet. Whether it’s crisis stabilization, inpatient services or long-term treatment, we’re ensuring that individuals can access the right care at the right time.”

The funding is part of California’s broader strategy to modernize the behavioral health system by increasing transparency, expanding access and building infrastructure necessary to provide a full continuum of care for individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders. Through Proposition 1 and BHCIP, the state

aims to create more than 6,800 new residential treatment beds and 26,700 outpatient treatment spaces, addressing urgent gaps in care across every region of California.

Founded in 1912, Los Angeles Jewish Health is the largest non-profit, single-source provider of comprehensive senior healthcare services in the Los Angeles region. Los Angeles Jewish Health serves nearly 4,000 older adults annually through a continuum of community-based and residential programs, including skilled nursing, assisted living, short-term rehabilitation, senior behavioral health, geriatric psychiatry, hospice and palliative care, memory care and the Brandman Centers for Senior Care. For information, visit lajhealth.org.

County warns about measles dangers ahead of summer travel season

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is cautioning residents about an increase in measles cases among people who have recently traveled domestically and internationally. With measles outbreaks in the United States and around the world, an increase in cases highlights the importance of being protected before summer travel plans. The public health department encourages all residents to get the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine.

“Measles is a serious respiratory disease that spreads easily through the air and on surfaces, particularly among people who are not already protected from it,” Los Angeles County Health Officer Dr. Muntu Davis said. “A person can spread the illness to others before they have symptoms, and it can take seven to 21 days for symptoms to

show up after exposure. Measles can lead to severe disease in young children and vulnerable adults. As L.A. County residents begin to travel this summer and with measles cases increasing among those who have recently traveled, we remind everyone that the best way to protect yourself and your family from infection is with the highly effective measles vaccine.”

The department encourages all residents to review their immunization and medical records to determine if they are protected against measles, especially before international travel or domestic travel in areas experiencing measles outbreaks. People who have not had measles infection or received the measles immunization previously are not protected from the measles virus and should speak with a

health care provider about receiving the measles, mumps and rubella immunization.

An infected person can spread measles up to four days before a rash appears and up to four days afterwards. If other people breathe the contaminated air or touch the infected surface, then touch their eyes, noses, or mouths, they can become infected.

If symptoms develop, stay home and call a health care provider immediately. Do not enter a health care facility before calling and making them aware of a measles exposure and symptoms. The public health department can assist health care providers in appropriately diagnosing and managing care.

For information, visit ph.lacounty.gov/measles.

L.A. plans database to connect residents with housing

The Los Angeles City Council recently approved a motion to establish a public comprehensive affordable housing database.

“We talk a lot about making it easier to build affordable housing, but it is just as critical to make it easy for residents to apply for this new housing.”

Councilwoman Nithya Raman, 4th District

The council vote approved a three-year contract between the Los Angeles Housing Department and Exygy, Inc. to develop a multilingual online system that allows applicants to search for all available affordable housing in the city of Los Angeles. The creation of the database was initiated by a motion introduced in 2023 by Councilwoman Nithya Raman, 4th District, and seconded by Council President Marquee Harris-Dawson, 8th District.

Los Angeles has primarily increased its affordable housing supply in recent years through incentive programs such as the State Density Bonus or Transit Oriented Communities program. Thousands of new affordable units have been built as part of larger developments of market-rate units. Yet, residents of Los Angeles who qualify for affordable housing do not currently have a straightforward means of finding or applying for the housing.

The legislation will develop a centralized, comprehensive multilingual system to make it easier for residents to find and apply for available affordable housing, including publicly subsidized and privately financed housing. The one-stop database will simplify the process, allowing applicants to directly apply for housing based on their needs, preferences and qualifications. The system will be modeled on databases in cities such as San Francisco.

“We talk a lot about making it easier to build affordable housing, but it is just as critical to make it easy for residents to apply for this new housing,” Raman said.

“This initiative will fill a critical gap in our system, creating access for Angelenos at a time when affordable housing is increasingly needed,” Harris-Dawson added.

Summit explores Hollywood’s role in climate protection

The sixth annual Hollywood Climate Summit will be held on June 2-3 at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences’ Samuel Goldwyn Theater, 8949 Wilshire Blvd., and on June 4 at the Writers Guild Theater, 135 S. Doheny Drive in Beverly Hills.

Environmental experts and leaders in entertainment and media come

together for conversations on climate education and advancing sustainable practices. The event includes live panels with industry experts, breakout discussions, interactive workshops, networking opportunities and surprise performances.

The Hollywood Climate Summit is a nonprofit that produces unique immersive learning experiences

and coordinates collective social impact and narrative strategies between the climate movement and Hollywood. It holds networking events year-round, creative think tanks and the annual conference at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

For information and tickets, visit hollywoodclimatesummit.com.

Letters to the Editor

Criminalization is not the answer to homelessness

Re “Tents come down along Wilshire, Robertson,” May 15 issue

Basically, Gov. Gavin Newsom’s newly released model ordinance criminalizes homelessness and is aimed at banning and clearing homeless encampments out of sight of rich people.

This model ordinance builds on an already failed policy used by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), which destroyed over 16,000 encampments since 2021 and created even more street homeless people. This reliance on punitive measures like encampment sweeps and camping bans will criminalize and displace, rather than support, people without stable housing. This makes the problem of unhoused people even worse.

Expanded efforts of statewide encampment sweeps and camping bans follow a U.S. Supreme Court’s 2024 ruling allowing local governments to prohibit encampments even when no alternative shelter is available. After the ruling, Newsom directed state agencies in July to start clearing encampments. In August 2024, he even threatened California cities and counties that fail to clear homeless encampments with loss of state funding.

Instead of criminalizing homelessness, we should be addressing its root causes like soaring housing costs, a severe lack of affordable housing and stagnant wages. Clearing encampments won’t

work because we have nowhere to put the displaced people. What happens is that we spend precious taxpayer dollars just shuffling people from one jurisdiction’s land to someone else’s.

The solution to this problem is easy. We have even more vacant units than homeless people to fill them. We need an aggressive public housing program to fill these units with currently unhoused people. In the meantime, law enforcement should be protecting homeless encampments, not clearing them out.

Cy Husain
Downtown Los Angeles

Can’t wait for Engelbert Humperdinck to take the stage

Re “Humperdinck’s appearance at the Saban isn’t his ‘Last Waltz,’” May 15 issue

The most beautiful and humble man I ever met. He’s so kind and caring of his fans. I adore him! Love his music!

Linda Gowens

Absolutely true – a big fan – and as well, seeing dear Enge at the Saban is our fave spot.

Jeri Carr Benson Hunter

Love to see Engelbert at the Saban!

Carole LeBoon

Work ongoing at stations as subway lines connect

Metro is continuing construction of the D Line subway extension project in late May at many locations along Wilshire Boulevard. Motorists can expect lane closures around the subway stations at Wilshire/La Brea, Wilshire/Fairfax, Wilshire/La Cienega, Wilshire/Rodeo and Century City/Constellation. At the eastern end of the project, the Wilshire/Western and Wilshire/Normandie stations have closed through July 25 as the existing subway line is connected to the new line. The segment of the D Line from Wilshire/Western to Wilshire/La Cienega is expected to open this fall.

A “bus bridge” is running between the Wilshire/Western and Wilshire/Vermont stations, where passengers can access the D Line. Passengers are encouraged to use Bus Shuttle 855 or Metro Lines 720 or 20 in the area. Trains on the B Line, which parallels the D Line between the Wilshire/Vermont station and Union Station, are running every eight minutes during the station closures.

Continuing through June, civil restoration will be ongoing in and around the intersections of Wilshire Boulevard and Western, La Brea and Fairfax avenues. Crews are repairing streets, curbs and sidewalks. The work will require upcoming full weekend closures of the intersections. Wilshire/Fairfax will be closed from June 13-16, Wilshire/Western will be closed from June 20-23 and Wilshire/La Brea will be closed from June 27-30. The closures run from Friday at 9 p.m. through Monday at 6 a.m.

At Wilshire/La Cienega, work continues at the subway station site



photo by Edwin Folven

The intersection of Wilshire/Fairfax will be closed from June 13-16 for street restoration work.

and in the surrounding area. Crews are building a new bus pad on the east side of La Cienega Boulevard just north of Wilshire Boulevard, requiring a closure of the curb lane through May 27. A K-rail work zone is implemented on the north side of Wilshire Boulevard between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards. Two lanes in each direction will remain open on Wilshire Boulevard in the area.

In Beverly Hills, K-rail enclosures remain in place along the northern and southern curb lanes of Wilshire Boulevard near Wilshire/Rodeo. Work in the zones supports ongoing station construction and facilitates appendage structure and sidewalk construction in May. Two lanes are maintained along Wilshire Boulevard between Beverly and Crescent drives. Left

turns are restricted from westbound Wilshire Boulevard to South Cañon Drive.

In Century City, crews are preparing to remove deck panels and repair the street surface along Constellation Boulevard in July and August between Century Park East and Solar Way. Work is ongoing on appendage structures and will continue after deck removal in the fourth quarter of 2025. Construction is also occurring within current traffic closures around the station area and lane closures may be in place in the area.

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

Metro reaches milestone with free rides on GoPass program

More than 500,000 students are currently traveling free on Metro and 18 other public transit systems through Metro’s GoPass program, which is celebrating nearly 60 million student boardings since it started in October 2021.

“This is a big milestone for the GoPass program and shows just how important it has become for families across L.A. County,” Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Board Chair Janice Hahn said. “Transportation needs shouldn’t get in the way of any student’s education. For many students across L.A. County, the free Metro rides through our GoPass program have made all the difference.”

The GoPass program is available to all students in school districts registered with Metro. Participating schools distribute TAP cards and activation codes that enable students to ride transit to school, extracurricular activities and work. Students can activate cards using the online GoPass portal, by calling (866)TAPTOGO, and using a virtual TAP card on the TAP LA App.

“GoPass has introduced half a million students to transit, so they feel confident riding it to school, or wherever they need or want to go,” Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins said. “These young people and their families are realizing all the benefits that a safe, clean



photo courtesy of Metro

Metro’s GoPass program offers free rides to students in grades K-12 and at community colleges.

and efficient transit system can deliver for them and their communities. We hope they will choose to become lifelong transit riders.”

All schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District offer the GoPass program to students. It provides free transit on Metro buses and trains, and 18 additional transit agencies, to students in grades K-12 and at community colleges. GoPass participants can take unlimited free rides on Metro bus and rail, AVTA, Burbank Bus, City of Commerce Transit, Culver CityBus, Foothill Transit, Glendale Beeline, Glendora Transit, GTrans, LADOT DASH, L.A. County Shuttles, Long Beach Transit, Lynwood Trolley,

Montebello Bus, Norwalk Transit, Pasadena Transit, Santa Monica Big Blue Bus and Torrance Transit.

The GoPass program has significantly improved student outcomes and school performance, according to Metro. Schools report that students rely on GoPass to get to class each day, with many districts citing improved attendance since the program’s launch. In a recent survey, 78% of GoPass students reported better school attendance and 94% said they felt better overall, highlighting the program’s impact on access to education and student well-being.

For information, visit metro.net/gopass.



photo courtesy of the LAPL

Holocaust survivor Dorien Grunbaum was honored at the ceremony on May 12.

Los Angeles Public Library honors Holocaust survivor on Anne Frank Day

The Los Angeles Public Library observed Anne Frank Day on May 12 and presented a Humanitarian Award to Holocaust survivor Dorien Grunbaum during a ceremony at the Central Library downtown. The ceremony was held in coordination with the organization Anne Frank L.A. Student winners of the organization’s “Your Story Matters” essay contest were also honored. Following the ceremony, the film “Where is Anne Frank?” was shown. For information, visit lapl.org.

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Elephants will migrate across Beverly Hills

BY TABOR BREWSTER

For the month of July, visitors to Beverly Hills might think they're in foothills of the Himalayas. One-hundred life-size sculptures of Indian Elephants will stand tall in Beverly Gardens Park, a temporary donation from a global fundraising group known as the Great Elephant Migration.

According to cofounders Ruth Ganesh and Fiona Humphrey, the sculptures benefit 21 NGOs that work to resolve conflicts between humans and wildlife. Each sculpture is for sale, and proceeds are donated to conservation efforts. Ganesh and Humphrey presented the exhibition proposal to the Beverly Hills City Council at a study session on May 20.

In the past year, the elephant sculptures have "migrated" west across North America, stopping in New York City, Miami, Houston, Wyoming and Montana before the exhibition culminates in Beverly Hills.

"The journey itself started in July last year in Newport, R.I.," Ganesh said. "It is a symbolic journey on behalf of all wildlife that is currently navigating a very human-dominated world – crossing roads, navigating train tracks, agricultural plantations and towns and cities."

Each elephant is based on a real elephant currently migrating across the Nilgiri Hills of southern India. According to the group, "the exhi-

bition amplifies Indigenous knowledge and inspires the human race to share space." The sculptures are made out of Lantana Camara, an invasive weed that has negatively impacted animal habitats in India.

Ganesh said the group chose Southern California as the final stop for the elephants due to its important ecological landscape and the ongoing creation of the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing – a grassy bridge currently under construction that will allow animals to cross over the 101 Freeway. Ganesh said the wildlife crossing is the biggest example of furthering human-wildlife coexistence anywhere in the world.

The Great Elephant Migration exhibition also received support from the wildlife crossing's namesake donor.

