



Partly cloudy,  
temps in the  
high 60s

# BEVERLY PRESS

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Volume 34 No. 21

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

May 23, 2024

## Pro-choice activists call out Beverly Hills City Council

■ Mayor restructures public comment in response

BY TABOR BREWSTER

More than 20 people wearing purple ribbons in support of reproductive rights made their voices heard at the Beverly Hills City Council meeting on May 21. Many called for an investigation into whether members of the council and city employees colluded with anti-abortion activists in 2023 to have a women's reproductive health clinic's lease rescinded by its landlord.

"As a resident of Beverly Hills for over four decades, I'm looking for transparency as to why the DuPont Clinic hasn't opened in Beverly Hills," Colleen Rabin said to the council. "We will not be silent. We want answers. We want transparency. We want justice."

Members from pro-choice and women's rights advocacy groups such as Beverly Hills for Choice, Reproductive Freedom for All California, L.A. Guild for Reproductive Health, the Feminist

Majority Foundation and Heart of L.A. Democratic Club spoke at the meeting in support of an investigation. According to Beverly Hills for Choice co-founder Andrea Grossman, more than 50 activists were present at the meeting.

Among the speakers who provided public comment were reproductive health experts, Beverly Hills residents and L.A. residents concerned over the city's alleged lack of transparency in its involvement with DuPont Clinic's lease. The clinic alleged that the city conspired with anti-abortion activists to have its lease rescinded in 2023.

"We are here tonight to say shame on you, Beverly Hills City Council," Feminist Majority Foundation representative DuVergne Gaines said. "Abortion access is essential health care for women and pregnant people, including later abortion, period."

Any pregnant woman in California has the legal right to

See **Clinic** page 22

## World War II veteran reflects on meaning of Memorial Day

■ Hancock Park man recalls harrowing experience on Bataan Death March

BY TABOR BREWSTER

World War II veteran Harry Corre never wanted to go to war.

The Hancock Park resident, now 101 years old, remembers his time in the army with quiet dignity. This year, Corre will be honored by the city of Los Angeles at the Bob Hope Patriotic Hall on Monday, May 27, for Memorial Day.

As a prisoner of war, he witnessed horrors that most would think unimaginable, and saw firsthand what many argue to be one of the most important moments in human history. He survived, fighting for freedom and democracy – against fascism and ruthless imperialism. But to Corre, he was just defending his country.

"The enemy was shooting at



photo by Tabor Brewster

Corre proudly displays his medals in his home. He knows they're not in the proper order, but his wife gifted the display to him, so he's not changing it.

me, and it was either me or him," Corre said. He speaks in an old school Boston accent, with a matter-of-fact tone characteristic of

his survival instinct. From as early as he can remember, he was in "survival mode."

See **Veteran** page 21

## New owners buy 99 Cents Only Stores

■ Bankruptcy court holds sale hearing

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The future of the 99 Cents Only Stores is coming into focus following weeks of uncertainty after the bargain stores' parent company filed bankruptcy.

The United States Bankruptcy Court in Delaware is holding a sale hearing on May 23 to determine who

will assume control of the 99 Cents Only Stores' assets, including 44 buildings that were owned and 333 spaces that were leased. An auction was held on May 21 by Hilco Real Estate, LLC, and assets were sold to the highest bidders, said a spokesperson for Hilco. The court is expected to approve the purchasers at the May 23 hearing.

According to court documents, a majority of the leased spaces will be acquired by Virginia-based Dollar Tree Stores, Inc. – the highest bidder.

The amount was not disclosed. The leased spaces include the first 99 Cents Only Store at 6921 La Tijera Blvd., which opened in 1982, and the 99 Cents Only Store at 6121 Wilshire Blvd., which opened in 1994.

The properties owned by the 99 Cents Only Stores' parent company, Ares Management and the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, will be sold to different purchasers. They include the building housing the store at 601 S. Fairfax Ave., which will be sold to B.A. Development Operations, LLC, located at 8383 Wilshire Blvd. in Beverly Hills, according to court documents. The selling price was listed as \$1.3 million.

The 99 Cents Only Stores began holding clearance sales after the bankruptcy announcement. Most of the stores have now closed. The 99 Cents Only Stores at 601 S. Fairfax Ave. and 6121 Wilshire Blvd. have been cleared of merchandise and nobody answered the phones at the stores on May 22.

The United States Bankruptcy Court in Delaware has scheduled another hearing on June 4 to finalize the bankruptcy case and sale. Documents regarding the bankruptcy and court hearings are available by visiting [cases.ra.kroll.com/99only](https://cases.ra.kroll.com/99only) and [deb.uscourts.gov](https://deb.uscourts.gov).



photo by Edwin Folven

A "For Sale" sign was posted at the 99 Cents Only Store at 601 S. Fairfax Ave.



rendering courtesy of the city of West Hollywood

The new two-story City Playhouse will include a 99-seat theater and public spaces.

## Curtain rises on WeHo's City Playhouse project





■ Residents praise commitment to being a creative city

BY RANCE COLLINS

Eight years after West Hollywood acquired the Coast Playhouse, located at 8325 Santa

Monica Blvd., plans have finally been approved to replace the 99-year-old, 2,790 square foot structure with a two-story, near-8,000 square foot arts facility. The tentatively named City Playhouse will include a cultural event center and civic space, a 99-seat theater, rehearsal room and garden-

See **Playhouse** page 22



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photo by Tabor Brewster

An employee at the supermarket’s seafood counter was diagnosed with hepatitis A.

# Hepatitis A reported at Whole Foods Market in Beverly Hills

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is investigating a case of hepatitis A reported in a Whole Foods Market at 239 N. Crescent Drive in Beverly Hills. According to a statement from the department, an employee was infected and experienced symptoms while working at the store.

The health department is urging anyone who purchased products from the seafood counter between April 20 and May 13 to receive a hepatitis A vaccine if they are not immunized.

According to the CDC, hepatitis

A is a highly contagious liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus. It can spread through close contact with an infected person, or ingesting food or drinks contaminated with the virus.

Symptoms include dark urine, clay-colored stools, diarrhea, fatigue, fever, joint pain, loss of appetite, nausea, stomach pain, vomiting and yellow skin or eyes.

“There is no specific antiviral treatment for hepatitis A,” the L.A. County Department of Public Health statement read. “While prompt vaccination is likely to prevent infection, infection may occur in those who receive vaccination too late. Patrons who develop symptoms should call their provider and ask for a hepatitis A test.”

**“Patrons who develop symptoms should call their provider and ask for a hepatitis A test.”**

*-Los Angeles County Department of Public Health*

The statement added that the best way to prevent the disease is to get vaccinated quickly.

“Older adults and people with weakened immune systems might benefit from receiving immune globulin in addition to hepatitis A vaccination for prevention after an exposure,” the statement added.

While the California Department of Public Health requires a hepatitis B vaccination for admission for all K-12 students in the state, it does not require the hepatitis A vaccine. According to the CDC, most hepatitis B vaccines protect against hepatitis B only. Only one FDA-approved vaccine protects against both hepatitis A and B, and it is only approved for use in people 18 years and older.

The case in Beverly Hills comes shortly after the health department reported a hepatitis A outbreak among people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles. Five cases of hepatitis A have been reported since March among homeless residents.

A spokesperson for the L.A. County Department of Public Health said there are no updates on the Beverly Hills investigation as of press time.

For information, visit [publichealth.lacounty.gov](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov) or [cdc.gov/hepatitis-a](http://cdc.gov/hepatitis-a).

## Jazz at LACMA

Enjoy a Jazz at LACMA performance by Katisse on Friday, May 24, from 6-8 p.m. on the museum’s Smidt Welcome Plaza. A native of Los Angeles, woodwind virtuoso and spoken word artist Katisse Buckingham cites Miles Davis, Run DMC, Bach and Weather Report as important early influences. He has performed and recorded with the Yellowjackets, Prince, Herbie Hancock, Dr. Dre, Billy Childs, Poncho Sanchez and Judith Hill, and has played on numerous films including “Anchorman-The Legend of Ron Burgundy.” Admission to Jazz at LACMA is free. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. [lacma.org](http://lacma.org).



## Art of Lucas Beaufort

Hotel Per La is teaming up with French artist Lucas Beaufort for a special immersive art experience on Friday, May 24, and Saturday, May 25, from 6-8 p.m. Guests are invited to participate in a unique experience led by Beaufort in which they will contribute to a collaborative mural, selecting colors, shapes and materials to express creativity. Beaufort draws inspiration from Fernand Léger and Andy Rementer, infusing his work with playful characters influenced by pop culture and photography. Tickets are \$60. 649 S. Olive St. [hotelperla.com/experiences/lucas-beaufort-x-hotel-per-la-immersive-art-experience](http://hotelperla.com/experiences/lucas-beaufort-x-hotel-per-la-immersive-art-experience).



## Kim McVicar

Enjoy an evening of side-splitting laughs with Kim McVicar on Friday, May 24, at 10:15 p.m. at the Hollywood Improv. McVicar is a comedian and former professional dancer from Canada. Her two standup specials “Please Notice Me” and “Tap Dancing on My Mother’s Grave” can be viewed on Amazon Prime, iTunes and YouTube. She can also be heard regularly in comedy shows on SiriusXM and Spotify. Tickets are \$25. 8162 Melrose Ave. [improv.com/hollywood](http://improv.com/hollywood).

## L.A. Children’s Chorus

The Los Angeles Children’s Chorus is holding its 2024 Spring Concerts on Saturday, May 25, at the First United Methodist Church in Pasadena. The Intermediate Choir, Concert Choir and Chamber Singers will perform at 3 p.m., followed by the Apprentice Choir, Concert Choir, Young Men’s Ensemble and Chorale performing at 7 p.m. The Grammy Award-winning Los Angeles Children’s Chorus provides choral music instruction to children from diverse racial, economic and cultural backgrounds. Tickets start at \$10. 500 E. Colorado Blvd. [lachildrenschorus.com](http://lachildrenschorus.com).



## ‘Desperately Seeking Susan’

Fans of the 1980s won’t want to miss an American Cinematheque screening of “Desperately Seeking Susan” (1985) on Saturday, May 25, at 4 p.m.

## CALENDAR

at the Los Feliz Theatre. The screening features an introduction by producer Sarah Pillsbury and a pre-recorded Q&A session with filmmaker Susan Seidelman. General admission is \$13. 1822 N. Vermont Ave. [americancinematheque.com](http://americancinematheque.com).

## Nicky Youre

Goldenvoice welcomes Nicky Youre for the “You’re in Luck Tour” on Saturday, May 25, at 9 p.m. at the El Rey Theatre. Harnessing infectious melodies and relatable lyrics, 24-year-old Youre is creating music with inherent feel-good vibes that uplift fans. Max Drazen and Sammy Rash will open the show. 5515 Wilshire Blvd. [theelrey.com](http://theelrey.com).

## Holocaust survivor talk

Holocaust Museum is holding a Survivor Talk with Erika Fabian on Sunday, May 26, at 3 p.m. Fabian was born in Budapest, Hungary. In 1944, her mother secured false papers for the family and they lived under Christian identities in Budapest until the end of the war. Fabian left Hungary in 1956 and had a career in theater, writing and photography. She has written and produced numerous plays, published more than 25 books and is completing a historical autobiography describing her experiences during World War II. 100 The Grove Drive. [holocaustmuseumla.org](http://holocaustmuseumla.org).



## Sci-Fi World

“Sci-Fi World: The Experience” debuts on Monday, May 27, in the historic former Sears building in Santa Monica. The nonprofit museum features 30,000 square feet of science fiction and fantasy props, sets and costumes. Iconic original props and replicas from TV shows and films will be on display including the Enterprise Bridge set from “Star Trek: The Next Generation,” the “Star Trek” 1966 original series set with statues of the crew, DC and Marvel sections including the “Iron Man” Hall of Armor, props from “Doctor Who,” “Planet of the Apes” and “Lord of the Rings,” the 25-foot bubbleship from “Oblivion,” the full size Alien Queen and Powerloader

from “Aliens” and a 35-foot Millennium Falcon bounce house. Adult tickets start at \$30; \$20 for children. 302 Colorado Ave. [scifi-world.com](http://scifi-world.com).

## College studying

Join author Christina Lopez for a discussion of her book “Get the Degree Without Losing Your Mind: The Busy Student’s Guide to Study Hacking” on Tuesday, May 28, at 6 p.m. With hacks to help students retrain their brains for maximum focus and concentration, “Get the Degree Without Losing Your Mind” benefits students of all backgrounds and experience levels, from traditional undergraduate and graduate students to student-athletes and trade school students. RSVP required; book is available for \$26.95. 225 26th St., Ste. 33. [dieselbookstore.com](http://dieselbookstore.com).

## ‘Escape from Cottage Woods’

Open-Door Playhouse presents “Escape from Cottage Woods” available online beginning on Wednesday, May 29. The play focuses on Macie, 94, a longtime resident of a retirement community in a bucolic setting in North Carolina, and her daughter, Lily, who believes that Macie is being overmedicated into a compliant, zombie-like state by the staff. Will Lily be able to extract her mom from the retirement community without attracting the attention of the staff and security personnel, and will there be an escape from Cottage Woods? [opendoorplayhouse.org](http://opendoorplayhouse.org).

## Jewish American-AAPI heritage

In celebration of Jewish American and Asian American-Pacific Islander Heritage Month, join a special presentation of “What Do I Do with All This Heritage?” on Thursday, May 30, at the Academy Museum. A cast of professional actors will explore how heritage strengthens both sides of their Jewish and Asian identities. The event is sponsored by the office of Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, The Braid and The LUNAR Collective. Museum tours start at 5 p.m., followed by a reception at 6 p.m. and the program at 7 p.m. 6067 Wilshire Blvd. [form.jotform.com/241156954033151](http://form.jotform.com/241156954033151).

## THE MUSIC MINUTE



A Wizard, A True Star. The title of Todd Rundgren's 1973 solo album aptly sums up the contributions of this multi-faceted artist to state-of-the-art music. As a songwriter, video pioneer, producer, recording artist, computer software developer, conceptualist, and interactive artist (re-designated TRI), Rundgren has made a lasting impact on both the form and content of popular music.

Just some of Rundgren's best-known tunes include the hit singles “I Saw The Light,” “Hello It’s Me,” “Can We Still Be Friends,” and “Bang The Drum.”

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# Historic status eyed for Hollywood’s first skyscraper

■ Council committee supports designation for Yucca-Vine Tower

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles City Council’s Planning and Land Use Management Committee on May 21 recommended historic-cultural status for the Mountain States Life Building/Yucca-Vine Tower, located on the northwest corner of Yucca Avenue and Vine Street.

Built in 1929 and designed in the art deco style by architect Henry L. Gogerty, the Mountain States Life Building/Yucca-Vine Tower is considered Hollywood’s first skyscraper. The eight-story building was part of the city’s Five Finger Plan for development of the Hollywood-Vine commercial district. It served as an office building until 2006, when the interior was

renovated at it was acquired by the American Musical and Dramatic Academy College of the Performing Arts, which currently occupies the building.

The effort to get historic-cultural designation for the tower was spearheaded by the Art Deco Society of Greater Los Angeles. The city’s Cultural Heritage Commission considered ADSLA’s application and recommended approval by the City Council. The PLUM Committee unanimously approved the recommendation on May 21. The application for historic-cultural status now heads to the full council for a vote.

Supporters were pleased by the PLUM Committee’s recommendation.

“We felt it is an important building to preserve,” ADSLA executive director Margot Gerber said. “It’s really a very well-preserved building. It’s not in disrepair at all.

[AMDA College of the Performing Arts] appears to be good stewards of the building. They supported the nomination.”

Historic-cultural status was sought based on the building’s significant contributions to the city and it being an integral component of the development of Hollywood. The applicant also said the Mountain States Life Building/Yucca-Vine Tower embodies the distinctive characteristics of the art deco style and is an excellent example of an art deco commercial building.

The building first served as headquarters of the Mountain States Life Insurance Company, one of the largest in the nation in the late 1920s, Gerber said. The Postal Union Life Insurance Company and other insurance companies and businesses occupied the building over the ensuing decades. A grocery store was once located in a ground-level space on the property, and from the 1970s until the early 2000s, it was home to Chao Praya, one of the first Thai restaurants in the United States. The building’s vertical emphasis, zigzag elements, bas-relief sculptures and steel windows are all reflective of the art deco style, according to a report from the Cultural Heritage Commission.

A request for comment was not returned by AMDA College of the Performing Arts. Los Angeles City Councilman Hugo Soto-Martinez, 13th District, supports the historic designation. His office submitted an amendment at the May 21 PLUM



photo by Edwin Folven

The Mountain States Life Building/Yucca-Vine Tower was built in 1929 and is currently occupied by the AMDA College of the Performing Arts.

Committee hearing stipulating that only 1929 exterior features of the building be designated, excluding the interior, which underwent earlier renovations.

“It is so exciting to see this wonderful example of art deco architecture finally get the recognition it deserves,” Soto-Martinez said. “The Mountain States Life Building is a Hollywood icon whose current tenant, the American Musical and Dramatic Academy, continues to contribute greatly to Hollywood’s economy, streetscape and commitment to the arts.”

Some members of the ADSLA and others were disappointed that the interior was not included in the recommendation for historic-cultural status, including Kathleen

Perricone, a historian and consultant who prepared the application for the ADSLA. Representatives said the performing arts school is planning to complete further developments to the building’s interior.

“Even though we expected it, it’s been disheartening. The interior is an important part of the building,” Perricone said. “Bottom line, it’s deserving as a historic-cultural monument.”

“It was built by an esteemed architect and it was always going to be a slam dunk because it’s such an important building,” added John Girodo, vice chair of the ADSLA. “The positive thing is by it passing, there will be more debate. I am very happy about it being approved by the PLUM Committee.”



photo by Tabor Brewster

The intersection is currently closed for construction of the Wilshire/Rodeo Metro station.

## North Cañon closure extended to December in Beverly Hills

■ Wilshire/Rodeo station scheduled to open in 2026

BY TABOR BREWSTER

In its May 21 meeting, the Beverly Hills City Council approved an extension of a road closure at the intersection of North Cañon Drive and Wilshire Boulevard to allow for construction of the Wilshire/Rodeo station as part of Metro’s D Line (formerly Purple Line) extension project. The intersection will remain closed until at least Dec. 31.

City staff recommended extending the closure after finding that opening the intersection would require daily traffic changes such as lane closures and turn restrictions. With the closure extended, traffic patterns will remain the same at the intersection.

According to the city staff, it received no objection nor support for the extension.