"These truly mesmerizing majestic mammals – sculpted to scale by Indigenous artists using plant remnants – are morally profound works of art that amplify how humans can coexist with nature, rather than co-opt it. The migration piece directly aligns with the Annenberg Foundation's work globally on conservation, as well as increasing engagement with the arts through powerful communication," Wallis Annenberg said in a statement. "I am so happy to support this triumphant and most meaningful exhibit, which culminates its American run steps from the Wallis Annenberg Center for the

Performing Arts."

The Great Elephant Migration will provide two security guards who will roam the exhibition between 6 p.m.-8 a.m., and volunteers will be present at the exhibition during the day. The exhibition will be on display between July 1-Aug. 1, with a community preview event on June 30. The sculptures will be spaced out across the landscaped park lawns that span several blocks of Santa Monica Boulevard.

As a donation, the exhibition will not have any cost on the city. However, the City Council waived all fees associated with the installation. The Great Elephant Migration will provide transportation, installation and pay for any related costs.

The city received several letters in support of the installation, and two members of the public spoke in favor of the art exhibition at the City Council study session.

Similarly, the exhibition received



photo courtesy of the Great Elephant Migration

Beverly Gardens Park will soon be home to 100 life-size elephant sculptures.

Beverly Hills City Manager Nancy Hunt-Coffey announces retirement

After more than 35 years of public service, Beverly Hills City Manager Nancy Hunt-Coffey announced on May 15 that she will retire in June 2026.

"As the first female city manager in the history of Beverly Hills, Nancy leaves a legacy of respected leadership, superior institutional knowledge and humility," Mayor Sharona Nazarian said. "On behalf of the City Council and our entire community, we thank Nancy for her tireless dedication to making

Beverly Hills a better place and wish her and her family the very best in the years ahead."

Hired from the city of Glendale in 2008 as assistant director of Community Services, Hunt-Coffey became director in 2016, leading the city's Recreation and Parks, Library, Human Services and Administrative Support divisions. In 2019, she was appointed assistant city manager before being named city manager in 2023.

"Watching Nancy ascend to the highest levels of leadership within our organization has been a pleasure to witness," Nazarian added.

"I would like to thank the mayor, City Council, our devoted city staff and this incredible community for

unanimous support from the City Council.

"Thank you for bringing this to Beverly Hills," Mayor Sharona Nazarian said to the cofounders. "This is going to be a great way to increase awareness for important issues that we're facing."

allowing me the privilege to serve for all these years," Hunt-Coffey said. "It's been an honor to represent you, and I will always cherish my time in Beverly Hills."

The City Council is expected to discuss selecting a new city manager at an upcoming meeting.

For information, visit beverlyhills.org.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Nancy Hunt-Coffey

Struggling with pain from a decades-old injury, Gregory Thompson finally underwent knee replacement surgeries on both legs at CHA HPMC.

"From the moment I arrived at CHA HPMC, I was impressed by the professionalism and care provided by the medical team.

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Gregory Thompson

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After 35 years, you’re still my kind of town

I prefer authentic towns that don’t try to be something they are not – Paris, for example, or Rome – and are just happy with the simple pleasures at hand, the scenery, the misfits, the magic.

Simple little places. Like L.A., for instance.

FYI, I have not heard a church bell in Los Angeles for more than 15 years. But I hear plenty of sirens. In some ways, they are even better.

A siren at midnight means some over-caFFEinated first-responder is racing to a 911 call, not knowing what he or she will face exactly. A car wreck, a gunman, some other lost cause?

In L.A., sirens are church bells.

Generally, I prefer conventional pleasures in quiet settings, which probably explains my love of Los Angeles.

My wife and I arrived in California 35 years ago this month, towing two wide-eyed kids. We paused at the state line, where a billboard said: “Welcome to California (Clothing Optional).”

“This will be such a great place to raise a family,” Posh chirped.

Sure enough, there have been riots, earthquakes, scout meetings, weddings – just the usual fluff of the American Dream.

I remember that messy Menendez trial, then all the fuss over O.J. In that time, how many mayors didn’t make a difference? How many governors raised taxes, then buried the money somewhere we’d never find it?

How many friends said, “Hey, let’s grab dinner some time,” then never called?

I don’t care, I don’t judge. Thank you, Los Angeles. On our 35th anniversary here, you’re still my kind of town. Lots of sunsets, tons of love.

To think they even let me into locker rooms?

A quick thank you to all the Laker and Dodger players who in interviews, looked up at me and said, “Dude, is that even a question? Are you high?”

by
Chris
Erskine



Well, sometimes.

FYI, I am a lapsed Lutheran but a baseball voodoo priest. Baseball is the religion I chose to distance myself from my past.

To me, baseball is a symphony in nine innings.

Best athlete I ever saw? Secretariat – 1,100 pounds of baby fat, late to wake up in the morning, late out of the gate, a horse after my own heart.

Second greatest athlete? Pete Rose, whose pardon made the news last week.

“The greatest?” you scoff. What about Bo Jackson? What about Michael Jordan? Or this Ohtani fellow?

Hey, what about you?

As you may remember, I once scored 5 points against the Harlem Globetrotters in front of 18,000 fans in Las Vegas. I buried a 3, as you would stolen loot, then drove the lane for a layup. At that point, two Globetrotters pantsed me. They realized it was their only defensive choice.

By the time it was all over, the Globetrotters had won a heart-breaker, 134-11.

I blame the refs.

Pete Rose also had some fine athletic moments. He batted .303 lifetime with more plate appearances than any other player (15,890). That’s a level of excellence unmatched in the modern game.

For perspective, Freddie Freeman, the Dodgers’ most-reliable rake, would need almost 2,000 more hits to match Rose’s lifetime total (4,256).

Meanwhile, Rose treated each game like the Battle of Somme. He sprinted to first on walks, barreled

into second with his fists up. He could be a bit contentious, of course, a total pain in the peach.

Like Secretariat, he surrounded himself with serious gamblers.

In fact, baseball banned Rose over his wagering, citing “the integrity of the game.” I find that kind of funny, don’t you? They didn’t ban those Astros who cheated in post-season games, and have no problem with greedy owners driving prices to the moon. “Integrity of the game” rings pretty hollow when you’re paying 60 bucks for four dogs and a couple of beers.

But baseball is bliss, no matter how broken.

In a perfect world, every town in America, big and small, would have its own baseball team, made up of the local menfolk and a few of the stouter females. It would be played at town picnics on Sunday afternoons. Fried chicken with honey. Root beer floats. Dixieland bands.

Yep. Basically, I crave the 1890s. See, human happiness is as old as water. So is scandal. So is forgiveness.

Congrats, Pete Rose. They’re finally giving you your moment. Ring those church bells. Mutter a prayer.

Pete, they waited for you to die before giving you back your dream, making certain you couldn’t enjoy it.

But redemption is redemption. These days, best take it where you can.

For past columns, please go to ChrisErskineLA.com

FoLAR hosts Earth Month Habitat Restoration

Friends of the LA River invites the public on May 24 to a twist on its monthly cleanup Habitat Restoration Day and Earth Month Celebration. The event was rescheduled from April 26 due to rain.

In collaboration with California Native Plant Society, 500 dedicated volunteers will gather to remove over 15,000 gallons of invasive vegetation, restoring an acre of land at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Preserve. Volunteers will then participate in educational activities such as a nature walk with the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, making native seed balls, discovering how water flows through the region with FoLAR’s watershed table and exploring informational tables from community partners.

FoLAR’s Habitat Restoration Day is free, open to the public and is held to foster immediate and long-term health in the L.A. River Watershed.

Registration is open for all ages. The shift starts at 8 a.m. with a focused location: Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, home to a beautiful wildlife reserve and a recreation area. It’s also adjacent to the river’s first soft bottom section and a birdwatcher’s delight.

To register for the cleanup, visit support.folar.org/event/habitat-restoration-day-may/e652083.

The Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Preserve is located at 6350 Woodley Ave., Van Nuys.



photo by Chris Erskine

California has been good to us, including on desert escapes like this.



The Vet Will Smell You Now: Why Every Vet Should Be Scenting Their Clinics

When most people think of a vet’s office, they picture rubbing alcohol, barking dogs, and the low buzz of anxiety – and that’s just the humans. But there’s a growing body of science showing that a clinic’s scent environment deeply affects our patients.

Scents and Sensibility

Dogs and cats live in a sensory world that’s radically different from ours – especially when it comes to smell. A dog’s nose has up to 300 million olfactory receptors compared to our 5 to 6 million, and the part of their brain devoted to analyzing smells is proportionally 40 times larger than a human’s. Cats, though often overlooked in this department, are no slouches either. They have roughly 200 million scent receptors and use their vomeronasal organ (Jacobson’s organ) to detect pheromones and subtle chemical cues that are completely invisible to us.

In other words, what’s a faint whiff to us is a tidal wave of information to them. When pets enter a vet clinic, they’re not just seeing a new room – they’re being hit with an invisible history of fear, stress, sickness, and other animals’ scent trails. The antiseptic. The adrenaline. The ghost of a terrified terrier past. It’s overwhelming. At my hospital, we use calming scent cues – like lavender and chamomile – specifically selected for their safe, species-compatible soothing effects. For our feline patients, we integrate pheromone diffusers such as Feliway, which mimic natural facial pheromones cats release when they feel safe and content.

Science-Backed Calm

This isn’t a gimmick – it’s evidence-based care. A 2018 study in Veterinary Record, the UK’s leading veterinary journal, found that shelter dogs exposed to diffused lavender or chamomile showed significantly less stress barking and pacing behaviors. Similarly, a 2006 study in JAVMA, widely considered the most influential and authoritative journal in the veterinary field found that lavender aromatherapy reduced movement and vocalization in dogs during car travel. These aren’t fringe studies – they’re from the field’s top journals. At Paw Priority, we combine scent diffusion with gentle music. The goal isn’t luxury – it’s nervous system regulation. When pets are calm, exams are smoother, diagnostics are more accurate, and outcomes improve.

Wellness Culture Meets Clinical Care

Imagine walking into a medical space where both you and your pet take a deep breath—and it helps. This is part of a broader move in veterinary medicine to consider emotional wellness as a component of health, not an afterthought. So next time your dog walks into our clinic and doesn’t try to turn around? Thank the diffuser.

About Dr. Ameis

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



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RESTAURANT NEWS

Global has deals all over for Memorial Day

Spend this Memorial Day at one of Global Dining Inc.'s amazing L.A. restaurants. Settecento in DTLA, 1212 Santa Monica and La Bohème in WeHo have jam-packed weekend-long celebrations not to be missed.

Settecento, located at 700 W. Fifth St., will be celebrating its first annual Memorial Day Weekend from May 23-26 with bottomless brunch on Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m.-3:45 p.m. and Happy Hour every day from 2-6 p.m. For information, visit settecentodtla.com or call (213)757-7765.

From May 23-26, 1212 Santa Monica, located at 1212 Third Street Promenade, is hosting a bottomless brunch and DJ on Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m.-3:45 p.m., Friday night DJ at 8 p.m., and all-night happy hour all weekend

long. For information, visit 1212santamonica.com or call (310)576-9996.

And finally, La Bohème, located at 8400 Santa Monica Blvd., has a bunch of festivities in store. From May 23-26, enjoy a Saturday and Sunday bottomless brunch at \$39 per person (includes bottomless and entree) from 11 a.m.-3:45 p.m., Friday night live jazz performance at 7:30 p.m., Saturday Night burlesque show at 7:30 and 9 p.m., and of course, all night happy hour all weekend long. For information, visit labohemeweho.com or call (323)848-2360.

Whip up a Memorial treat with Yogurtland

With Memorial Day weekend marking the unofficial start to summer, it's time to cue up the BBQs, pool floats and refreshing treats to beat the heat. Whether it's a backyard gathering or just a casu-

Head to a holiday 'Garden Party' in Culver City

The Culver Hotel invites Angelenos to indulge in summer fun with its new weekly Garden Party, launching Memorial Day Weekend and taking place every Saturday through Labor Day from 3-6 p.m. Set against the iconic backdrop of Culver City's favorite hotel, this sun-drenched affair promises a chic blend of seasonal cocktails, gourmet bites, music and florals – the perfect weekend escape without leaving the city.

Guests can socialize and sip on refreshing summer spritzes, Kikori yuzu-spiked Arnold Palmers and playful punches crafted for sharing. Bite-sized canapés such as tuna on crispy rice, scallop crudo, coconut ceviche, avocado tartine and a sweet bite of green tea panna cotta will be artfully served in vintage birdcages. And, for those looking for a heartier meal, weekend brunch will also be available.



photo courtesy of The Culver Hotel

The Culver Hotel offers a garden view for Memorial Day.

Patrons are encouraged to bring their furry friends, who can bask in the sun (or shade) while indulging in a selection of healthy “barcuterie” snacks, including fresh fruits and veggies, Gruyere cheese bites, a peanut butter dip and crunchy treats presented on an adorable wooden paw-print board.

Adding to the ambiance, a live DJ will spin feel-good tunes while The Floral Boutique hosts a pop-up flower bar offering bespoke bouquets to take home.

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

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al laid-back sunny afternoon, Yogurtland is offering a creative, crowd-pleasing way to serve up some sweet treats.

Yogurtland Rewards members will receive two-times the points on all purchases made Memorial Day weekend (May 23–26), adding extra value to every fro-yo run.

With Yogurtland catering and delivery, bring the fro-yo shop to home, perfect for all summer soirees. Delivered in an insulated bag and easy to set up, guests can customize their frozen creations with a variety of popular flavors and toppings, available in party boxes with 15, 25 or 50-cup varieties.

For information and locations, visit yogurtland.com.

Level 8 kicks off summer’s Golden Daze

Level 8 kicks off summer with Golden Daze at Golden Hour, a multi-day Memorial Day rooftop takeover featuring DJ sets, live performances and curated cocktails

from day to night. Celebrate the long weekend under the sun with rotating musical talent, poolside views and summery bites. Join Saturday, May 24, at 2 p.m. for the first pool party of the summer featuring Topanga Hills Mafia, Zachary Freemont, Tristan ChantZ, Wake and Monic. The Golden Daze pool party will be every Saturday this summer until Labor Day. For information, visit goldenhourdtdla.com. Golden Hour is located on the eighth floor of 1254 S. Figueroa St.

Luke’s brings a bite of Maine to Santa Monica

Lobster rolls are a summertime staple, and Luke’s Lobster, which originated in Maine, has a location in Santa Monica right by the beach. Each roll is served Luke’s way, where the meat is wild-caught, chilled seafood in a New England-style, split-top, toasted buttered bun with a swipe of mayo, a drizzle of lemon butter and a sprinkle of Luke’s Secret

Seasoning. Rolls can be filled with lobster (\$30), shrimp (\$17) or Jonah crab (\$22). A lobster roll flight (\$42) includes a sampler of half-rolls with lemon butter, spicy honey butter and truffle butter with chips and a soft drink. Through Memorial Day, the restaurant will offer a 20% off experience for those that arrive before 6:30 p.m. Luke’s Lobster is located at 200 Santa Monica Blvd. For information, visit lukeslobster.com or call (424)298-2080.

Tam O’Shanter provides a wish upon a Disney star

Guests can now step into a piece of Hollywood and animation history with the launch of the Table 31 Experience at Tam O’Shanter, Los Angeles’ oldest restaurant operated by the same family in the same location. For the first time, diners can reserve Walt Disney’s favorite table and enjoy a curated, story-rich evening in the very seat where

See page 18



photo courtesy of the Godfrey Hotel Hollywood

Rainbows will be cast throughout June at The Godfrey Hotel Hollywood.

Godfrey is home base for Pride

For Angelenos looking for a base to stay at before heading to Pride festivities planned all around Los Angeles, The Godfrey Hotel Hollywood is an ideal and central hub at which to stay. Renowned for its notable rooftop bar and lounge iLO and signature restaurant About Last Knife, the hotel is offering two packages for those celebrating Pride. Guests can book the Discover LA Pride Package and receive 15% off the best available rate, a Pride welcome amenity and a drink coupon for two complimentary house beverages. For an extended stay, guests can book the Stay With Pride Package and receive a late check-out of 2 p.m., a Pride welcome amenity, a bottle of rosé or champagne and will also contribute \$5 to the Hollywood LGBTQIA+ center. For information, visit godfreyhotelhollywood.com or call (323)762-1000. The Godfrey Hotel Hollywood is located at 1400 Cahuenga Blvd.

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Join St. Vincent Meals on Wheels for June gala at Paramount Studios

St. Vincent Meals on Wheels presents the fourth annual “Hollywood Under the Stars” gala fundraiser on Saturday, June 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the iconic Paramount Studios lot.

Embark on a culinary adventure with nearly a dozen of Los Angeles’ finest chefs and pâtissiers who will showcase exquisite dishes. The evening starts with an exclusive VIP hour in the legendary

Paramount Theater, followed by a specially curated tasting menu by the 2025 Culinary Angels: Alexander’s Steakhouse, Arth Bar + Kitchen, BOX Chicken, City Club Los Angeles, Georgia’s Restaurant, L’Antica Pizzeria da Michele, and Wife and the Somm. This year’s 2025 Sweet Angels include Bertha Mae’s Brownie Co. and Lark Cake Shop, providing delectable desserts. Sip signature

cocktails and dance the night away under the stars to a lively 10-piece live band courtesy of the de Bois All Stars.

“At St. Vincent Meals on Wheels, we are dedicated to serving the most vulnerable individuals in our community every day.”

Veronica Dover, executive director of St. Vincent Meals on Wheels and a Windsor Square resident



photo courtesy of SVMOW

“Hollywood Under The Stars” 2024-25 honorary host Rick Llanos, left, was joined by Nelly Llanos-Kilroy, 2024 honoree actor Ian McShane, Gwen Humble McShane and SVMOW executive director Veronica Dover at last year’s gala.

From page 17

Disney and his Imagineers once gathered for countless meals and creative conversations.

Priced at \$69 per person for lunch or \$89 per person for dinner, the Table 31 Experience is available for parties of up to four and includes; a curated, exclusive menu featuring one of Walt’s favorite dishes unavailable on the regular menu; a personalized history session with Tam’s dedicated Table 31 ambassador, sharing captivating stories and lesser-known details of Walt’s time at the restaurant; and a take-home souvenir to commemorate the one-of-a-kind experience.

The menu includes deviled eggs, bacon-wrapped dates, Tam’s famous 1927-recipe chili, the 31 Burger, pan-roasted Scottish salmon and C.C. Brown’s hot fudge sundae, among other available items.

Guests may also choose to enhance the experience with Walt’s signature cocktail, the Scotch Mist made with Glenmorangie, soda, crushed ice and a lemon twist, for an additional \$16.

In the 1920s and ‘30s, the Disney Studio sat just a short drive away on Hyperion Avenue. Tam O’Shanter quickly became a second home for Walt and his team, earning the nickname “The Disney Studio Commissary.” Now, nearly a century later, guests can experience that same camaraderie, nostalgia and storytelling spirit at the very table where it all began.

Reservations for the Table 31 Experience are limited and can be made via OpenTable for lunch and dinner reservations or by visiting lawrysonline.com/tam-o-shanter. Tam O’Shanter is located at 2980 Los Feliz Blvd. or call (323)664-0228.

Skateboarding league takes over the pier

Street League Skateboarding’s Stakeover of the Santa Monica Pier on May 23 from 1:30-6:30 p.m. isn’t just a global skateboarding event, it’s a full-blown street food festival in disguise with some of the best eats in Los Angeles.

While elite skaters hit the legendary Santa Monica Triple Set, some of the city’s most beloved

food hotspots – including Villa’s Tacos, Heavy Handed, 10/10 Burgers, Prince Street Pizza, Miya Miya, Uncle Paulie’s, 27 Club Coffee, and Tacos 1986 – will be popping up beachside, serving signature bites that define L.A. flavor.

The event is completely free and open to the public, making it one of the most exciting mashups of culture, community and cuisine this season.

For information, visit streetleague.com/santamonica. The Santa Monica Pier is located at 200 Santa Monica Pier.

Lifelong Hancock Park resident Rick Llanos serves as honorary host of “Hollywood Under the Stars 2025.” His connection to St. Vincent Meals on Wheels spans generations, beginning during childhood when his mother, Nellie Llanos, and her close friend Kathy Kilroy collaborated with SVMOW’s founder Sister Alice Marie in the 1970s. Llanos and his family continue to support

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Beverly Hills revs up for Concours d'Elegance

Marking its 30th anniversary, the Rodeo Drive Concours d'Elegance will celebrate the theme "Luxury in Motion" with an unparalleled line-up of rare hyper cars, vintage classics and exotic vehicles in Beverly Hills on Sunday, June 15. The ultimate Father's Day event will run from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and is free to attend.

"We are thrilled to host the annual Rodeo Drive Concours d'Elegance for another great year," Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian said. "This is a cherished tradition shared across generations by grandfathers, fathers and children alike. The event is a highlight for the city of Beverly Hills, and with the help of our amazing sponsors, vehicle entrants and community, the 30th anniversary is sure to be the best one yet."

Presented by O'Gara Coach Beverly Hills, the 2025 Rodeo Drive Concours d'Elegance will showcase an impressive lineup of world-class vintage, racing and bespoke vehicles. O'Gara's display, which will cover a whole city block, will be packed with the rarest supercars and hyper cars from McLaren, Aston Martin, Rolls-Royce, Pagani and Bentley, alongside the North American public debut of Lamborghini's latest models, the Temerario and PHEV Urus SE. The display will also feature

bespoke merchandise from the brands.

"We're pulling out all the stops to make our 30th annual event the ultimate experience for dads and families," said Bruce Meyer, chairman of the Rodeo Drive Concours d'Elegance. "We're giving attendees the unique opportunity to get an up-close look at the world's most expensive and rare vehicles in the heart of Beverly Hills. It's more than just a car show – it's a family tradition built on fond memories and fun."

Set against the backdrop of the world-famous Rodeo Drive, attendees can also take a leisurely stroll, stay in one of Beverly Hills' premier hotels and enjoy luxury shopping and fine dining, all just steps away from the heart of the car show.

"Seeing this magical street lined with jaw-dropping cars always brings a smile to my face and this event is one of my favorite days of the year," Rodeo Drive Committee President Kay Monica Rose said. "I can't wait to see everyone on Rodeo Drive this Father's Day."

In addition to incredible cars, the day will feature a skills demonstration from the Beverly Hills Police Department Motor Unit, food trucks and interactive displays. The Rodeo Drive Concours d'Elegance is supported by the city of Beverly

Hills and the Rodeo Drive Committee.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Beverly Hills Police Foundation and Beverly Hills Firefighters' Association, nonprofit organizations dedicated to supporting first responders and their families. Funds will also be raised to begin the restoration of a retired 1975 Cadillac ambulance from the Beverly Hills Fire Department.

Admission to the Rodeo Drive Concours d'Elegance is free, and parking is available at nearby parking garages. For information, visit rodeodrive-bh.com/events/concours-d-elegance-2025.



photo by Kahn Media

The annual car show celebrates 30 years with the theme "Luxury in Motion."

Huntington Meats brings 'Thrill of the Grill' to Farmers Market

Memorial Day Weekend is a perfect time for barbecues, and Huntington Meats at the Original Farmers Market has everything for a delicious cookout. Those who prefer not to cook themselves can enjoy mouth-watering barbecue at Huntington Meats' "Thrill of the Grill" pop-up on May 24-25 on the Farmers Market Plaza. The expert butchers will be smoking and grilling barbecue favorites in a 16-foot smoker including tri-tip, baby back ribs, brisket, chicken wings and burnt ends from 11 a.m. until they run out. Make it a meal with a barbecue plate that includes a

choice of meat, sweet corn and macaroni and cheese. New this year are large baked potatoes that can be topped with brisket, bunt ends or tri-tip, owner Jim Cascone said.

"Come and celebrate the Memorial Day holiday with us and let us make it convenient for you and your guests," Cascone added. "We're able to do it all for you and make it easy. Come down, relax and enjoy great barbecued food."

Huntington Meats' is located in Stall 350 at the Original Farmers Market, 6333 E. Third St. For information, call (323)938-5383, or visit huntingtonmeats.com.



photo courtesy of Huntington Meats

Enjoy mouth-watering barbecue at Huntington Meats' "Thrill of the Grill" pop-up on May 24-25 on the Farmers Market Plaza.

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Miceli’s serves a slice of Hollywood success

■ Italian restaurant open since 1949 offers dinner and a show

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Picture a quintessential Italian restaurant. Not a restaurant that you would find in Italy, but a restaurant somewhere stateside that serves Italian food as we Americans know and love. Red and white checkered tablecloths, pizza on a hot sheet of metal, crooner classics à la Dean Martin, leather wraparound booths, the unmistakable smell of garlic roasting and a menu slightly larger than the Sistine Chapel ceiling.

You might be thinking of Miceli’s.

A fixture just off Hollywood Boulevard since 1949, Miceli’s is Hollywood’s oldest Italian restaurant.

The restaurant was opened by Carmen and Sylvia Miceli, a first-generation American couple with Sicilian and Ukrainian roots, respectively. Years before Hollywood Boulevard became famous for the Walk of Fame, the Micelis became famous for their pizzas.

According to their son Frank – who now owns and operates the business with his brother Joe – Miceli’s was the first pizzeria on the West Coast ... “allegedly.”

“Pizza was not a featured item [in most restaurants]. There were places that had pizza on the menu, but as an afterthought,” Miceli said. “So in 1949, pizza became a staple. And there were people lined up all over the place coming into the restaurant.”

After initial success, Carmen Miceli, a World War II veteran with an eclectic taste, continued to add to the restaurant’s bold image – adding a 200-year-old stained glass window here, a Tiffany lamp there and a plethora of furniture from another classic Hollywood restaurant – the Pig ‘n Whistle – after it burned down in 1956.

“My father was very into architectural salvage. He loved style,” Miceli said. “He salvaged the Pig ‘n Whistle. He salvaged a Hollywood icon and brought it to Miceli’s.”

Today, every inch of the restaurant’s sprawling, multi-level dining room is decorated with some kind of Italian bric-a-brac. Oil paintings give way to exposed brick, and hundreds of *fiasco* wine bottles in straw baskets hang from the ornate wooden ceiling. Dining in Miceli’s almost feels like you’re in the Hollywood set of an idealized Italian restaurant – which makes sense, because in some ways, it is. Miceli’s has been seen in films like

“The Terminator” and in series including “Dexter.” According to Miceli, the pizza chef at the restaurant’s former Beverly Hills location – once found on La Cienega’s “Restaurant Row” – taught Lucille Ball how to toss pies for a famous “I Love Lucy” bit. Name a celebrity, and there’s probably a story about them dining at Miceli’s, several times. Next to the front door there’s a mural of Frank Sinatra (a regular), and the pizza evidently piqued the interest of at least three presidents (hint: 35, 37 and 40).

While plenty of restaurants in Los Angeles are known for their longevity and A-list clientele, what really sets Miceli’s apart is the music. For Miceli’s, the word restaurant feels like a misnomer. A better description might be a piano bar and entertainment venue that also happens to serve great Italian food. That’s because in between jotting down orders, slinging pizzas and trying not to spill martinis, the waiters join the piano player to belt out a jazz standard.