The extension comes as the city recently abandoned plans to build a “north portal” project for the future station. The project would have placed a second entrance for the Wilshire/Rodeo Metro station at the northwest corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Beverly Drive. The city

scrapped the plans after the estimated overall cost increased from \$78.5 million to \$134.2 million.

The now-discontinued north portal project was the result of a settlement with Metro, which agreed to split the cost of the project between the city and Metro.

**“Section two of the Purple Line extension is currently forecasted to open in summer 2026.”**

*-Metro communications manager Patrick Chandler*

“The Metro board will need to consider whether it intends to pursue the north portal project after the completion of the current Purple Line extension construction,” Metro communications manager Patrick Chandler said. “Section two of the Purple Line extension is currently forecasted to open in summer 2026.”

Section two includes the Wilshire/Rodeo and Century City/Constellation stations.

For information, visit [metro.net/purple-section2](http://metro.net/purple-section2).

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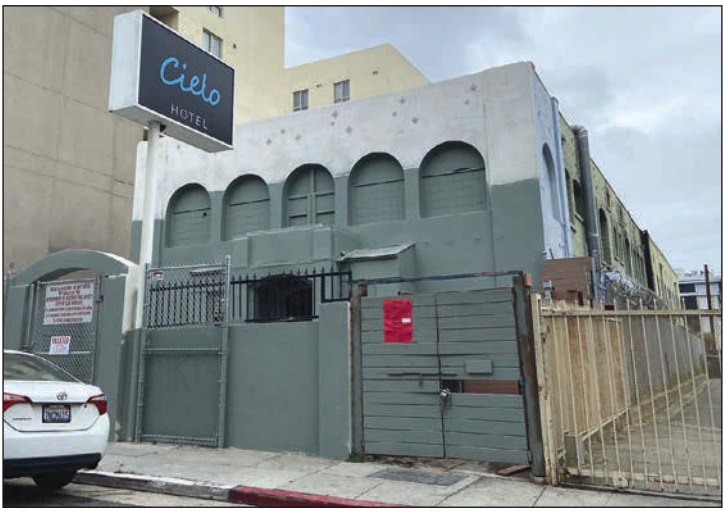
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# Academy debuts ‘Hollywoodland’

## ■ Exhibit celebrates industry’s Jewish founders

BY RANCE COLLINS

The Academy Museum’s “Hollywoodland: Jewish Founders and the Making of a Movie Capital” opened on May 19. The exhibit is the first permanent exhibition at Los Angeles’ preeminent film museum. “Hollywoodland” honors the moguls, largely Jewish immigrants, who established the major studios of the so-called Golden Age.

“It details how the American movie industry, built predominant-

ly by Jewish immigrants, transformed Los Angeles into the mythological concept of Hollywood, and it addresses the complex legacy that the studio system leaves behind,” director and president of the Academy Museum of Motion Picture Jacqueline Stewart said.

The exhibit explores how MGM, Warner Bros., Paramount and others were founded by first-generation Americans who would come to redefine the American dream, all while making a modest California city into a metropolis. Between 1910 and 1930, the film industry drove unprecedented population growth, as L.A. ballooned from roughly 100,000 to 1.2 million people.

During this period, hundreds of movie companies were established, bought out and disbanded, leaving eight major studios in the wake of migration and construction.

“The goal of our exhibition is to show the inextricable dovetailing of these histories,” associate curator Dara Jaffe said.

The movie capital is indeed painstakingly explored in the “Hollywoodland” exhibit. A digital topography map serves as its centerpiece, tracking the growth of the city and the industry year-by-year. Eight accompanying panels tell the story of the studios, describing how a visionary like Carl Laemmle took part of the Hollywood hills and created the first studio tourist attraction in Universal – which put up bleachers and let guests watch as silent greats crafted early masterpieces – or how Adolf Zukor led Paramount Pictures in its heyday.

According to the studio’s panel, “Zukor aimed to elevate the artistic status of movies to gain social respectability otherwise out of reach for a Jewish immigrant.” A continuously-running, roughly 20-minute documentary plays along with the exhibit, narrated by Turner Classic Movies host Ben Mankiewicz, whose grandfather wrote the 1941 classic “Citizen Kane,” expanding upon the idea. The film uses rare archival footage to illustrate how these Jewish leaders saw the industry, then in its infancy, as an opportunity to find respect in a country plagued with antisemitism. By the mid-1920s, half of all Americans went to the movies weekly, and the riches that followed industry leaders led to visits from all ranks of nobility – from U.S. presidents to European

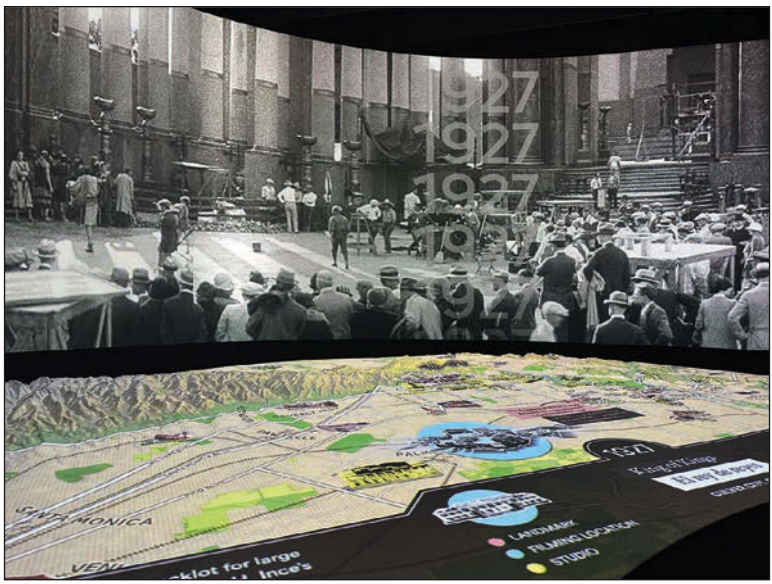


photo by Rance Collins

A digital topography map in the Academy Museum’s new “Hollywoodland” exhibit showcases how Los Angeles transformed between 1900-1930.



photo courtesy of the Original Farmers Market

Warren Porche, head of security for the Farmers Market, delivered the sign to Wilshire Division Capts. Jeff Hollis and Julie Rodriguez.

## Farmers Market donates sign to LAPD’s Wilshire Division

The Original Farmers Market, corner of Third and Fairfax, has donated a sign to the Los Angeles Police Department’s Wilshire Division for display in the police station’s briefing room.

The LAPD’s Wilshire Division which is currently being remodeling, asked Warren Porche, head of security at the Farmers Market and a retired LAPD detective, if a sign could be donated to the station.

Artists from the Farmers Market’s facilities team jumped at

the opportunity to provide something special for the LAPD partners and immediately went to work. Refurbishing signage elements from the Farmers Market facilities shop, craftsman and longtime market employee Sergio Alvarez designed an eye-catching piece for the Wilshire Division.

Porche delivered the gift to Capts. Jeffrey Hollis and Julie Rodriguez, who said they were thrilled to have the signage brighten the briefing room.



photo by Edwin Folven

Officers from the Wilshire Division met members of the public at the Target store at the Beverly Connection.

## Cops and community mingle over a cup of Joe

Officers from the Los Angeles Police Department’s Wilshire Division joined community members over coffee on May 16 at the Target store at the Beverly Connection, corner of La Cienega Boulevard and Third Street.

The Coffee With a Cop events are held monthly at different businesses, giving residents and business owners a chance to meet the officers who patrol their neighborhoods and share concerns. Capt. Jeff Hollis, who became the police station’s com-

manding officer in early May, attended the event.

“The whole idea is to foster community engagement and interact with community members – some that we know, some that we don’t know yet – and to open those lines of communication and build rapport,” Hollis said. “I’m brand new here and I’m still learning all of our struggles and all of our problems, meeting with community members, learning where the hotspots of crime are. It’s been an eye opening experience.”

royals.

“Most of Hollywood’s founders were among [a] wave of Jewish immigrants, and recognized that the burgeoning movie business presented an opportunity to raise their marginalized status in an industry that didn’t enforce the same antisemitic barriers as many other professions,” Jaffe said.

The exhibit also looks at how the leaders attempted to assimilate with American society – presenting idealistic interpretations of suburban life, like those depicted in the MGM “Andy Hardy” film series. In the fictitious worlds projected on screen, the U.S. was seen as uniformly middle class, white and presumably Christian. Outside of occasional outliers, like Warner Bros.’ “The Life of Emile Zola” and 20th Century Fox’s

“Gentleman’s Agreement,” the studio system largely steered clear of its founders’ ethnicities. Even as the seedier social issues of society were presented, like in “The Public Enemy” and other gangster flicks, the strict, self-imposed film Production Code made sure that the “all-American” ideals were held as the moralistic ideal.

The exhibit is available to all museum attendees. The Academy Museum, located at 6067 Wilshire Blvd., is open daily from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. For tickets and information, visit [academymuseum.org](http://academymuseum.org).

““Hollywoodland” is a labor of love that we’ve been working on for several years,” Jaffe said. “It’s foundational relevance to the industry on which this museum is built makes it a perfect debut permanent exhibition.”

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# WeHo seeks builder’s remedy exemption

■ California passes further building requirements

BY RANCE COLLINS

The builder’s remedy, a 1990 California law that allows developers to circumvent zoning restrictions if projects contain affordable housing units, has been a subject of controversy since it was first passed.