“All of me, why not take all of me?” our exceptionally talented waitress Roxie crooned, as the doughy strips of garlic toast on the table seemed to convey the same message.

“Can’t you see I’m no good without you?”

Before the song was over, the garlic toast vanished.

According to Miceli, the tradition started organically when the restaurant had a jukebox, and everyone – customers, waiters, even kitchen staff – would sing along.

When the restaurant opened its Universal City location around 1980, management decided to put an ad out seeking singing servers.

“We had 250 people audition,” Miceli said.

He added that today, the restaurant has no problem finding singing servers. In fact, it’s usually the other way around. In Los Angeles – a city where the most talented entertainers are often found behind a bar counter, in a kitchen or traversing a dining room – Miceli’s musical prerequisite for hiring is a match made in heaven.

“I just interviewed a girl last night who is interested in working at Miceli’s because she sings. She works at another restaurant right now. She says ‘yeah it’s great, I work at this other restaurant, yeah I make tips, but what would be really neat about Miceli’s is, not only could I be making tips, but I could be practicing what I want to do,’” Miceli said. “This is nothing against any of our servers – I personally hope they leave, I hope they go somewhere, I hope they make it big.”

Several of the front-of-house alumni have done just that. Actors, Broadway stars, even a “Miss California” have cut their teeth at Miceli’s.

Even when the waiters are busy, well, operating a restaurant, there is still plenty of entertainment to be found in the longtime piano player, Brian, who Miceli describes as a “musical prodigy.”

“Brian is, in some form or another, a savant,” Miceli said. “He’s brilliant ... If you asked him to play your favorite song ... and you walk in 10 years later and he sees you, he will play your favorite tune, and I wish I could make that up.”

As I sipped my dirty martini – which, by the way, was served extra dirty, ice cold and with a sidecar containing about an entire other martini – Brian effortlessly mixed a cocktail of well-known melodies from different musical genres. “Fly Me to the Moon” became “That’s Amore,” before transforming into “The Pink Panther Theme” and eventually “Happy Birthday” (it was not my birthday, but I’ll take it). When Brian noticed watchful eyes, he took the performance a step further – lifting his feet up to rest atop the grand piano, playing with one hand while juggling a glass full of water, even seemingly falling asleep and snoring at the keyboard while the song continued. Brian is a one-man-show. And yes, he takes requests.

Although the Italian staple has been open for 76 years, much of it has remained the same, Miceli said. Of course, the building has undergone renovations and the menu has occasionally been updated through the years, but everything about Miceli’s just feels “classic,” including the food.

The creamy pesto fettuccini is hearty and robust – comforting like a warm home-cooked meal on a cold night. The creaminess of the sauce balances the bitterness of the basil and garlic well, and makes for an excellent spread for any leftover garlic toast. The same can be said



photo by Tabor Brewster

The creamy pesto fettuccini at Miceli’s pairs well with garlic toast and an extra dirty martini.

for Miceli’s marinara – a simple combination of tomatoes, garlic and onions made in-house and found on many menu items. On the half and half spaghetti and ravioli, it’s a treat – once again evoking childhood memories of Italian food many of us grew up eating.

With rising costs, wage increases and a restaurant industry reeling with the long-lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the future of Miceli’s is uncertain, Miceli said. While many longtime Los Angeles restaurants have closed in the past year, Miceli hopes that a loyal customer base will continue to support the local, family-owned restaurant.

“I can’t compete price wise with Dominoes, I don’t have their buying power. I can’t compete with the Olive Garden, I don’t have their buying power,” Miceli said. “People walk in a lot of times, especially in Hollywood – people walking the boulevard – and they ... look at the menu and they go ‘oh yeah that place around the corner was less expensive.’ They go to the place around the corner and they’re sitting at a plastic table, on plastic

chairs and eating plastic food ... and that’s a really difficult thing to compete with.”

Throughout its history, the restaurant has had its own share of tough times, closing two of its locations, but the locations in Hollywood and Universal City have persevered. Beyond the classic Italian dishes, inviting atmosphere and friendly staff, Miceli’s is a true Los Angeles experience – one that represents the unique character of a city built on the art of entertaining.

“Support the Miceli’s restaurants of the world,” Miceli said. “Support the places as opposed to going to franchises that are all over the place ... Go help out the small business as opposed to the conglomerate. We need the help. It’s a screwy climate out there right now. And small businesses need the help.”

Miceli’s is located at 1646 N. Las Palmas Ave. in Hollywood and 3655 Cahuenga Blvd. in Universal City.

For information, to make a reservation and to order pickup or delivery, visit micelis.restaurant.



photo by Tabor Brewster

The interior of Miceli’s was designed by founder Carmen Miceli, who salvaged wood from another iconic Hollywood restaurant.

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Colburn School receives major gifts to support performing arts

The Colburn School, one of the world’s preeminent schools for music and dance, received two major gifts to support the Community School of Performing Arts – a gift from the Rafael and Luisa de Marchena-Huyke Foundation to name the director of bands position held by Eleanor Núñez, and a gift from the Keck Foundation to name the Keck Youth Performance Fund, a fund established by a Community School family in support of performances by Community School large ensembles.

The Rafael & Luisa DMH Foundation Director of Bands position is the first faculty chair to be

named in the Community School, and is held by Eleanor Núñez, known for her unique programming that bridges the gap between the audience and musicians on stage. Her belief that music should be accessible to all shines through her creative repertoire programming, enthusiastic rehearsals and inviting concert environment. The belief in accessibility and interest in how Núñez demonstrates it at Colburn is shared by the Rafael and Luisa de Marchena-Huyke Foundation.

A \$2 million gift from the Keck Foundation named the Keck Youth Performance Fund, which will cover expenses associated with per-

formances by large ensembles. The fund was seeded by an initial gift from the Ward family, which inspired the Keck Foundation to join in their support.

Colburn has set a goal of \$5 million for the fund and will continue to seek additional gifts as part of the Building Our Future comprehensive campaign. Reaching the \$5 million goal will allow the school to more fully endow large ensemble performances, keeping tuition affordable for local students and creating performance opportunities in Colburn’s new 1,000-seat concert hall, which is currently under construction. Located adjacent to the school’s existing campus, the concert hall, named for Terri and Jerry Kohl, is part of a transformational new campus expansion designed by Frank Gehry. When complete, the expansion will significantly increase Colburn’s world-class



photo courtesy of the Colburn School

The school in Downtown Los Angeles is a leading institution for music and dance.

training and performance facilities for music and dance.

“We are deeply grateful to the Rafael and Luisa de Marchena-Huyke Foundation and the Keck Foundation for their visionary support of the Community School of Performing Arts,” said Sel Kardan, president and CEO. “These generous gifts affirm the vital role that large ensemble experiences play in

the artistic and personal development of young musicians. The establishment of the Rafael & Luisa DMH Foundation Director of Bands position and the Keck Youth Performance Fund ensures the continuation of meaningful musical opportunities for students from all backgrounds.”

For information, visit colburn-school.edu.

BHUSD launches social media series connecting students and alumni

The Beverly Hills Unified School District Communications Department announced a new social media series to connect current students with accomplished alumni who share career interests.

The initiative celebrates the district’s commitment to honoring alumni legacies while elevating student voices. In each episode, a BHUSD student is paired with an alum working in a related field. Together, they engage in meaningful conversations, sharing advice, experiences and inspiration, which will premiere on BHUSD’s official social media channels. The first episode features Beverly Hills High School student Gunnar Walmsley and alumna Antonia Carlotta, a film historian and niece of Universal Studios co-founder Carl Laemmle. Their shared passion for film histo-

ry and storytelling sets the tone for the series, highlighting the power of mentorship and connection across generations.

“By spotlighting shared passions across generations, this series captures what makes BHUSD truly exceptional, students who dream big and alumni who’ve paved the way,” BHUSD communications media specialist Colby Gilardian said. “It’s about seeing yourself in someone who once walked your same halls.”

The project is produced in collaboration with the Beverly Hills High School Alumni Association and BHHS broadcast production students.

Alumni interested in being featured are invited to email alumni@bhUSD.org.

For information, visit bhUSD.org.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

BHHS alumna and film historian Antonia Carlotta and student Gunnar Walmsley are featured in the first episode.

Beverly Vista Middle School honors Jewish American Heritage Month

In honor of Jewish American Heritage Month, the Beverly Vista Middle School Jewish Culture Club hosted a celebration and conversation with Avraham Yarden, a proud warrior of Israel during British rule, on May 15.

Through powerful firsthand stories of courage and resilience, Yarden offered students a deeply personal lens into Jewish history. The experience reminded students that education isn’t only in textbooks, it’s in the voices of those who lived it.

“Hearing directly from someone who shaped history helps bring learning to life in ways no classroom alone can,” BHUSD Superintendent Alex Cherniss said. “We’re proud of our students for creating spaces that foster understanding, connection and cultural

appreciation.”

For information, visit bhUSD.org.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Beverly Vista Middle School welcomed Israeli veteran Avraham Yarden on May 15.

BHHS senior to attend University of Oregon

Beverly Hills High School announced that Kaela Wiener, a member of the class of 2025, will be attending the University of Oregon. Wiener will major in sports business at one of the nation’s premier universities for athletics, innovation and leadership development.

Wiener’s time at BHHS has been fueled by passion, perseverance and a true love for sports. As a dedicated athlete, she contributed to multiple athletic teams, including varsity softball and cross country, always bringing energy, encouragement and team-first leadership.

She also explored her creative side through the arts, finding inspiration in advanced culinary arts and drawing and painting. Her well-rounded path reflects a student committed to personal growth, curiosity and staying true to herself.

“Kaela’s spirit and strength have made her a valued part of the BHHS community,” BHHS Principal Drew Stewart said. “She leads with kindness, determination and authenticity, and we’re excited to see her shine at Oregon and beyond.”

For information, visit bhUSD.org.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Kaela Wiener will study sports business at the University of Oregon.

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LAUSD approves parental package to support employees who are raising families

Los Angeles Unified School District on May 13 unanimously approved Board Member Tanya Ortiz Franklin’s resolution, “Parental Package: LAUSD as an Equitable Employer of Choice for Thriving Families,” establishing the district as a national leader in public education in supporting employees who are planning, building and raising families. The resolution will revolutionize employee support through enhancing family leave benefits, reproductive health access, lactation accommodations, childcare assistance and long-term planning for employee-parents.

Most LAUSD employees don’t qualify for California’s state-paid family leave, and new parents often face confusion, financial strain and an impossible choice of caring for their family or protecting their income. With limited coverage for fertility treatments and high costs of

quality childcare exceeding a median family income, LAUSD staff struggle to access health and childcare services that support their growing families. The resolution directly addresses the burdens and reimagines LAUSD as a place where employees don’t have to choose between careers and families.

“As both a board member and a mother who has recently navigated two pregnancies and early parenthood while working, I’ve experienced firsthand the challenges our employee-parents face,” Ortiz Franklin said. “In a field overwhelmingly staffed by women and with a board majority of moms ourselves, we’re not falling for the president’s performative policies of medals and prizes for parents. Instead, this resolution transforms LAUSD into a workplace that truly supports the whole employee –

from reproductive care to family leave to childcare – recognizing that when our staff can thrive at home and at work, they can better serve our future.”

The resolution, which was co-sponsored by Board Member Karla Griego and Board Member Kelly Gonez, calls on the district to create an implementation plan by February 2026 to address the urgent needs of LAUSD’s workforce of more than 70,000 employees.

“I am proud to join my colleagues in working to make LAUSD an Equitable Employer of Choice,” LAUSD Board President Scott Schmerelson said. “We are committed to doing much more than checking boxes; we want to create truly inclusive and supportive environments where every community member can have the resources they need to thrive.”

For information, visit lausd.org.

LAUSD uplifts professional development autonomy for community and pilot schools

The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education has passed a resolution titled “Aligning Site-Based Professional Development, Collaboration, and Decision-Making in the Community School and Pilot Models,” sponsored by Board Member Karla Griego and co-sponsored by Board President Scott Schmerelson, Board Vice President Dr. Rocio Rivas and Board Member Kelly Gonez. The resolution will provide community schools and pilot schools with decision making purview over their site-based professional development.

“The community school model

is intended to provide school communities with a level of autonomy over budget, discipline and electives, but lack the ability to develop professional development tailored to the unique needs of their schools and staff,” Griego said. “This resolution expands professional development autonomy to both community schools and pilot schools to allow for differentiated professional development that is responsive to the varied needs of educators. I am proud to lead this resolution to support community school and pilot schools in their need to implement professional development that aligns with their school’s

vision of success.”

“It goes without saying that when members of our community schools can design their own professional development, based on their interests, needs and strengths, the promise of true collaboration that professional learning communities require will come to be,” Schmerelson said.

“This resolution empowers educators and local school communities to design the professional development that best serves their students. That’s what equity and innovation look like in practice,” Rivas said.

For information, visit lausd.org.

Beverly Hills High School awards student athletes

Beverly Hills High School proudly celebrated the achievements of its student athletes at the 2024-25 Athletic Quest Awards, held on May 20.

The annual event recognizes students who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, sportsmanship and performance across all athletic programs. Awards were presented for individual and team accomplishments, including MVP, Scholar-Athlete, Sportsmanship

and Coaches’ Awards, with special recognition for multi-sport athletes and seniors continuing at the collegiate level.

“Our student-athletes embody what it means to pursue excellence with integrity,” BHHS Principal Drew Stewart said. “They rise to every challenge, on the field, in the classroom and in our community. We are proud to celebrate their efforts and achievements.”

For information, visit bhUSD.org.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Awards were presented for individual and team accomplishments.