“No one at the state level knows our city as well as the city’s residents and, hopefully, the people they elect. One size fits all is not the answer,” West Hollywood Councilwoman Lauren Meister said.

Now, West Hollywood, which last month received the “Prohousing Designation” from Gov. Gavin Newsom, has drawn a line in the sand with the 34-year-old legislation. At its May 20 meeting, the City Council directed staff to implement a campaign to exempt the city from builder’s remedy proposals, using the city’s “prohousing” reputation as leverage.

“West Hollywood has consistently demonstrated our commitment to addressing the housing crisis,” Councilman John Heilman said. “We’ve adopted and implemented policies that are designed to preserve and expand affordable housing. While the builder’s remedy law is an important tool which should be applied to communities who have thwarted their obligations to create more housing, West Hollywood is not one of those communities. West Hollywood shouldn’t be penalized with oversized developments when we’ve always been in substantial compliance with both the spirit and the letter of state law.”

“The direction [by City Council] was simply doing what we already were doing – reporting back to the council on these projects, working with our statewide officials in Sacramento to find a way that West Hollywood, who asked to build more affordable housing in our housing element, not less like other cities have been, can work with at the state, rather than essentially being punished by a law that I don’t really believe was intended to impact cities like ours,” Mayor John Erickson said.

The City Council motion comes as California Assembly Bill 1893 has passed in the state legislature. The bill is an overhaul of the builder’s remedy. While it does provide some perks for developers, including exemptions from public hearing and environmental review requirements, it would also contain

how large the projects could be. The bill is largely aimed at cities that are not adhering to state laws, and it would have little-to-no effect on cities like West Hollywood. Still, the council directive indicates that West Hollywood would appreciate further legislative recognition and exemptions for the city’s housing efforts.

“It’s something that [the state and the cities] have to negotiate together,” Erickson said. “Can [West Hollywood] actually build the right amount of [affordable housing] and not be held to the same standards as cities that literally reject 100% affordable housing projects like Huntington Beach and La Cañada Flintridge.”

Vice Mayor Chelsea Byers was the lone no vote against the direction, saying that while the city might take issues with the law, it still has to follow it.

“The point of builder’s remedy is to hold bad actors accountable,” Byers said. “And so, I’m not clear how our affront to this process now is not participation in that bad actor approach. It’s deeply unfortunate that we are in this scenario now, but I do not think that this is the path out of it.”

Byers went on to note that the city is not currently on track to meet the state’s housing goals.

“I believe we are less than 10% of the way toward that goal, and I think that is even a generous number based on my memory, and so to celebrate ourselves as good actors in this time is really a matter of living in the past and not confronting our current reality, which is what the state is asking us to do,” she said.

Some residents said the pushback from West Hollywood was a violation of state law.

“This item is astounding coming from a pro-housing city like West Hollywood,” resident Andrew Soloman said. “You’re essentially asking [City Attorney Lauren Langer] to figure out a way to break the law, and then you’re asking [governmental affairs liaison] Hernan Molina to figure out a way to sell it. As one attorney put it to me, ‘Not even Beverly Hills has a council-established policy against builder’s remedy.’”

Other community members disagreed with the idea that builder’s remedy was truly a law at all.

“[Builder’s remedy] is not established law,” said resident Gail Sanes, who belongs to a neighborhood group, Huntley Coalition, that advocates for West Hollywood’s exemption to builder’s remedy. “It has been the subject of multiple lawsuits, and no court of appeal has made a determination as to the

meaning of what ‘substantial compliance’ is, and until they do, the game is not over.”

“We should tell our lobbyists to do all that they can to help us regain control of the future of our city and protect the nature of neighborhoods,” resident George Nickle said.

Heilman said that West Hollywood’s has been pro-housing since its earliest days.

“Both the language of the builder’s remedy and the legislative intent behind it suggest that it shouldn’t be applicable to a city which has consistently been a leader in housing development,” Heilman said.



photo by Jon Viscott

West Hollywood Councilwoman Chelsea Byers, pictured at the April 1 City Council meeting, voted against Councilman John Heilman’s May 20 item that seeks to preclude the city from California’s builder’s remedy law.

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## Notable Quotes

“Some day they will go down together,  
And they will bury them side by side.  
To a few it means grief.  
To the law it’s relief.  
But it’s death to Bonnie and Clyde.”

Bonnie Parker (1910-1934)

This fortuitous poem was written by notorious outlaw Bonnie Parker. She and partner Clyde Barrow’s murderous, bank robbing-crime spree came to a close on May 23, 1934, 90 years ago today, when the pair were shot to death by police in Gibsland, Louisiana.

\*Source: encyclepodia.com.



# WeHo receives feedback on Willoughby/Gardner project

■ Residents complain proper notice was not given for meeting

BY RANCE COLLINS

The city of West Hollywood held a public meeting on May 21 asking for community feedback on the Willoughby/Gardner bike lane project. A redesign of the street to include bike lanes was approved in March but was met with some push-back from residents, who expressed concerns over the removal of some neighborhood parking.

At the May 20 City Council meeting, residents also spoke in relation to the item – though there was nothing related on the council agenda. Some complained that city had not made the details clear as to what would be covered in the May 21 meeting, including in a mailer sent to those in the neighborhood.

“You do not send a card that makes no mention of what the

meeting is about,” resident George Nickle said. “The card has a lot of platitudes in it. It has happy little cartoon figures all over it. It does not say, ‘We want to take away 56% of your parking on Gardner, so come out and talk about it. And we want to do it in favor of bike lanes.’ That is what the card should say.”

“The notice was completely inadequate. The reason the meeting was scheduled was because people in the Gardner/Vista area felt like they hadn’t been informed that the bike lane proposal would eliminate their street parking,” Councilman John Heilman said. “The notice staff put out made no mention of that fact. I wish I could say this was an accidental error, but unfortunately, I believe the notice deliberately made no reference to the loss of parking.”

City Manager David Wilson acknowledged the oversight during the City Council meeting.

“It should have been included in the notification,” Wilson said. “The notification was very broad because

it was open for discussion of all the impacts, but the parking is the primary impact that the community had expressed concerned about. So, it should’ve been included and it’s been added now to the calendar.”

At the directive of the council, led by Heilman, city staff agreed to host additional informational meetings for community members.

“I’m glad that people in the community spoke up, and I’m glad the city manager agreed to hold another meeting with a notice which accurately describes how the project will impact residents on the street,” Heilman said.

“The city has to do a better job of reaching out to affected residents and providing all of the information – such as one block of Gardner potentially losing 56% of its parking spaces,” Meister said.

Roughly 90 people attended the May 21 meeting, which allowed residents to discuss the project one-on-one with staff.

“City staff heard from several



rendering courtesy of the city of West Hollywood

West Hollywood’s forthcoming bike lane project for Willoughby Avenue, which also includes redesigns of Gardner Avenue and Kings Road, has been controversial with residents.

attendees who expressed their concerns about potential loss of on-street parking on Gardner Street,” West Hollywood director of communications Joshua Schare said. “Further refinement of the concepts is forthcoming, along with additional opportunities for community engagement.”

An unrelated item pertaining to public engagement also passed unanimously by the City Council on May 20. Initiated by Lauren

Meister, the motion directed staff to draft an amendment to the city’s zoning text that extends the radius for development notices from 500 feet to 1,000 feet. It also requires neighborhood meetings to be held regarding any development project, including stand-alone billboards, prior to any city meetings.

“We need to do all that you can to ensure that people are getting information,” Mayor John Erickson said.

# Beverly Hills awards winners of spring art show

More than 230 artists participated in the 51st spring Beverly Hills Art Show on May 18-19, exhibiting art in 11 categories including ceramics, digital art, drawing and printmaking, glass, jewelry, mixed media 2D, mixed media 3D, painting, photography, sculpture and watercolor. First, second and third place awards were presented in each category, and five specialty awards were presented, including

the Mayor’s Purchase Award, the most prestigious honor according to the artists themselves. The Mayor’s Purchase Award is given to an artist whose work is selected by the mayor for installation at the city’s public facilities. The award was established to affirm the city’s support of the arts and its commitment to offering public art for everyone to enjoy. Mayor Lester Friedman selected glass artists

Larry Sterling’s piece, named “Our Colorful Country,” which will be installed in the Beverly Hills Public Library.

Friedman presented winning artists in the special category with award ribbons, along with the Arts and Culture Commissioners, who presented first-, second- and third-place winners with ribbons. For information, visit [beverlyhills.org/artshow](http://beverlyhills.org/artshow).



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Mayor Lester Friedman, center front row, was joined by Art Show winners Eri Sugimoto, left front row, Jesse Aldana, Liisa Liiva, Henry Elfering, Christopher Falossi and David Falossi, and Larry Sterling, left rear row, Christopher Ward, Gustavo Santana, Matt Vacca, Zo Frampton, Shawn Waco, Martino Dorce and Alex Paul.

# Backdraft Ball benefits BHFD

The Beverly Hills Firefighters’ Association is holding the 32nd annual Backdraft Ball on Tuesday, June 11, at 6 p.m. at the Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel.

Join the association for a memorable evening as it honors Jeanne S. Marks. The event includes an array of delightful experiences including food, entertainment and engaging auctions. All proceeds support the BHFA Medical Retirement Fund. Tickets start at \$500. Sponsorship packages are available.

The Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel, is located at 9500 Wilshire Blvd. For information and tickets call (310)288-1755 ext. 4, or visit [beverlyhillsfire.com/backdraft-ball](http://beverlyhillsfire.com/backdraft-ball).



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo  
The Backdraft Ball raises funds for the BHFA Medical Retirement Fund.

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# Lupus L.A. hosts inaugural ‘Cuisine for a Cause’

Health nonprofit Lupus L.A. hosted its first-ever Cuisine for a Cause spring fundraiser on Sunday, May 19. Guests embarked on a culinary adventure as they stepped into the garden courtyard of Vibiana in Los Angeles. Upon arrival, guests were greeted with music and bubbly libations before experiencing delectable bites from chef Neal Fraser of Redbird and Vibiana, Chef Chris Bianco’s out-of-this-world Pizzeria Bianco, chefs Katianna and John Hong’s genre-defying Korean American YANG-BAN, chef Nakul Mahendro of Badmaash’s, “Indian food for the people” and chef Vartan Abgaryan of Momed’s sophisticated interpretation of farm to table Mediterranean dining. Florals for the event were designed by Blooms By Emily.

As a twist on the traditional nonprofit fundraiser, guests enjoyed signature dishes from each chef station, mingled, danced, walked the orange carpet and finished dining before the brief award ceremony which was held inside the former downtown cathedral. Once inside, guests were treated to desserts by “L.A.’s Sweetheart” and three-time James Beard Award-winner, Sherry Yard of Bakery by the Yard. James Beard Award winner Michael Symon spoke about being diagnosed with lupus at 28 years old, and wishing he started taking better care of himself instead of waiting until age 45. “I’ve learned that without family, battling lupus is almost impossible,” Lupus L.A. founder Adam Selkowitz

said. Selkowitz received the Ellis Community Leadership Award shared how he and his six-year-old daughter Lucy are COPA syndrome patients – a rare form of lupus. Dr. Mariko Ishimori, interim director of the Division of Rheumatology in the Department of Medicine at Cedars-Sinai Health System, received the Medical Visionary Award. The spring dinner included music by Haute Disco’s DJ Bettie Blue and Violinist Conner Vance. The live auction by Billy Harris included priceless private Chef dinner experiences and luxurious weekend getaways. The event was produced by the Ombrello Agency. For information, visit lupusla.org.



photo courtesy of Tiffany Rose for Lupus L.A.

Chef Katianna Hong catered the event with the help of her daughter.

# NEA grants funds to the Ebell for women’s history project

The Ebell of Los Angeles has been approved by the National Endowment for the Arts for a Grants for Arts Projects award of \$30,000. The grant will support the commissioning, development and production of “All About Rose,” a 1940s era story inspired by Rosie the Riveters of World War II, composed by Brooke deRosa and written by Velina Hasu Houston. “Projects like the Ebell’s upcoming world premiere exemplify the creativity and care with which communities are telling their stories, creating connection and responding

to challenges and opportunities in their communities – all through the arts,” NEA chair Maria Rosario Jackson said. “So many aspects of our communities such as cultural vitality, health and wellbeing, infrastructure and the economy are advanced and improved through investments in art and design, and the National Endowment for the Arts is committed to ensuring people across the country benefit.” The world premiere of “All About Rose” will take place throughout March 2025, during Women’s History Month at the

Wilshire Ebell Theater. It is part of the Ebell Institute’s “Living Herstory” project offering free, historical matinees to schools. The presentations spotlight the often-overlooked histories and achievements of women in Los Angeles. The first play in the series, “The Everywhere of Her,” premiered in March 2023 and was presented to more than 2,500 local students. Throughout March 2024, the Ebell hosted 3,200 students for six on-campus performances of “The Everywhere of Her” in the Wilshire Ebell Theatre, as well as two free community performances at the Julian Dixon Library in Culver City.

“There are still many deserving stories waiting to be told and support from organizations like NEA continue to help bring these stories to life through the arts,” said Stacy Brightman, executive director of the Ebell of Los Angeles. “We are incredibly grateful to NEA for its support in helping us leverage the power of the arts to create and share these stories and make them accessible to everyone through the theater, including school-aged children. We cannot wait to share this inspiring story about these important historical women of Los Angeles and look forward to an exciting world premiere next spring.” The Ebell of Los Angeles is located at 743 S. Lucerne Blvd. For information, visit ebellofla.org.



photo courtesy of the Ebell of Los Angeles

The Ebell of Los Angeles will use the grant to produce “All About Rose,” a story about the role of women during World War II.

# Maestro Greene honored for musical contributions

Long-time Beverly Hills resident Gary S. Greene, Esq., was honored on May 18 by his alma mater in a ceremony at the Luskin Center at UCLA. Greene received the 2024 UCLA Community Service Award from Dr. Abel Valenzuela, Jr., dean of the college of social sciences. He was recognized for a legacy of sharing his love of music, bringing people together and engaging others in giving back. A photograph of Greene will be displayed at the UCLA James West Alumni Center with the quote, “Orchestrating a symphony of service, uplifting every note.” UCLA has recognized distinguished alumni since 1946. The other 2024 honorees were California Secretary of State Shirley Weber; media artist Refik Anadol; scientist, technologist and inventor Asad Madni; UCLA quarterback Chase Griffin; and attorney Donna Cox Wells. Greene graduated from UCLA summa cum laude in 1971 with membership in Phi Beta Kappa. He has been a lawyer for nearly 50

years and a musician for most of his life. Since attending UCLA, Greene has volunteered to make an impact on the community. Beginning in 1963, Greene volunteered for the Jr. Philharmonic Orchestra, the acclaimed young people’s symphony founded in 1937 by his late uncle Maestro Ernst Katz. In 1967, he became concertmaster of the orchestra, and became its conductor

in 2007. He mentored and inspired thousands of young musicians from diverse ethnic, cultural, socio-economic and religious backgrounds. On Saturday, June 22, the L.A. Lawyers Philharmonic and Legal Voices chorus will perform the 15th anniversary Concert Extraordinaire at Walt Disney Concert Hall. For information and tickets, visit lalawyersphil.org.



photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Lawyers Philharmonic

Maestro Gary S. Greene, left, joined California Secretary of State Shirley Weber and UCLA quarterback Chase Griffin as recipients of 2024 UCLA Alumni Awards.

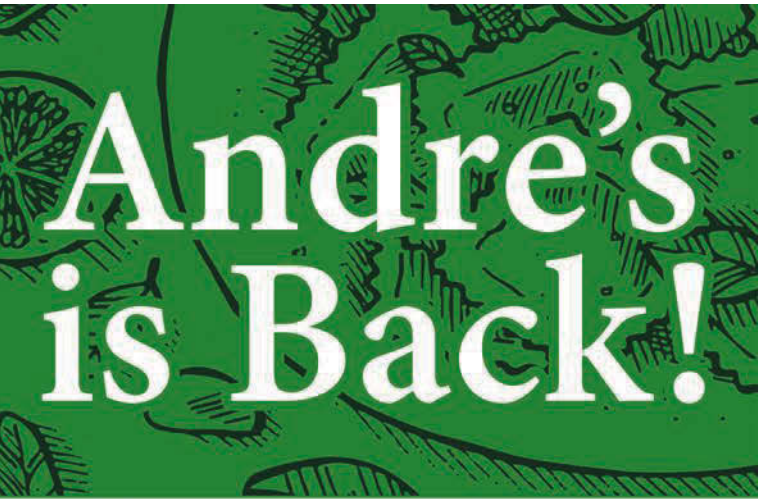
# Beverly Hills leaders celebrate ‘Public Works Day’

On Sunday, May 19, the Beverly Hills community was invited to enjoy “Public Works Day” at the Beverly Hills Farmers’ Market. From left, Public Works commissioner Ben Ritterbush, Public Works chair John

Millan, Councilwoman Mary Wells, Mayor Lester Friedman, Councilman Craig Corman and Public Works Commission vice chair Mark Nehoray celebrated “the backbone of the community.”



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills



Famous for its family style atmosphere, great food, generous portions at affordable prices.





# California: A miracle? Or a mess?

California is contagious. If only every state were as active, healthy and open to new ideas.

California is a mess. Too many deadbeats. Too many fascists. You can waste half a day just picking up a pal at LAX. Or waiting in line at the DMV.

Is California our nation's single greatest triumph? Maybe.

For a century now, it's shaped our storytelling and cinematic concepts of family and success. If you're humming a love song, chances are it was written and produced in California.

California exploits the rich and abuses the desperate. How it treats laborers and pickers defies belief.

Yet, California feeds the world.

And not just garlic, lettuce and pistachios. The best, most-interesting cars are made here now. And, occasionally, a decent TV show.

California's dating profile: "Sexy, brilliant. Moody too. At odds with conventional thought."

That may be what I like about it most, it's flippy, sun-baked idealism.

Plus, its misty bays. Its bears. Its mountains.

It's home to a celebrity class that lives like czars. They pretend to be soul mates to the downtrodden, yet they fly private jets, unable to stand the stench of commercial air travel. They live behind great walls, staffed by bodyguards with automatic weapons.

California is an enigma: Beacon or bomb?

Generally, the public schools are pretty rough, but it has the finest colleges in the world. Like Boston, only better and bouncier and more full of life.

Indeed, California is the land of contradictions. Moist. Scruffy. Snowy. Molten. Buttery. Fried.

It's built on questionable concrete (earthquake faults). On any given day, the whole state quivers a

by  
Chris  
Erskine



little, threatening physical and emotional collapse.