BHUSD Elementary Art Show brings student work to life

From May 6-16, the Beverly Hills Unified School District presented the BHUSD Elementary Art Show at the Beverly Hills Public Library. The exhibition featured artwork by students from El Rodeo Elementary and Horace Mann Elementary, offering families and community members a window into the creativity, focus and imagination taking place in BHUSD classrooms every day.

The collection included abstract paintings, self-portraits and mixed media pieces, each a reflection of the students’ artistic voice and vision. Guided by El Rodeo art teacher Elizabeth Federman and Horace Mann art teacher Tiffany Graham, the exhibition highlighted

student talent and the power of arts education in elementary learning.

“It was amazing to see both of



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Elementary students and their parents celebrated student art at BHUSD’s Elementary Art Show.



photo courtesy of SAMPE

Howard Katzman, center, SAMPE LA education chair, was joined by Chloe Watkins (GALA), left; Vanessa Aarredondo, SAMPE LA Chapter Secretary; Johana Miel (GALA); SAMPE LA past president Alma Saiya; Hillary Tong (Fairfax) and Mukhammadjon Mukhitdinov (Fairfax) at the ceremony.

Fairfax and GALA students awarded Epstein Scholarships

The Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Chapter of the international Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering awarded the 2025 recipients of the George and Irene Epstein Memorial Scholarships on May 6.

It marks the 29th year that Fairfax High School students received the scholarships and the fifth year students at Girls Academic Leadership Academy were bestowed the awards. As education chairman of the Los Angeles Chapter of SAMPE, Dr. Howard Katzman, senior scientist at the Aerospace Corporation, announced the six high-ranking Fairfax High School seniors, two of whom will receive scholarships and four others who will receive book awards, and five seniors from GALA, two of whom will receive scholarships and three who will receive book awards. The scholarship recipients are Hillary Tong and Mukhammadjon Mukhitdinov, from Fairfax High

School, and Chloe Watkins and Johana Miel, of GALA. The Fairfax High students who received book awards are Mohammad Erfan Firooz Bakhsh, Jocelyn Puerto, Ronisa Zalzar and Yulitzen Juarez. The GALA students who received book awards are Emma Kenney, Wendolyn Stanfill and Trinity De Leon-Chavarria.

The Irene Epstein Memorial Scholarship program was initiated in 1996 shortly after the death of Irene Epstein to recognize her desire to assist financially needy, academically deserving students to attend college to study engineering, science, mathematics or medicine. In 2023, with the passing of Irene’s husband George Epstein, a longtime Fairfax District resident and supporter of Fairfax High School, SAMPE changed the name to the George and Irene Epstein Memorial Scholarship.

For information, visit lasampe.org.

State superintendent receives Community Hero Award from Conga Kids

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond was honored on May 14 with the Community Hero Award for his profound impact on arts education through tireless advocacy. The award was presented to Thurmond at the 2025 Conga Kids Year-End Finale Gala at the Novo Theater in Los Angeles.

“I’m humbled and honored to accept this award, but the real heroes are the students, families and educators who make arts education come alive every single day,” Thurmond said. “Research has shown that the arts improve student attendance and school climate and keep many students interested in school, providing a creative outlet during a time of uncertainty. Arts education supports social-emotional learning, fosters self-esteem and strengthens the bonds that hold our communities together. As state superintendent, I pledge to keep lifting up programs like Conga Kids that celebrate culture, creativity and community.”

The Conga Kids Community Hero Award recognizes leaders who champion equity, access and creative expression for all students, using their platform to uplift the transformative power of the arts in schools and communities. Thurmond’s commitment to educa-

tion and the arts is most notable through his championing of Proposition 28, which has created meaningful opportunities for students across California and secured dedicated funding for arts and music education in schools. More school districts across California now have resources to hire arts teachers, expand programs and reach more students than ever before.

Since 2016, Conga Kids has integrated social and emotional wellness and inclusivity into social dance and music, reaching thousands of students from K-8th grade and families throughout Los Angeles and Orange counties. Students learn social dances of the African diaspora – lamban, merengue, son cubano, salsa, authentic jazz, cumbia and hip-hop – while celebrating the cultural and historical context of dance and music. The “Conga Kids” are taught valuable life lessons to aid their personal growth and development while building a foundation of leadership and confidence, boosting overall academic achievement, social engagement and community, attendance and college and workforce readiness.

For information, visit congakids.org.

Getty transforms art provenance data

First launched in the 1980s, the Getty Provenance Index has evolved into an unparalleled resource for tracing the ownership history of artworks, serving as a cornerstone for research on provenance, collecting and art markets. Now, after nearly a decade of redevelopment, Getty has reimagined the essential resource, making it more accessible and valuable than before, with a massive repository containing over 12 million records.

“Getty has been a global and visionary leader in provenance research and provenance research resources for the past 40 years,” said Mary Miller, director of the Getty Research Institute. “Provenance is a very complex field of study that helps us to understand the lives of objects and how objects have moved in this world. Through this work, knowledge is

mobilized through the politics of repatriation and provenance comes before that.”

The GPI resources are drawn from rare primary source materials such as archival inventories, auction catalogs and dealer stock books dating as far back as the 16th century, with strong coverage for European and American paintings. By documenting the transfer of ownership of artworks it plays an essential role in understanding the movement of objects across time and geography, offering critical insights into the history of collecting and the art trade.

Through the decades, Getty has invested in building wide-ranging provenance expertise across the institution. While most museums focus their provenance work on their own collections, the GPI extends far beyond Getty’s own

holdings. Indeed, most museums in the United States can find illuminating documentation about objects in their collections by perusing the GPI. The Provenance Index is an extraordinary contribution to the field, representing tens of thousands of hours of rigorous research. Through it, Getty reinforces its commitment to fostering transparency, advancing scholarship and enabling new discoveries in art history.

Complementing the Provenance Index is the launch of “Tracing Art,” an interactive experience that offers a window into the vast and growing possibilities of provenance data. Understand the complex web of relationships between objects, people, events, places and time. See painters that acquired works from fellow artists, observe patterns in donors across museum collections

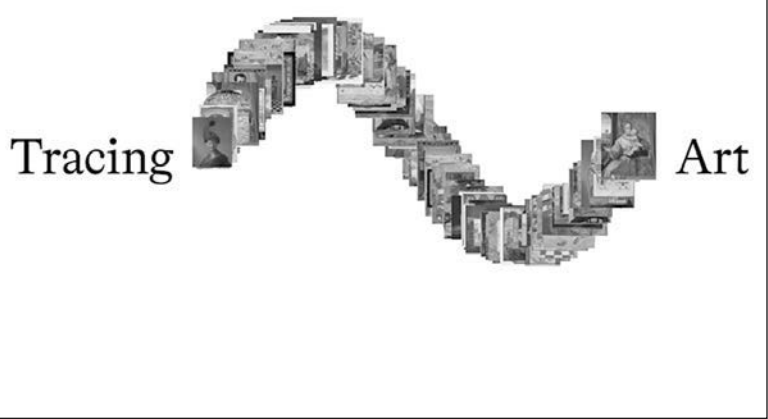


photo courtesy of the Getty Research Institute

“Tracing Art” allows the public to explore the ownership history of artwork.

and experience the provenance journey of many works, including, “Still Life with a Chinese Porcelain Jar” by Willem Kalf and its journey to the Indianapolis Museum of Art

at Newfields. For information, visit getty.edu/research/provenance. To explore “Tracing Art,” visit getty.edu/tracingart.

Art intersects with activism and social justice at Fowler

“Construction, Occupation” presents the work of 24 artists and collectives – primarily from Brazil – that engage art’s potential to shape the city through the power of community. Drawing on myriad visual languages and poetics grounded in collective action, the exhibition investigates a radical urban vocabulary that blurs art and activism to address questions of infrastructure and vulnerability, circulation and segregation, and the body in public space. It is on display at the Fowler Museum through Jan. 11, 2026.

For information, visit fowler.ucla.edu/exhibitions/construction-occupation. The Fowler Museum

is located at 308 Charles E. Young Drive.



photo courtesy of the artist

Images by Sato from the “Kopke Occupation Series” (2015) will be a part of the “Construction, Occupation” exhibit.

Getty announces lineup for free outdoor summer concert series

Summer evenings at the Getty Center will be filled with musical performances for five upcoming Saturdays as “Off the 405” returns with free concerts. This year’s acts include SML on May 31, Mabe Fratti on June 14, Madi Diaz on July 12, Empress Of on July 26, and Emile Mosseri on August 23.

Concerts will begin with a live DJ set at 6 p.m. before the main performance. Ticket reservations are required and will be released three weeks before each concert on Getty’s website, with release dates available online.

“Off the 405 has become a beloved summer ritual for Angelenos – a space where adventurous music and iconic architecture converge,” said Sarah Cooper, performance programs specialist at the Getty. “This year’s artists embody the urgency and experimentation of today’s most vital music scenes. Spanning experimental collectives, genre-defying vocalists and cinematic composers, they’re pushing boundaries and deepening what live music can be. We’re proud to present a lineup that resonates with both casual listeners and the music communities that make Los Angeles such a vital cultural city.”

Past Off the 405 performers in the

series include noteworthy artists like Barteas Strange, Cate Le Bon, Helado Negro, Alabaster De Plume and Moses Sumney.

Visitors are encouraged to arrive early to explore the site and enjoy the current art exhibitions. Guests are welcome to bring a picnic or

purchase food and beverages in the Museum Courtyard. No outside alcohol is allowed. Parking at the Getty Center is \$25, or \$15 after 3 p.m. and \$10 after 6 p.m. The museum will have new extended hours beginning on June 17, and will be open late on Saturdays until 9 p.m. with free parking after 6 p.m.

The Getty Center is located at 1200 Getty Center Drive. For information and the full lineup, visit getty.edu/whats-on/off-the-405.



photo courtesy of the J. Paul Getty Trust

“Off the 405” features live DJ sets and bands at the Getty Center.

MOCA takes annual gala to Little Tokyo

The Museum of Contemporary Art will hold its annual gala on Saturday, May 31, at The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA in Little Tokyo, in partnership with BVLGARI. This year, MOCA’s Gala will inaugurate the new MOCA Legends format, which honors three luminaries from art, culture, and philanthropy that have been fundamental to the museum’s evolution. Honorees for 2025 are Theaster Gates, Frank Gehry and

Wendy Schmidt, each of whose impact has helped cement MOCA as a leading force in presenting and preserving world-class contemporary art. The special evening will also feature a performance from Grammy-nominated artist Tierra Whack. Funds raised by the MOCA Gala directly support all museum programming, staff and operations.

“MOCA’s status as a leading contemporary art museum would not be possible without the incredi-

ble roster of renowned collaborators throughout our long history,” MOCA Board President Carolyn Clark Powers said.

Throughout the gala evening on May 31, MOCA will welcome artists, philanthropists and leading entertainment and fashion industry figures from Los Angeles and throughout the globe. The 2025 gala will begin with a cocktail reception held in the Aileen Getty Plaza, where guests will also have access to a special viewing of “Olafur Eliasson: OPEN” before the seated dinner. Grammy-nominated rapper and singer Tierra Whack will give a special performance during the event. Her 2024 debut album “World Wide Whack” received critical acclaim, and Billboard named her one of the best female rappers of all time in April 2025.

To purchase a table or seats, make a donation and for information, contact gala@moca.org or visit moca.org/gala2025.

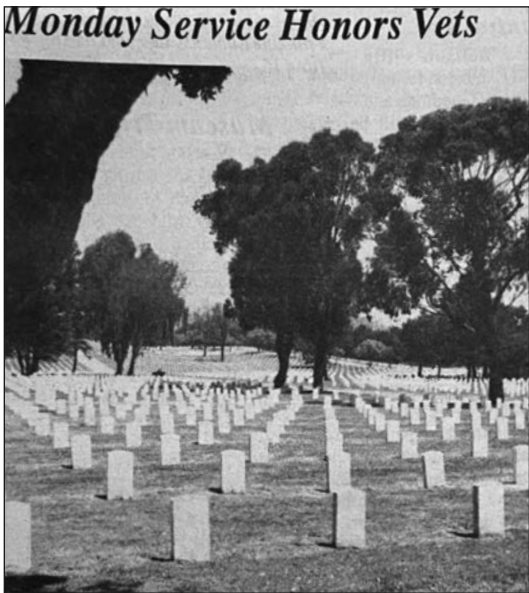


photo courtesy of MOCA

Theaster Gates, Frank Gehry and Wendy Schmidt are MOCA’s 2025 honorees.

VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

Honoring those who paid the ultimate sacrifice during service



A photograph in the May 23, 1991, issue of the Park Labrea News showed the Los Angeles National Cemetery, which welcomed veterans and their families for a special Memorial Day ceremony that year. Memorial Day is a federal holiday enacted shortly after the Civil War to mourn and honor deceased military service members. Originally called Decoration Day, it was formalized as Memorial Day in 1868, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This year, a Memorial Day ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. on May 26 at the Los Angeles National Cemetery, located at 950 S. Sepulveda Blvd. For information, call (310)268-4675, or visit cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/losangeles.asp.

POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between May 11 and May 17. 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

May 11

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of N. Crescent at 9:12 a.m.

At 7:03 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of N. Crescent.

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the 400 block of N. Rexford at 8:24 p.m.

May 12

At 8:25 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9800 block of Santa Monica.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 9600 block of Olympic at 2:59 p.m.

At 6:40 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 9400 block of South Santa Monica.

May 13

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 100 block of Lasky at 3:20 a.m.

At 1 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 100 block of S. La Peer.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 9300 block of Wilshire at 3:23 p.m.

At 3:01 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon.

May 14

A vandalism incident was reported in the 400 block of S. Wetherly at 3:19 a.m.

At 4:07 p.m., an unknown suspect committed theft from a commercial building in the 400 block of N. Rodeo.

May 15

At 6:20 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of S. Beverly.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9600 block of Santa Monica at 11:52 a.m.

At noon, an unknown suspect committed a petty theft from a vehicle in the 9100 block of Charleville.

An unknown suspect committed a theft from a commercial building in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 3:13 p.m.

At 7 p.m., an arson fire was reported in the 400block of N. Oakhurst.

May 16

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 2:50 a.m.

At 9 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 1100 block of N. Laurel.

An unknown suspect assaulted a

victim near North Santa Monica and Doheny at 5:15 p.m.

At 5:51 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 100 block of S. Oakhurst.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of N. Rodeo at 7:22 p.m.

At 7:55 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of N. Cañon.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 800 block of N. Camden at 9:50 p.m.

May 17

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Sunset and Greenway at 3:45 a.m.

At 6:25 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft near Park Way and Crescent.

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

May 11

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1200 block of N. La Brea at 10:45 a.m.

At 3:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8900 block of Ashcroft.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1000 block of Genesee at 5:11 p.m.

At 11:30 p.m., an unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

May 12

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7900 block of Santa Monica at 1:40 a.m.

At 6:15 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8800 block of Rangeley.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 2:17 p.m.

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

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7800 block of Santa Monica at 4:10 p.m.

At 6:15 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 500 block of N. Almont. A second vehicle burglary was reported in the same area at 7:20 p.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 8900 block of Melrose at 6:50 p.m.

At 7:10 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 8200 block of Sunset.

May 14

At 4:30 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 1000 block of Gardner.

BHPD places special focus on bicycle safety

The Beverly Hills Police Department is encouraging the public to stay alert to keep bicyclists safe.

May is National Bike Safety Month. With the arrival of warmer weather, more people are cycling for commuting, exercise and recreation, making it essential for all people to look out for one another and save lives. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1,105 people were killed while riding bicycles in 2022, and an estimated 46,195 bicyclists were injured.

“Bicycling is a great means of transportation and recreation, and everyone deserves to ride to their destination safely,” BHPD Chief Mark Stainbrook said. “Whether you are behind the wheel or on two wheels, we all share the responsibility to move safely on our roads.”

The BHPD will conduct a traffic safety operation on May 22 from 6 a.m.-4 p.m. focused on driving behaviors that put bicyclists and pedestrians at risk such as speeding, making illegal turns, failure to yield right of way and running stop signs and red lights. Drivers are encouraged to slow down and follow the speed limit, and to be careful travel-



photo by Edwin Folven

The BHPD will hold a bicycle safety operation on May 22. Motorists are encouraged to always drive safely and watch for cyclists.

ing through intersections. Look carefully for bicyclists and pedestrians before making a turn or opening a car door near streets or bike paths. Be patient when traveling behind a cyclist and give them space when passing. California law requires drivers to change lanes, when possible, to pass cyclists and to always pass with at least three feet of space.

Bike riders are urged to use lights at night. Although not required for

riders 18 and older, cyclists should always wear a helmet, which significantly reduces the chance of a head injury during a crash. Bicyclists must travel in the same direction as traffic and must follow the same requirements as any slow-moving vehicle. Yield to pedestrians, who have the right-of-way within marked and unmarked crosswalks at intersections.

Funding for the program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Authorities search for woman last seen in West Hollywood

Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department deputies are searching for a 26-year-old woman who is missing after last being seen in West Hollywood on May 19.

The missing woman, Daria F. Mikhailova, was last seen at approximately 11:15 a.m. in the 1000 block of North Hayworth Avenue, between Santa Monica Boulevard and Romaine Street. Authorities said Mikhailova’s family told them she suffers from mental health issues and they are concerned about her well-being.

Mikhailova is white, 5 feet 6 inches tall and 130 pounds with brown hair and blue eyes. Anyone with information is urged to call the L.A. County Sheriff’s Missing Person’s Detail at (213)890-5500 or the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station at (310)855-8850.



Daria F. Mikhailova

Court expands online hearings

The Los Angeles County Superior Court will initiate a phased rollout this summer of LACourtConnect, remote courtroom appearance technology for courtrooms in the Criminal, Appellate, Mental Health and Juvenile divisions. Once the divisions are added, all remote appearances in the Superior Court of Los Angeles County will use the same platform.

The program begins on June 2.

Attorneys and litigants appearing remotely for criminal hearings at multiple courthouses throughout the county must visit the LACC welcome page, select Criminal as their litigation type and find their hearing with either a case number search, calendar search or name search. For information on which courthouses are included and to access the program, visit my.lacourt.org/laccwelcome.

May 15

At 7:19 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 900 block of Hilldale.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1100 block of N. La Brea at 9:36 p.m.

At 11:50 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Fountain and Laurel.

May 16

At 3:03 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7400 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8600 block of Santa Monica at 12:30 p.m.

At 5:15 p.m., an unknown suspect

assaulted a victim near Santa Monica and Doheny.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7900 block of Santa Monica at 9 p.m.

May 17

At 12:50 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1300 block of Havenhurst.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Robertson and Santa Monica at 2:19 a.m.

At 5 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8200 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1000 block of N. Genesee at 1:09 p.m.

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY HOSPITAL CLOSURE

Effective January 1, 2025

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

The three nearest facilities offering comparable services are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

1. Winter transport
5. Bunk
9. Superabundance
13. Commemorative pole
15. Disney's" ____ and the Detectives"
16. Farm call
17. Hawaiian island
18. Nashville landmark, familiarly
19. Diamond stats
20. Weekly event, usually
23. Meringue ingredient
24. Takes to the sea
25. Falling star
29. American architect
31. Dana of "The Help"
32. High collar
34. Anticipatory liquid
39. They can be found at 20 across
42. Building addition
43. Soothing succulent
44. Blues musician Baker
45. Old Testament book
47. Outcome
49. Listens to
52. Opening-day pitcher, typically
53. They can be found at 20 across
59. Lo-cal descriptive
60. Nil
61. Game with doubles and triples
63. Visible
64. China-related prefix
65. Smooths
66. Stamp of approval

Down

67. More than some
68. Tree home
1. Cardinal's insignia
2. Baker's unit
3. Mount ____ (volcano)
4. Beloved
5. Conductor Solti
6. They cover all the bases
7. Solid
8. Fine particles
9. Russian who wrote "The Lower Depths"
10. Actionable words
11. Condos, e.g.
12. Thanks, for short
14. Bygone copy
21. "Snowy" bird
22. Grammy category
25. Sheet mineral
26. Writer Hunter
27. Beach bird
28. Brontë heroine
29. Eucalyptus eater
30. Latin word on a cornerstone
33. Bygone leader
35. Roger of "Cheers"
36. Curse
37. "I'm ____ you!"
38. Bar candidate's exam, briefly
40. Kind of daisy
41. Two at a table
46. Sister of Eva
48. Dangles

49. Steinbeck characters
50. Restrained
51. Makarova of tennis
52. Stirring
54. Diamond of records
55. Bond opponent
56. Indian flatbread
57. Bird of prey
58. Old Fords
59. Fighting Tigers of the N.C.A.A.
62. Barrier-breaking jet

answers on page 31

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‘Andor’ ends as it began, brilliant and poetic

One of the most monumental “Star Wars” moments concluded, and it’s concerning to imagine most folks don’t even know. The films earn all the love (or hate, depending on your degree of insufferability), but contributions on the small screen are equal to and in many cases surpass the features.

That’s easily the case with “Andor,” ending its second and final season on a supreme high. Welcome to the Rebellion. Welcome to “Star Wars” for adults who need to think deeper about fascism and how to disgust those who thrive on authoritarian power.

Across 24 episodes, we witness Cassian Andor (Diego Luna) transform from some smuggler weathering the Empire’s reign to a full-fledged spy and captain in the Rebel Alliance. Unlike newcomers

like Luke and Han, Cassian was there from the start, first as a disposable thief in season one to a key figure stealing experimental TIE fighters, grooming locals into resistance fighters or saving key political figures.

But our hero isn’t alone. As a prequel to “Rogue One,” we know where some folks will soon end up, like Senator Mon Mothma (Genevieve O’Reilly), a Rebel leader hiding in plain sight. She watches as her daughter marries a fool and distances herself from a mother perceived as career driven. Like father, like daughter, I suppose, since Mon’s hubby also doesn’t get it. She plays a dangerous game, ensuring the Rebellion has funding and convincing colleagues to be a thorn in the Emperor’s side, even though most fear reprisal.

ON SCREEN

WITH
TIM POSADA

And then there’s the series’ breakout characters, Luthen Rael (Stellan Skarsgård) and Kleya Marki (Elizabeth Dulau). Out of an antiques shop on Coruscant, next door to the intelligence agencies desperate to snuff out all hope in the galaxy, this dynamic duo oversees a network of Rebel forces unaware of each other’s existence. Skarsgård sported the franchise’s most iconic monologue last season, but he drops some memorable lines this time around, while Kleya takes center stage in thrilling espionage sequences.

Season two doesn’t have the same number of dramatic monologues. Instead, it revs up the Empire’s plans that lead to creating the Death Star. And it makes the Empire even more terrifying than any other “Star Wars” media. Everyone needs I.D. at all times. Travel is heavily regulated. Entire regions with desirable natural resources are framed as antagonistic by state-sponsored media to ensure a complacent reaction to social unrest. Sen. Mothma sums it up best.

“The distance between what is said and what is known to be true has become an abyss,” she says at a key moment. “Of all the things at risk, the loss of an objective reality is perhaps the most dangerous. The



photo courtesy of Lucasfilms

“Andor,” starring Diego Luna as Cassian, offers the smartest, most intricate experience in the “Star Wars” canon.



photo courtesy of Lucasfilms

Senator Mon Mothma (Genevieve O’Reilly) is a standout in “Andor.”

death of truth is the ultimate victory of evil.”

It feels all too relevant. But, hey, who wants a modern-day application to their fiction consumption? Shouldn’t pop culture keep it neutral, entirely vanilla? Please no. Let the thoughtful adults enjoy nice things.

“Andor” is close to perfect with some exceptions: a few meandering moments here and a story arc stretched too far there. It’s hardly the most riveting series with grand blaster sequences or orbital attacks. Instead, it relies on characters like Cassian and Luthen, along with Imperial officers like Syril Karn (Kyle Soller) and Dedra Meero (Denise Gough), who enjoy as much screen time as the Rebel scum they chase.

Showrunner Tony Gilroy

(“Michael Clayton, “Bourne” films) is a masterful writer who gifted us a series only topped by “The Empire Strikes Back.” Nothing else really comes close. This is all shocking considering “Andor” is a prequel to “Rogue One,” which is a direct prequel to “A New Hope.” This shouldn’t work. The premise alone feels shameless. But the darker, grittier, somber, more human tone distinguishes it from the rest of the fold.

This is the year for “Andor,” which is sure to sweep at various awards events. But if you don’t care about that, just enjoy the smartest, most intricate “Star Wars” experience. Then immediately follow season two’s finale by rewatching “Rogue One.” Everything hits differently when you do. Trust me. Actually, trust the Force.



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Descanso Gardens comes alive with summer activities

Descanso Gardens offers a vibrant lineup of summer events that invite visitors to explore music, movement, nature and art in the garden’s lush seasonal landscape. From folk dances and family workshops to interactive exhibitions and rose celebrations, the programming offers something for all ages and interests. Most activities are free with admission or membership.

“Summer is one of the most joyful times at Descanso,” CEO Juliann Rooke said. “Whether you’re dancing on the Main Lawn, learning about the animals that call the garden home or strolling through powerful art installations, there’s inspiration around every corner. We can’t wait to welcome our visitors into this dynamic season of discovery, fun and community.”

The Summer Music and Dance Series will be held on June 12, July 10 and Aug. 14 from 5:30–6:45 p.m. The lively evenings of cultural

dance and music light up the Main Lawn.

On June 12, Chervona Kalyna Ukrainian Dance Ensemble brings the energy of Ukrainian folk dances to life. Viver Brasil shares the joyful rhythms and ancestral traditions of Salvador, Brazil, on July 10. Pacifico Dance Company closes the series on Aug. 14 with a performance of traditional Mexican folk-lórico.

The Cultivate Series will be held on June 27, July 25 and Aug. 22 from 4:30-7 p.m. Cultivate is a monthly event that invites guests to experience Descanso Gardens in new and unexpected ways through themed tours, hands-on workshops, live demonstrations and music.

The “Rose-stravaganza” will be held on June 21-22 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Rose Garden. Celebrate the beauty, history and horticultural science of roses during the special weekend event featuring live

music, floral displays, demonstrations and talks.

“Roots of Cool” runs from July 12–Oct. 12 in the Sturt Haaga Gallery, Boddy House and throughout the Gardens. Curated by Edith and Jolly de Guzman, the multi-site exhibition explores “shade equity,” the idea that access to cooling shade is not equally distributed across communities.

Additionally, outdoor installations across the gardens invite reflection on climate resilience and community. Highlights include imaginative bus stops reimagined as shaded urban sanctuaries, suspended tree umbrellas representing the cooling functions of trees and a forest of poetic “wayfinding love letters” responding to climate change.

A gallery exhibition at the Sturt Haaga Gallery and Boddy House delves into the past, present and future role of trees through visual and musical works by women



photo courtesy of Descanso Gardens

Visitors can enjoy themed tours, hands-on workshops, live demonstrations and music during the Cultivate Series this summer at Descanso Gardens

artists. An opening reception will be held on July 1 from 5–7pm. Meet the artists and curators, enjoy live music and unwind at a no-host bar. The opening reception and garden admission are free from 5-7 p.m. On July 12, join curators Edith

and Jolly de Guzman for a guided tour of the exhibit from 11 a.m.-noon and 1-2 p.m.