Amid this, California produces the most-beautiful human specimens ever (see Beverly Hills on a sunny day. Even Burbank).

It produces the best quarterbacks too. And the best ballplayers – Trout, Ohtani, James – all come here for work.

The finest Pinot grows here, the earthiest Cabs. The wineries are castles. Did the Medicis live like this?

Listen, far as I'm concerned, you could carpet-bomb Silicon Valley, but it's probably too late for that. The worst robber-barons reside there now, entrenched behind thick wads/walls of money. Lacking oversight – or our permission – they rule the world.

Provocative political minds used to flourish here too. Brown. Reagan. Nixon. Earl Warren. Hanoi Jane. California used to be subversive, then it became conservative, now it's what exactly? A gurgling cauldron of spoiled children intolerant of anyone else's views?

No, wait. That was the '60s. Or the current Congress.

Indeed, the whole world now seems ungovernable. Yet, California remains the breeding ground for fresh ideas on the environment, lifestyle, inclusion, fairness.

Will Democracy die here? Or flourish like never before?

To some, California is Ancient Rome in its last days: too robust,

too big for its britches ... overspending and overtaking.

To others, California is the Golden Age of Athens.

Certainly, no place hits on as many cylinders: Tech, entertainment, agriculture, aerospace, cars, porn, medicine, shoes.

The surfers are our mascots (like regular people, salted). And look out for the Hells Angels. In California, motorcycles race the freeways like runaway colts.

The cops are great, till they're not, driven loopy by the lunatics and the goons. The DAs seem to have lost their collective minds.

The media overreacts to almost everything. And they spend far more time covering Sydney Sweeney than Laphonza Butler.

She's one of our senators, by the way. The average Joe probably couldn't name the other one either.

Over the years, California launched or nourished the Beach Boys, Mark Twain, Julia Morgan, Frank Capra, Marilyn Monroe, Donny Osmond and Waka Floka Flame.

For all its engineering savvy, you can't build anything here anymore, with all the NIMBYs, the corruption and the red tape.

Yet, that's exactly what California needs, some sort of WPA for housing, like something Roosevelt would've conjured. Because the land is here, it's just that working folks can't afford a single tree.

You know, God once had a crush on California. Then late last year – November, I think – he/she broke the lease and moved the whole operation to Dallas.

So now we're on our own, folks. All we've got left is that preening boy-governor.



photo by Chris Erskine

California feeds the world. And produces some of the earthiest Cabs.

Meanwhile, on a frazzled freeway full of Lambos darting this way and that, with a gloppy Philippe's French dip in my lap – the CHP merely a pleasant memory – I can love, loathe, mock and revere California almost all in one garlicy rant.

So maddening, this place.

So lucky to live here.

Are you an Erik Larson fan? I'll be chatting with the best-selling author of "Devil in the White City" and his latest, "The Demon of Unrest" on May 28, at the Hermosa Beach Community Theater. Tickets include a signed copy of the book. For info, [pagesabookstore.com](http://pagesabookstore.com).

Editor's note: nice new column pic, Erskine.



photo by Karen Villalpando

## Andre's cuts ribbon on new Wilshire restaurant

Andre's Italian Restaurant opened a new location at 5400 Wilshire Blvd. last month and on May 22, along with the Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce, cut the ribbon on the eatery. Thao Tran, left, a field deputy with Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, presented owner Stephanie Gagliarducci, center, with a proclamation. Portia Park, right, represented the chamber.



# Summer Seltzers!



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# Subway work requires lane closures at Wilshire/La Cienega

Metro announced new details about work on the D Line Subway Extension project at multiple locations from Wilshire/Western to Westwood. Crews are working on street restoration and appendage structure construction through June 9 near the Wilshire/La Cienega station.

Right turns from southbound San Vicente Boulevard to westbound Wilshire Boulevard may be intermittently restricted through June 9 from 3 a.m.-6 p.m. on weekdays, and 4 a.m.-10 p.m. on weekends. Eastbound Wilshire Boulevard may be intermittently reduced to a single lane between Le Doux Road and Hamilton Drive through June 9 from 8 p.m.-7 a.m. on weeknights, and from 6 a.m.-10 p.m. on weekends. The work gives crews access to appendage structures, which are rooms adjacent to the station, near the Wilshire/La Cienega intersection.

Through May 27, Wilshire Boulevard may be intermittently reduced to a single lane in each direction between La Cienega and San Vicente boulevards on weeknights from 8 p.m.-7 a.m., and 6 a.m.-10 p.m. on weekends. South Hamilton, Gale and Tower drives are closed at Wilshire Boulevard during the work. Access to side streets is maintained from Gregory

Way. The traffic control supports ongoing waterline work along Wilshire Boulevard.

Street restoration work is also ongoing at the Wilshire/La Brea station. Detroit Street is intermittently closed at Wilshire Boulevard. Two lanes of traffic are maintained in each direction between Highland and La Brea avenues. Crews are working in a K-rail work zone on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard.

Construction is also ongoing between Courtyard Place and Masselin Avenue. Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction between Ridgely Drive and Curson Avenue.

At the Wilshire/Fairfax station, northbound Orange Grove Avenue is closed at Wilshire Boulevard through June. Southbound traffic from Wilshire Boulevard to Eighth Street is maintained.

At the Wilshire/Rodeo station, construction is occurring at street level and underground. Crews are operating in work zones on South Beverly and Cañon drives. Deliveries of material, equipment and concrete continue daily to the station. Instrumentation maintenance is ongoing along Wilshire Boulevard from Linden Drive to La Cienega Boulevard.

Concrete work is occurring at the

Century City/Constellation station. Through July 26, Constellation Boulevard may be intermittently closed from 8 p.m.-6 a.m. for the placement of structural concrete. Portions of Avenue of the Stars are closed through the end of May to accommodate storm drain and utility relocation.

For questions and concerns about the Purple 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.



photo by Edwin Folven

Detroit Street is intermittently closed at Wilshire Boulevard for work at the Wilshire/La Brea station.

## CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the West Hollywood Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to consider the following item:

<b>LOCATIONS:</b>	Hotels Citywide, West Hollywood, California
<b>REQUEST:</b>	The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to provide a recommendation to the City Council for a proposed zone text amendment to amend Chapters 19.10, 19.20, and 19.36 to adopt new regulations for hotel rooftop amenities and to allow rooftop amenities above the height limit with a conditional use permit in the City of West Hollywood.
<b>PERMIT(S):</b>	Zone Text Amendment, and any other required permits.
<b>APPLICANT(S):</b>	City of West Hollywood
<b>TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:</b>	Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard West Hollywood, CA 90069
<b>ZONES:</b>	Citywide
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:</b>	Categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section §15061(b)(3) (Review for Exemption)

**Complete digital agenda packets** will be available on Thursday, May 30, 2024, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at [www.weho.org](http://www.weho.org)

**ALL INTERESTED PERSONS** are invited to participate in said Public Hearing to express their opinion in this matter.

**IF YOU CHALLENGE** this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in the written correspondence delivered to the West Hollywood Planning Commission, via the Community Development Department at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

**To comply with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990**, If you require special assistance to participate in this meeting (e.g., a signer for the hearing impaired), you must call, or submit your request in writing to the Office of the City Clerk at (323) 848-6800 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

For further information regarding this item, contact Jerry Hittleman, Senior Contract Planner via email at: [jhittleman@weho.org](mailto:jhittleman@weho.org) or Tahirah Farris, Senior Planner at (323) 848-6472, or via email at: [tfarris@weho.org](mailto:tfarris@weho.org)

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

**Мы сообщаем вам об обсуждении проекта. Для дополнительной информацииR4B ffi на русском языке звоните: 323-848-6826.**

# JFSLA hosts annual gala

Jewish Family Service L.A. hosted its 31st annual gala, themed “Night of Unity,” to highlight its honorees, Chris Silbermann and Diane Nosseck. The event, held at the Skirball Cultural Center on May 8, celebrated philanthropy, community and the spirit of compassion that defines JFSLA’s mission.

**“We are profoundly grateful for the incredible generosity of our supporters ...”**

*Catherine Schneider,  
JFSLA’s chief community  
engagement officer*

Silbermann, an entertainment industry executive, received the “Susie Forer-Dehrey Spirit of Humanity Award” for his generosity toward JFSLA and dedication to supporting the organization’s work with Holocaust survivors. Nosseck, recipient of the “Anita and Stanley

Hirsch Award,” was honored for her volunteer work at JFSLA’s SOVA Community Food and Resource Program pantry for the past twenty years.

“We are profoundly grateful for the incredible generosity of our supporters, who came together at this year’s gala to celebrate and uplift the vital work of Jewish Family Service L.A.,” said Catherine Schneider, JFSLA’s chief community engagement officer. “Thanks to their unwavering commitment, we are able to continue offering essential services – ranging from mental health support and senior services to food assistance and family safety – that stand as a beacon of hope for so many in our community.”

The gala, which raised \$1.2 million, featured remarks from JFSLA leadership, a soulful performance from singer and songwriter, Breland, and a lively auction. 350 supporters came together to contribute to the fundraising effort which will enhance JFSLA’s social service network available to the entire Los Angeles community.

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

## Letters to the Editor

Re “Community airs opinions on TV City project,” May 16 issue

As a native Hollywood-born and current Park La Brea resident, I am in full support of the Television City project.

TVC offers the needs of the entertainment industry all in one place, meeting the requirements from the showrunner to production offices, from writers to set decorators to in-house prop and

costume departments. This is what a 21st century sound stage looks like.

Check the credits at the end of your favorite TV shows and see how many people are in departments it takes to produce one show. Bring back the industry and the teams of professionals to this premier studio.

*Rosanne Sachson  
Park La Brea*



RESTAURANT NEWS

Holiday weekend is spirited even when dry

Sip, savor and celebrate Memorial Day weekend with alcohol-removed wine from NoAlchCo. Whether hosting a grilling party or a picnic with family or friends, NoAlchCo’s alcohol-removed rose, cabernet sauvignon, sauvignon blanc and chardonnay are the perfect party favor without the hangover. To purchase a wine, visit [noalcoholcompany.com/shop](http://noalcoholcompany.com/shop).

Drag brunch comes to the Four Seasons Culina

In honor of Pride Month, Four Seasons Hotel Los Angeles at Beverly Hills will be hosting its first-ever drag brunch on Sunday, June 9. Guests and locals alike are invited to indulge in the most decadent delights from signature restaurant, Culina’s beloved Sunday Farmers Market Brunch, accompanied by elevated cocktails and bottomless mimosas. Highlights from the opulent brunch menu include made to order omelets and Belgian waffles, fresh seafood and artisanal salads, chicken and waffle sliders, tableside crudo, and carving and dessert stations.

Renowned L.A. drag performer

and artist Borgia Bloom Façade will be headlining the show alongside two other incredibly talented queens and there will be two performances, at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. The first seating will run from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with the second seating from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The brunch will cost \$150 and reservations can be made via [opentable.com/culina-modern-italian](http://opentable.com/culina-modern-italian). For information, visit [culinarestaurant.com](http://culinarestaurant.com) or call (310)860-4000. Culina Ristorante and Caffè is located at 300 S. Dohney Dr.

‘Crookie’ now on sale at La La Land

Guests can now enjoy the buttery croissant-chocolate chip cookie hybrid known as the La La Crookie at all California La La Land Kind Cafe locations. The “crookie” was originally made famous by Boulangerie Louvard in Paris, combining a croissant with a chocolate chip cookie. The La La Land version features its beloved chocolate chip cookie dough baked to perfection with a flaky, buttery croissant. In addition to delicious baked goods, guests can also indulge in coffees, matcha lattes, teas, lemonades and light bites such as toast and overnight oats at the cheerful cafes. For information, visit [lalalandkindcafe.com](http://lalalandkindcafe.com). La La Land is located at 189 The Grove

Drive, 8361 W. Third St. and 1426 Montana Ave. #1, Santa Monica.

Johnny Rockets floats into National Hamburger Day

Iconic burger chain Johnny Rockets, is quite literally floating into National Hamburger Day next week. Starting on National Hamburger Day, May 28, through May 30, fans have the chance to win the summer’s most sizzling hot pool accessory, a burger themed pool float, by visiting [johnnyrockets.com/floaton](http://johnnyrockets.com/floaton). After entering for a chance to win, fans can score \$5 off a secret menu item – a Pepsi float – with any burger purchase. The classic Pepsi float, made with real vanilla ice cream, has stood the test of time despite being a special off-menu secret for many years. Los Angeles area Johnny Rockets locations include 100 N. La Cienega Blvd., 6801 Hollywood Blvd. and 474 N. Beverly Drive. For information, visit [johnnyrockets.com](http://johnnyrockets.com).

Starbird restaurants celebrate National Salad Month

Starbird, the nation’s first super premium fast-food brand, has officially announced its Summer of Salads menu that customers can enjoy all summer long. New menu items include the elote chop salad, the Cali mediterranean salad and the miso caesar salad. Additionally,



photo courtesy of Kim Fox Photography

Plant-based gnocchi is among the highlights on chef Johnny Marin’s new menu at Sugar Palm Santa Monica.

Sugar Palm welcomes new head chef

Johnny Marin is now at the helm of Sugar Palm, the signature indoor-outdoor restaurant at iconic beachside hotel Viceroy Santa Monica. He previously served as sous chef at the restaurant starting in July 2021, seeing it through its opening in October 2021, and playing a large role in menu research, development and execution over the last two and a half years prior to his appointment to executive chef. Since taking over the Sugar Palm kitchen, Marin has transitioned from daily sunrise and sunset menus, to daily breakfast, lunch and dinner menus that celebrate the melting pot of cultures in Los Angeles, using the freshest

seafood and produce from local purveyors. Every member of the kitchen contributed recipes inspired by their family, mentors and experiences in the culinary industry. Menu highlights include ahi tuna tacos, salmon poke, green papaya salad, a Tomahawk board featuring a 32 ounce Tomahawk steak and accoutrements, blackened salmon with couscous and harissa, and scratch made chicken and biscuits. Sugar Palm is open daily from 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m. For information, visit [viceroyhotelsandresorts.com/santa-monica](http://viceroyhotelsandresorts.com/santa-monica) or call (310)260-7500. Sugar Palm Santa Monica is located at 1819 Ocean Ave.

all Starbird restaurants in Los Angeles, including its latest Marina del Rey location, will be offering \$9.97 salads every Monday until the end of the year. Use code MON-

DAY at checkout. For information, visit [starbirdchicken.com](http://starbirdchicken.com) or call (323)200-9443. Starbird is located at 7150 Beverly Blvd.



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# Bakers sought for Pie Bake a’ la Beverly Hills

Calling all pie bakers. The city of Beverly Hills is seeking entrants for its annual Pie Bake a’ la Beverly Hills and Piesta on Sunday, June 9, from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Beverly Hills Farmers’ Market.

Register to bring your favorite

pie to the competition and let the expert judges taste the deliciousness. From classic apple pies to creative twists on traditional flavors, the event offers a chance to show off baking skills and win prizes for the best pies in Beverly Hills.

All pie-bake entries must be made with locally grown fruit from California. Judging is based on appearance, creativity, crust, consistency and flavor. Farmers’ Market money in the amounts of \$200, \$100, \$50 and \$50 will be awarded for first, second and third place, and “Most Pie-utiful,” respectively.

The annual Piesta Pie Bake is a free event featuring pie eating contests for children and adults, entertaining pie-themed activities, Kids Zone arts and crafts, and musical entertainment. The pie bake contest is held in conjunction with the weekly Farmers’ Market, located along Civic Center Drive between Third Street and Santa Monica Boulevard. Free two-hour parking is available in the Civic Center parking garage. All regular farmers and prepared foods vendors will be featured at the market.

Contestants must apply by Wednesday, June 6. Applications are available online at [beverlyhills.org/csevents](http://beverlyhills.org/csevents).



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

The annual Pie Bake a’ la Beverly Hills and Piesta includes pie eating contests for children and adults.

# Food & Wine Festival to benefit AbilityFirst

AbilityFirst will host the 50th annual AbilityFirst Food & Wine Festival on Sunday, June 9, from 5-8 p.m. and in celebration of this milestone, the event will take place at a new and enchanting location, the Urquhart Residence in South Pasadena.

AbilityFirst will honor Greg & Heba Wood as this year’s festival underscores its commitment to recognizing outstanding contributions. With event co-chairs Anita Lawler

and Mary Spellman, and emcee Nancy Longo, the 50th Annual AbilityFirst Food & Wine Festival, a landmark outdoor event renowned for its gourmet food and beverage tastings will bring over 400 guests that will have the opportunity to indulge in culinary delights featuring more than 20 top restaurants, cocktail bars, wineries and breweries. As AbilityFirst marks this special anniversary, this year’s festival promises an evening

filled with exquisite flavors, entertainment and a vibrant celebration of AbilityFirst's mission.

Some of this year’s AbilityFirst Food & Wine Festival Restaurants and Desserts include Agnes Restaurant & Cheesery, Alexander’s Steakhouse, Beard Papa’s, Bone Kettle, El Cholo Café, Gale’s Restaurant, Kensington Caterers, Lord Empanada, Marina, Mi Piacce, Nothing Bundt Cake, Pocha LA, Porto’s Bakery, Stems: Cheese, Charcuterie & Catering, Tam



photo courtesy of Cabra Restaurant and Bar

Enjoy a sunny spread at Cabra Restaurant and Bar for Memorial Day weekend.

## Memorial Day weekend is sunny at Cabra

Spend the weekend at DTLA’s spirited rooftop, Cabra Restaurant and Bar and be treated to decadent cuisine by chef Stephanie Izard. Dine at their lovely patio during weekend brunch with items like chicken empanadas, salmon ceviche and shrimp hash pancakes. For drinks, opt in for a Fresa Froze, a refreshing alcoholic slushie made with

rosé wine, strawberry, kiwi and frozen lemon. Guests can also dine at Cabra for dinner to enjoy a variety of Peruvian-inspired dishes, including the Hot Chorizo & Queso Dip, Jalea Mixta and Guava-Banana Sorbet. To make a reservation, visit [cabralosangeles.com/reserve](http://cabralosangeles.com/reserve) or call (213)725-5858. Cabra Restaurant and Bar is located at 1060 S. Broadway.

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# POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between May 11 and May 18. 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 assaulted a victim in the 9000 block of Sunset at 1 a.m.

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

A vandalism incident was reported in the 300 block of N. Rodeo at 1:07 p.m.

### May 12

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9800 block of Wilshire at 5:04 a.m.