Descanso Gardens is located at 1418 Descanso Drive in La Cañada Flintridge. For information, visit descansogardens.org.

Pickleball comes to Vintage Land May 31

Vintage Land, home of the Los Feliz Flea market, announced that it is teaming up with Angel City Pickleball to host Skyline Smash, an immersive community event on Saturday, May 31. The vibrant experience, held from 11 a.m.–2 p.m. at Vintage Land, fuses L.A.’s love of vintage, downtown views and recreational fun while bringing together pickleball play, virtual reality adventures, a curated flea market and Grind House – L.A.’s only indoor skate park.

Angel City Pickleball and the outdoor rooftop courts provide a unique playing surface that enhances performance and comfort. Attendees are invited to hop on and hop off the outdoor turn courts in 10-minute open play sessions, where custom event-branded paddles and balls will be provided. With breathtaking views of Downtown Los Angeles, the well-maintained regulation courts and welcoming atmosphere create the ideal environment for players of all

levels. Whether attendees are there for a competitive match or just for fun, Angel City Pickleball delivers an unforgettable experience for all. Sneakers are required, pickleball attire is encouraged.

Off the court, attendees can step into and explore immersive virtual reality worlds with the VR escape room experience with looping immersive game demos. Guests can also check out Grind House for a unique skating experience at Vintage Land. Additionally, visitors can walk around the Los Feliz Flea Market, which offers vintage fashion, handmade goods, local treasures, great music and unique shopping stalls to explore.

“Skyline Smash is about celebrating L.A. culture, great views and getting people out and playing together,” said Phillip Dane, cofounder of the Los Feliz Flea at Vintage Land. “It’s everything we love about this city in one place.”

For information, visit vintageland.la.

Vintage Land and Los Feliz Flea are located at 1030 Alpine St.



photo courtesy of Vintage Land

Visitors to Vintage Land on May 31 can shop for unique items and join a game of pickleball.

BH explores food for Jewish American Heritage Month

Nearly 100 passionate food lovers and community members gathered at the Beverly Hills City Hall Municipal Gallery on May 19 for a Jewish American Foodie conversation with a distinguished panel of culinary experts. Restaurateur Harry Posner, food writer Tannaz Sassooni and KCRW Good Food producer Elina Shatkin shared insights and stories that deepened attendees’ appreciation for the rich diversity of food and culture in the city.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Tomat owner and chef Harry Posner, KCRW Good Food producer Elina Shatkin, Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian and Los Angeles-based food writer Tannaz Sassooni celebrated Jewish culinary traditions at the event.

Award-winning classical singer presents free concert in Beverly Hills

Golda Zahra will perform a free community concert under the stars at Beverly Cañon Gardens on May 24 at 6:30 p.m. She will be joined by a six-piece ensemble, performing an enchanting set of opera, jazz standards and Broadway favorites.

Zahra was born and raised in Beverly Hills and attended Beverly Hills High School. In 2015 at the age of 16, she performed at the Beverly Hills Centennial and was critically acclaimed as “one of the rising stars of her generation” and “a promising young opera singer” by the Los Angeles Times for her angelic voice with remarkable vocal range. Upon returning from Italy in 2024, where she moved following high school to pursue her craft and study with legendary Italian soprano Barbara Frittoli, Zahra made a triumphant return and dazzled Angelenos with three diverse concerts throughout the city.

Guests are encouraged to arrive early with blankets and low chairs

for seating on the lawn (first-come, first-served) and are welcome to bring a picnic to enjoy during the show.

Beverly Cañon Gardens is adjacent to The Maybourne Hotel at 241 North Canon Drive.

For information, visit goldazahra.com



photo courtesy of Golda Zahra

Golda Zahra was born and raised in Beverly Hills.



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photo courtesy of Caruso
The Grove will offer patriotic activities and special programs on May 23.

L.A. Fleet Week sails into The Grove

The Grove will transform into a sea of red, white and blue as it proudly welcomes the United States Navy on Friday, May 23, from 1-3 p.m.

The celebration and vibrant patriotic festivities are held in conjunction with Los Angeles Fleet Week and pay special tribute to the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps, honoring the brave men and women who represent an enduring symbol of American power, protection and pride.

“Last year’s Fleet Week celebration at The Grove was a powerful reminder of our community’s deep gratitude for our service-members,” said Rick Caruso, founder and executive chairman of Caruso. “This year, as we mark

250 years of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, we are honored to once again open our doors – and our hearts – to those who serve.”

Festivities will begin at 1 p.m. with face painting and balloon twisters for families, followed by a private lunch in The Park for the sailors hosted by Sogno Toscano. At 2:30 p.m., The Grove will offer guests a closer look at Navy traditions and heartfelt moments, including a patriotic Trolley procession parading down First Street featuring 110 uniformed sailors and the L.A. Marching Band; fly-over salutes by a North American SNJ-5 WW II advanced trainer and LAFD helicopter; welcome remarks by master chief petty officer James Honea and Caruso; and live performances by the Navy

Beverly Hills Art Show winners announced

The spring Beverly Hills Art Show, held on May 17-18, brought nearly 30,000 visitors to Beverly Hills and Beverly Gardens Park, where 237 artists exhibited their work outdoors along four blocks of Santa Monica Boulevard from Rodeo Drive to Rexford Drive. Attendees enjoyed artwork in ceramics, drawing and printmaking, glass, jewelry, photography, mixed media, painting, photography and digital art, sculpture and watercolor. Other featured events included a creative zone with people of all ages engaging in fun, hands-on artmaking, and a beer and wine garden where adults were able to relax and enjoy live music and a demonstration in trace drawing, watercolor, painting and chalk art by Stacy Nalapraya, who drew a large scale vibrant piece on the street near the food trucks.

This year’s spring 2025 Beverly Hills Art Show winners are: Best of Show – Christian Benoit; Best Display of Art – Michael Hirsh; Best New Artist – Susan Spector; Gil Borgos Originality Award – Aziz Diagne.

First-place winners in each category are: Ceramics – Jerry and Tanner Sawitz; Drawing and Printmaking – Rod Alexander;



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills
Artists from around the world were recognized in categories including ceramics, mixed media and painting.

Glass – Gustavo Santana; Jewelry – Birgit Kupke Peyla; Mixed Media, Two Dimensional – Marie Lavallee; Mixed Media, Three Dimensional – Richard Lee; Painting – Reyhan Gulses Demircioglu; Photography and Digital Art – Youngbok Park; Sculpture – Floscei Aubert; Watercolor – Taman Vanscoy.

The Beverly Hills Art Show is

produced by the Beverly Hills Community Services Department and is held every May and October. The fall 2025 Beverly Hills Art Show will be held on Oct. 18-19.

Artists are encouraged to apply for the October 2025 show. The application will be available in July for a juried spot by visiting beverlyhills.org/artshow. For questions, call (310)285-1000.

Band Southwest. The Grove will also hold patriotic Fountain shows set to “America The Beautiful” and visitors can view military displays and meet sailors. Service members will receive exclusive Fleet Week offerings when they show a military ID. Select retailers and restaurants include David

Yurman, Todd Snyder, La La Land Kind Café, Charlotte Tilbury and The Fountain Bar.

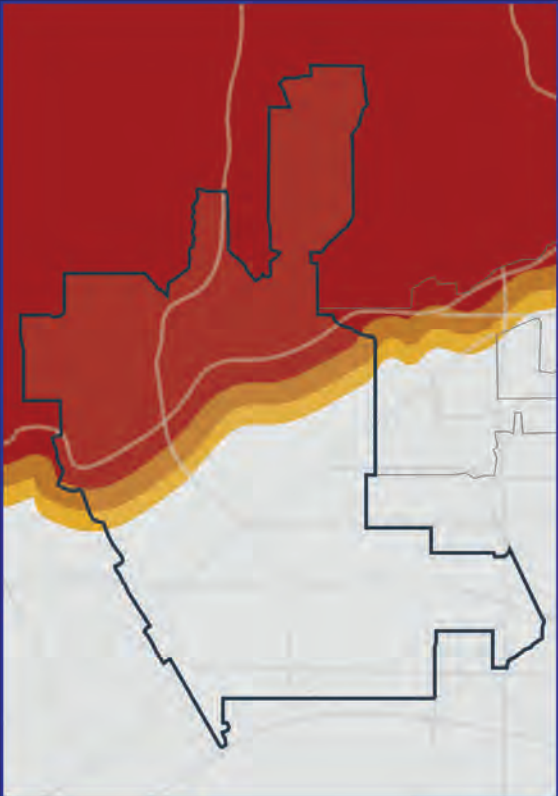
L.A. Fleet Week is a United States Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard tradition held on Memorial Day Weekend from May 23-26 in San Pedro. Fleet Week brings active-duty ships and

sailors to L.A. for public engagement and community outreach. The Grove, located at 189 The Grove Drive, is a key partner in the citywide Fleet Week celebration.

For information, visit lafleetweek.com and thegrovela.com.



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Mayor works to boost film production

From page 1

tainment industry, I was given a shopping list of things that they felt inhibited or made filming in Los Angeles difficult that I could take action on ... so what I signed today essentially will make the filming easier,” Bass said.

Her order will create guidelines for onsite filming, cut review timelines and attempt to lower certain city fees. Additionally, only one city staff member will be required to monitor filming versus the numerous staff members who were previously required.

“The permitting process ... why do you have to go through so many hoops? Why can’t we streamline the permitting process? [We’re] looking at fees and maybe waving some fees ... and then what the industry has asked for for a long time is a point person, an individual that will be responsible and accessible to essentially provide cost saving service to the industry,” she said.

Bass has also initiated an Entertainment Industry Council to advise on keeping production local, and created studio and sound stage concierge services to help with facilitating film and television activity in the city.

Bass said that for her it was personal, since several generations of her family have either worked in the industry or in jobs that were affected by the industry. Her brother, for instance, designs custom kitchens for television sets.

In recent years, Los Angeles has seen a massive reduction in its star industry, with lucrative tax incentives luring productions to states such as Georgia and New Mexico and even to Canada and Romania. Stay in LA, the organization advocating for Los Angeles to reclaim its

title as the film and television capital of the world, praised Bass’ efforts.

“We appreciate that Mayor Bass and her team understand how urgent this crisis is and are taking action,” said Kate Holguín, part of the Stay in LA communications team. “But the truth is, the city of Los Angeles is just one piece of an 88-city puzzle. L.A. County and cities across the region must also cut red tape immediately. Permitting fees must be lowered – full stop – or production will leave for good, and more people will lose their jobs, their businesses and their homes.”

Austin James Wolff is an actor and writer who recently shot his independent film, “Wally Jackson and the Probability of Love and Car Accidents,” entirely in Los Angeles. He said that Bass’ order was a “good step in the right direction.”

“I personally understand how painful it is to shoot here due to the excessive red tape, the excessive permit fees and the excessive payroll taxes,” Wolff said. “If Bass really does streamline the permitting process, this should help reduce the red tape and – hopefully – reduce the permit fees, making it just a bit easier to shoot in Los Angeles.”

He added, though, that he did not think the executive order goes far enough, and suggested what he admitted was a “radical” idea that the permitting fees be reduced to \$0.

“This extreme measure would send a message to every production company that L.A. is actually on their side,” Wolff said.

Tax incentives, he said, would be most effective in reducing the cost of filming in the area.

“Payroll taxes ended up being

about 20% of our entire budget,” Wolff said.

The Film & TV Jobs Act is currently working its way through the California Legislature. It would increase the tax credit for state film production to \$750 million. Bass, who helped pass the state’s first production tax incentive in 2009 when she was speaker of the State Assembly, emphasized the importance of passing the bill.

“Our hope that the tax credit would grow over time did not happen,” she said. “If the Legislature approves it ... it actually will make our tax credits larger than New York for the first time. And I think that’s going to be really important.”

Bass said she met with President Donald Trump’s liaison to the Hollywood industry, Jon Voight. His proposal for increased productions includes further federal tax incentives and a tariff on all American productions that film overseas. Bass said she told Voight she was “concerned about the second half” of the plan.

“If you are an L.A. company or a U.S. company and you go overseas on location for some reason, I would not want to see the film’s tax come back. That sounds like that defeats the purpose,” Bass said. “Of course, I wanted everything to be filmed in L.A., but you can’t always be a specific location.”

The Los Angeles City Council passed its own measure to cut through production red tape on April 29, in an item introduced by Councilman Adrin Nazarian, 2nd District. “More production means more jobs for L.A. families and the communities where they live and shop,” Nazarian said last month. “Keep Hollywood home!”

At the board meeting on May 13, Stern expressed concern over whether the deal would actually amount to savings.

“I have to think about whether I want our school to be known as a ‘Nike school,’” Stern said. “I’m just thinking if we have BSN, we have Nike, those are two business entities. So that alone tells me there’s no way this ultimately is going to be savings for our families or our school.”

It remains unclear how much individual uniforms will cost compared to current uniforms.

However, Stuart said that the district would be missing an opportunity if it did not accept the deal with BSN – an existing partner with the district that provides apparel.

He added that the current state of the district’s uniforms necessitated an upgrade. He gave the example of a photo a parent sent him of a Beverly Vista Middle School boys volleyball game against Larchmont Charter School. In the photo, the Larchmont team is wearing matching Nike uniforms, while the Beverly Vista team is dressed in mismatched shorts and jerseys that appear to be the wrong size. Stuart said some members of the boys team were mistakenly given girls jerseys.

“They ordered girls shirts by mistake and didn’t change them. This is what I’m talking about,” Stuart said. “That parent called me, took this photo and said, ‘my kid feels defeated already.’”



photo by Edwin Folven

A vacant house at the northwest corner of Waring Avenue and Ogden Drive has been causing concern in the community.

Stabbing raises concerns about vacant houses

From page 4

them none of his property was taken. He was otherwise uncooperative, Ro added. The case remains under investigation.

Peter Nichols, co-founder of the community advocacy organization Melrose Action, said the vacant house has been a problem for weeks, with homeless people squatting inside. According to city records, a demolition permit was issued on April 28 for the duplex, but it is unclear when the building will be razed. Plans are under review for a two-story single-family home at the site. City records did not identify the owner, but show the property was sold in 2024 for \$1.5 million. Requests for information to the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety were not returned by press time.

Nichols said the site illustrates the problems caused when the city doesn’t address vacant buildings.

“There are homeless people going in there,” Nichols said. “That house has a demo permit.

Why is there no fencing? Anyone can occupy that property. Why not start fining the property owners who allow these properties to suck down city resources?”

Ro said police are monitoring the location. The duplex is in Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky’s 5th District. Her spokesman Leo Daube said they are aware of the property and are working to have it secured and the crime issues addressed.

“This speaks to the problem of vacant buildings being a nuisance. It’s happening all over the city. Unfortunately, the process for nuisance abatement is mired in endless bureaucracy,” Daube said. “There is a motion pending with the city attorney to see how we can streamline nuisance abatement when a property becomes a nuisance for the surrounding community. This is something we are absolutely working on. We don’t want them in communities either. People have a right to feel safe in their neighborhoods.”

BHUSD outlines more details of Nike agreement

From page 1

price of uniforms and who will benefit from deal incentives – are still being worked out.

“The contract posted publicly on the BHUSD Board of Education agenda clearly outlines the scope and structure of our new apparel partnership,” a statement from the district read. “Details such as product design, release timelines and pricing are still in the early stages and will be thoughtfully developed over time. As we continue to invest in this partnership, we look forward to sharing more as plans are finalized.”

Benefits of the agreement include 40% off Nike stock uniforms, 30% off Nike footwear and up to 20% off other products. Although the contract does not require a certain spending amount, if the district spends at least \$225,000 annually, it becomes eligible for additional promotional benefits including \$20,000 in annual Nike product credit and a one-time \$40,000 “branding package.” Annual sportswear costs in the district currently total around \$168,000.

It is not yet clear how uniform purchasing will work under the new agreement.

Board Member Russell Stuart, who was the driving force behind the deal, said currently, uniform purchasing involves a “plethora of parent involvement, PTA involvement [and] booster club involvement.”

He added that one of the main goals of the new apparel program will be to create a new, simplified

purchasing method.

“Our goal is to streamline that process, understand the best way forward to make [it] the most financially viable for all stakeholders,” Stuart said. “As of right now, there’s many hands in the pot that make this work, and we want to streamline that so it’s more financially efficient for all.”

“Our goal is to streamline that process, understand the best way forward to make [it] the most financially viable for all stakeholders.”

-BHUSD Board Member Russell Stuart

Additionally, it is not yet clear which athletic programs will benefit from the \$20,000 in annual credit.

“This is all things that we need to work out. At the public school level, so much of what we have to do just to move the ball forward is we need to agendize and publicly say and sign things. We needed to take step one, and that was to solidify the relationship on the numbers that we could agree upon,” Stuart said.

He added that many of the specifics of the new apparel deal will return to the board for discussion and approval.

L.A. moves closer to finalizing Charter Reform Commission

Mayor Karen Bass announced on May 16 that she has selected Justin Ramirez to serve as executive director, and Max Podemski as deputy director, of the Los Angeles City Charter Reform Commission. Bass also selected Robert Lewis, Raymond Meza, Melinda Murray and Christina Sanchez as her commissioner appointments.

Ramirez, appointed by Bass and Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson, 8th District, brings years of experience working in local government.

Podemski is an urban planner with years of experience in development and implementation of city public policy and projects related to land use, climate, sustainability, infrastructure and transportation.

Lewis is an experienced leader in the philanthropic sector known for building bridges to achieve shared outcomes in Los Angeles.

Meza is deputy chief of staff for SEIU Local 721, where he has strengthened and improved organizational processes and practices for hiring and supporting union employees. Murray, a deputy district attorney with the Los Angeles

County District Attorney’s Office, served on the L.A. City Ethics Commission from 2015-22, where she led the development and implementation of the commission’s revision of the Los Angeles Municipal Lobbying Ordinance and Matching Funds Program. Sanchez has decades of experience in communicating complex public policy, engaging with multilingual audiences and effectively bridging the public and private sectors. She serves as vice president of public affairs at AltaMed Health Services.

Additional appointments by the City Council include Martin Schlageter, Mona Field and Ted Stein. President Pro Tempore Bob Blumenfield, 3rd District, will make an appointment to replace a previous commissioner who resigned.

The Charter Reform Commission was established by Bass and the Los Angeles City Council last August. The commission is tasked with reviewing the city charter and developing recommendations for amendments and revisions for consideration by the City Council and the mayor.

WeHo program promotes Rainbow District

From page 1

of the program with each phase selling out and increased business participation,” said Laura Biery, West Hollywood’s director of community development.

According to the Yiftee website, many communities have seen the impact of the e-gift card programs, with 51% of card holders trying out new restaurants and businesses with their cards and eight-times the value of the original sponsorship being brought to the merchants through additional card purchases.

“According to Yiftee, on average gift card holders in the program typically spend 30% more than the card value,” Biery said. “Once launched, the program will incentivize more dollars to be spent at local West Hollywood businesses.”

The program is a continuation of last year’s West Hollywood marketing campaign. According to a report, the campaign generated over 36 million ad impressions, almost 50,000 pageviews on the WeHo Locals website and nearly 2,500 direct click throughs to local businesses.

However, Schukraft said that these efforts were not enough to make a real difference for The Abbey.

“We appreciate the efforts – things like Happy Hour promotions and free parking are helpful,” he said. “But they aren’t moving the needle in a meaningful way. West Hollywood needs bold, consistent campaigns and destination-worthy events to bring people back to the Rainbow District.”

The campaign included two programs – one targeted towards locals and the other targeted towards tourists.

“Overall, the program was a success, especially given the modest \$300,000 budget,” read the report.

“We strongly recommend continued investment in programs like these that elevate West Hollywood as a premier destination for dining, entertainment, and shopping – and foster consistent, meaningful engagement with local residents.”

However, the actual increased revenue received by businesses was not able to be tracked – something that made Vice Mayor John Heilman initially hesitant about allocating additional funding to the campaign. Gift cards, though, would help provide measurable results.

“I really like the idea of these gift cards because you can really track the amount of dollars going into the businesses,” Heilman said.

Of the money allocated, \$100,000 will be dedicated as match funds to be distributed throughout the year in \$10,000 increments. Another \$100,000 will go to the Program Development, Management and Creative Execution Budget with \$50,000 for creative program design and advertising assets, \$25,000 for production of assets and \$25,000 for the integration of the gift card program into weholocals.com. The Paid Advertising Budget would be \$170,000 with \$30,000 for online ads, \$60,000 for print placements, \$10,000 for point-of-sale materials and \$45,000 for strategic partnerships.

WeHo Loves Locals requires a one-time expenditure of \$464,960 with \$95,000 already budgeted, allowing business owners in the Rainbow District the opportunity to participate at no cost.

Schukraft said The Abbey is open to participating in the program, but is not optimistic about the outcome.

“Buy one, get one offers might

help with individual transactions, but they won’t solve the underlying problem,” he said. “West Hollywood is now one of the most expensive cities in the country to run a hospitality business – especially with rising minimum wage mandates, costly leave policies, inflation, tariffs and supply chain issues. If we’re serious about reviving the district, we need programs that generate real excitement and bring people here – not just discounts.”

“Our local businesses need continued support,” West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce president and CEO Genevieve Morrill said in a written comment. “While the return on investment may not yet be fully realized, we believe this program has the potential to evolve into a signature initiative that delivers meaningful impact – given time and strategic promotion.”

An agreement of services has been approved with West Hollywood Travel and Tourism for the WeHo Loves Locals expansion, gift card program and Rainbow District marketing, but it has yet to be announced when the 12-week promotional gift card program will take place.

According to Shukraft, businesses like The Abbey need bolder action. He recommends more flagship events, public safety support for cell phone thefts, and drink spiking and efforts to fill the empty storefronts in the Rainbow District.

“We need real momentum,” he said. “That means big events that drive traffic, stronger public safety enforcement and a business environment that helps us succeed instead of making it harder to survive. We love West Hollywood, and we’re ready to be part of the solution – but we can’t do it alone.”



photo courtesy of Forest Lawn
The ceremony at Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills includes a wreath laying presentation.

Forest Lawn hosts annual Memorial Day ceremony

Forest Lawn will honor veterans with free Memorial Day remembrances at Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills on Monday, May 26, at 10 a.m.

The family-friendly parkwide remembrance will bring generations together to commemorate the lives and valor of American veterans. The ceremony includes patriotic music, a wreath laying presentation and keynote address.

Brigadier General Dr. David Smith will give the keynote speech. Michael Ellington will serve as master of ceremonies and an invocation and benediction will be given by Monsignor Frank Hicks. LAPD Deputy Chief Alan Hamilton will read

the presidential proclamation, and music will be provided by the Los Angeles Concert Band. The event also includes family-friendly activities.

“Forest Lawn’s Memorial Day remembrances honor the lives and courage of the members of the United States military,” said Rodolfo Saenz, Forest Lawn’s senior vice president of marketing. “We are proud to bring all of our Southern California communities together for earnest moments of reflection and gratitude.”

Admission and parking are free. Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills is located at 6300 Forest Lawn Drive. For information, visit forestlawn.com.

Fairfax Theatre listed for sale

From page 1

Fairfax District, including the early Jewish community. Neighborhood meetings, religious services and special events were held at the theater in the 1930s at a time when the first synagogues were being built in the neighborhood.

Most of the building was demolished in 2023, and all that remains is the structure’s outer wall and façade. Preservationists hoped to save the theater, including Save Beverly Fairfax and the Art Deco Society. Steven Luftman, a member of both groups, conducted extensive research on the site and determined the Fairfax Theatre was eligible for historic-cultural status. He also spearheaded an effort to get the property placed on the National Register of Historic Places, which was approved. However, the owner opposed the designation and it was ultimately not placed on the register, Luftman said. News that the site is for sale was met with mixed emotions by Luftman and others in the surrounding community.

“I hate to say I predicted it, but...,” Luftman said. “I think it’s truly a tragedy. I had been advocating for years that the building should be saved. I would love it if a theater opened there again,

maybe housing. It would make an amazing cultural center. It’s fallen into disrepair, and it would be great if it had a renaissance.”

Jacqueline Canter, a member of the family that owns and operates Canter’s Deli, said she is surprised the property is for sale, given it had been vacant for so long. She said a new owner and new project could be a major benefit for the Fairfax District.

“I was shocked about it. I’m sure somebody is going to buy it up,” Canter said. “Right now, it’s an eyesore. Hopefully somebody buys the project and turns it into something good. We really need something good at that site.”

City officials are hopeful the Fairfax Theatre site will come back to life. Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, represents the Fairfax District. Yaroslavsky’s spokesman Leo Daube said they are looking to create a business improvement district along Fairfax Avenue and new project could be a “strong anchor” in the neighborhood.

“It’s unfortunate the owner let the property sit,” Daube said. “Our office is looking for someone who will be a great partner in the community and breathe life back into an important business corridor in the city.”

It’s ‘Game On!’ at the California Science Center

The California Science Center announced the mentor athletes featured by video in the upcoming “GAME ON! Science, Sports & Play,” a dynamic new exhibition developed with the generous support and active collaboration of the Walter Family Foundation, Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation and LA84 Foundation, which opened May 15. The uniquely Los Angeles exhibition will inspire people of all ages, backgrounds, genders and abilities through an array of exciting and immersive activities that showcase the powerful connection between science, sports and play, while celebrating the joy of the human body in motion.

Open to the public admission-free, the groundbreaking exhibition will offer a wide range of hands-on activities and virtual guidance from a diverse team of well-loved Los Angeles-based mentor athletes, including Debbie Allen, Freddie Freeman, Rachel Garcia, Jamal Hill, Chris Matthews, Alyssa and Gisele Thompson, and James “Dat Yoga Dude” Woods.

In addition to the virtually guided experiences, guests can try additional activities including climbing, handcycling, virtual board sports like snowboarding and an exciting behind-the-scenes look at the Nike Sport Research Lab, where scientists in a variety of fields investigate the ways the human body moves and interacts with the environment. In this part of the exhibition,



photo courtesy of the California Science Center
Participating athletes include Dodgers first baseman Freddie Freeman.

“Innovating for the Athlete in You,” guests will explore how data captured by Nike uses technology to propel innovations in sports footwear and apparel, and helps athletes reach their full potential.

“We’re grateful for the opportunity to share the expert knowledge and guidance of such loved and respected leaders in sports with our community,” said Jeffrey Rudolph, president and CEO of the California Science Center. “The experiences offered in ‘GAME ON!’ will explore the intersection of science and sports and highlight our commitment to creating fun and memorable experiences that inspire science learning in everyone.”

For information on the exhibit, visit californiasciencecenter.org.

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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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- CAALA Trial Lawyer of the Year
- CAOC Trial Lawyer of the Year
- Verdictum Juris Trial Lawyer of the Year
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