At 8:43 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 300 block of S. Linden.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 9:45 p.m.

At 11:49 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 9300 block of Olympic.

### May 13

At midnight, a vandalism incident was reported in the 8400 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of S. Elm at 3:41 a.m.

At 1:07 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9900 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 7:07 p.m.

At 11:22 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 200 block of La Peer.

### May 14

At 12:06 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. Maple at 4 a.m.

At 8:19 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 400 block of N. Crescent.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9300 block of Civic Center at noon.

At 1:03 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9700 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. Maple at 4 p.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 9700 block of Olympic.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 400 block of N. Rexford at 11:48 p.m.

### May 15

At 5:30 p.m., a vandalism incident

was reported in the 400 block of S. Oakhurst.

### May 16

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of N. Clark at 2:26 p.m.

At 4:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of N. Crescent.

### May 17

At 2:30 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 9200 block of Burton.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near Alpine and Lexington at 9:10 a.m.

At 11:40 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9100 block of Wilshire.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 300 block of S. Rexford at 4:30 p.m.

### May 18

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of N. Cañon at 6 p.m.

At 7:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of N. Beverly.

## West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

### May 11

At 12:04 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Burton.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 300 block of N. Rodeo at 1:07 p.m.

At 6:01 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9400 block of Olympic.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near Olympic and Crescent at 10:40 p.m.

At 11:28 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near Santa Monica and Cañon.

### May 12

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at midnight.

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

### May 13

At midnight, an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1100 block of Larrabee.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 12:30 p.m.

At 1 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Santa Monica and Palm.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 7900 block of Santa Monica at 1:42 p.m.

At 6:20 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1000 block of N. La Brea.

### May 14

At 11 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7800 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Santa Monica and La Brea at 6 p.m.

### May 16

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

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1100 block of Alta Loma at 5:20 a.m.

At 6:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 600 block of N. Doheny.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8000 block of Norton at 4:30 p.m.

At 4:40 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1200 block of N. Crescent Heights.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1200 block of Sweetzer at 5 p.m.

At 8:15 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1000 block of Edinburgh.

### May 17

At 2 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident near Melrose and San Vicente.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 6 p.m.

### May 18

At 3 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 900 block of N. Wetherly.

## Los Angeles Police Department

### May 11

At 8:20 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of S. La Brea.

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 8500 block of Beverly at noon.

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

### May 12

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 400 block of S. Norton at 12:01 a.m.

At 12:01 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1800 block of N. Argyle.

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 1700 block of N. Hudson at 1:10 a.m.

At 1:16 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 5700 block of Olympic.

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 6800 block of Santa Monica at 1:55 a.m.

At 2:15 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1700 block of N. Hudson.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 6200 block of Commodore Sloat at 4:20 a.m.

At 4:45 a.m., an unknown suspect

stole a vehicle parked in the 500 block of N. Orange.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of N. El Centro at noon.

At 12:56 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5200 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 800 block of N. La Jolla at 1 p.m.

At 3:50 p.m., an unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 6300 block of Third.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of The Grove at 5:30 p.m.

At 9:50 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of N. Norton.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1800 block of N. Grace at 10 p.m.

At 11:25 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 4900 block of Beverly.

### May 13

At 10 a.m., an unknown suspect

stole a vehicle parked in the 6100 block of Franklin.

A vehicle burglary occurred in the 400 block of S. Cochran at 10 a.m.

At 5:30 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 200 block of N. Lucerne.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 500 block of S. Norton at 7 p.m.

At 7:50 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8300 block of Sunset.

A vehicle theft occurred in the 1700 block of Orchid at 9 p.m.

### May 14

At 1 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Sherbourne and Third.

A vehicle burglary occurred in the 6600 block of Santa Monica at 1:20 p.m.

At 1:53 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of The Grove.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7700 block of Melrose at 3:11 p.m.

## NOTICE OF CONTINUANCE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the West Hollywood City Council at a Regular Meeting held on May 20, 2024, continued the following public hearing to June 10, 2024.

### PUBLIC HEARING:

### 3.B. REQUEST TO REPLACE A PREVIOUSLY APPROVED STATIC BILLBOARD WITH A NEW FULL MOTION ANIMATION OFF-SITE ADVERTISING BILLBOARD ON THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 8497-8499 SUNSET BOULEVARD

**TIME/PLACE:** Monday June 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.  
West Hollywood Council Chambers  
625 N. San Vicente Boulevard  
West Hollywood, CA 90069

**REQUEST:** The City Council will hold a public hearing and make a decision regarding the approval of a new full motion animation off-site advertising billboard on the property located at 8497-8499 Sunset Boulevard.

The staff report will be available on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, online at [www.weho.org/council-agendas](http://www.weho.org/council-agendas).

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are invited to attend said Public Hearing to express their opinion in this matter.

DATE: May 21, 2024

BY ORDER OF the City of West Hollywood,  
Melissa Crowder, City Clerk



# Mon Ami is Santa Monica’s friend by the sea

BY RANCE COLLINS

The Pacific Ocean isn’t exactly the Mediterranean Sea, but it’s easy to forget that when you step into the hideaway that is Mon Ami. Located in an alley off bustling Ocean Avenue in Santa Monica, just feet away from the beach, I recently had the opportunity to dine at this hidden gem.

While the décor has notes of Southern European posh, the seating options across both the interior of the restaurant and its vast courtyard invite guests to indulge in the comforts of home. Booths throughout the space are flanked by cushy sofas. Though the low-level, romantic lighting seems designed to encourage intimate conversation, it all reminded me of “Mamma Mia,” and I can’t deny that I repressed the desire to break out into a Meryl Streep interpretation of an ABBA song – in this setting, that would’ve likely been “Our Last Summer,” but if the rest of the patrons had jumped to their feet I would’ve gone with “Voulez-Vous.” But I digress.

The menu includes a healthy, not intimidatingly large, cross-section of options that evoke Greece, Italy, Spain, Morocco and the nation of its namesake, France. A large portion of Mon Ami’s food is selected locally from the Santa Monica

Farmers Market.

Boyfriend and I chose to start off with three shared plates.

The nas-o-musir was an incredible yogurt topped with onion, shallots, avocado and tomato – ultimately, Boyfriend ended up using it as a dip for each course that followed. He felt that its delicious tang complemented every food group, including the other appetizers. The chicken souvlaki consisted of two superbly marinated Jidori chicken skewers (I could’ve eaten eight on my own). The potato zeppole was a small helping of savory doughnuts that came with its own sauce – and that was the dip that I used to dunk everything in for the rest of the meal. I like a bit of kick to my sauces – Boyfriend is not about that spice life – and this spicy tomato concoction added that extra, heat-filled hit.

Even if you’re the type who skip the alcohol when you go out, there’s nothing exciting about getting a Diet Coke at a nice restaurant. Thankfully, Mon Ami has cocktails and mocktails ready for any spirit preference. We chose virgin versions of some of the restaurant’s most popular drinks. The Santorini, which is typically only available during happy hour and normally includes 818 Tequila, was crafted with a tart, yet delicious, combination of watermelon and

basil. The Marbella Margarita, which comes with tequila blanco, had a sweet blend of mixed wild berry coulis and dry curacao. Later in the meal, we decided to give La Gondola a spin. It was perhaps my personal favorite, largely because it was flavored with grapefruit, which I find to be the zestiest and most refreshing of flavors. It’s a good thing we weren’t indulging in anything distilled with how quickly we kicked these back.

Crab, chicken, pasta and seabass options are all on the menu for the main course, but Boyfriend and I chose to split a steak– a 16-ounce ribeye with mushroom au poivre – and the gnocchi Genovese, a vegan and gluten free offering that is served with broccolini-pesto sauce, mushrooms, shallots and pistachios.

The steak, cooked medium, was perfect. It came doused in a sweet sauce, though the quality of beef – lightly seasoned – could’ve held up all on its own. On the side was a small ... wait for it ... salad. Let’s be clear: we are not salad people. That’s not how we roll. However, the cherry tomatoes adorning it looked so good, I’ll admit I ate that, too. And let’s just say young me would’ve eaten a lot more salads growing up if Mon Ami had been catering.

The gnocchi was perhaps the greatest surprise of the meal. I’m a big fan gnocchi, and on the 29th of every month Boyfriend and I celebrate Gnocchi Day (celebrated in countries like its native Italy, as well as Argentina, Chile and Brazil)



photo by Rance Collins

The 16-ounce ribeye steak is one of the main attractions at the ocean-side Mediterranean restaurant Mon Ami.

# Friday Wine Tasting series returns to Barnsdall Park

Barnsdall Art Park Foundation presents the return of Barnsdall Fridays Wine Tasting, which after a hiatus since 2019, is back every Friday from May 31 to Aug. 30, from 5:30-9 p.m.

The events attracted sell-out crowds in the past, welcoming guests on the West Lawn of Frank Lloyd Wright’s Hollyhock House, Los Angeles’ only UNESCO World Heritage site. Attendees can bring blankets and sit on the lawn.

Marking its 15th season, the Barnsdall Art Park Foundation’s signature fundraising event supports the park, its arts programing and landscaping, which includes the recent restoration of the historic Olive Grove dating to the 1890s. For wine tastings, the gated area on the West Lawn will be designated for those 21 years and older. Sip wine, enjoy a picnic and panoramic views and watch the sunset.

Silverlake Wine will curate a selection of boutique artisanal wines and food trucks will be pre-

sent including Triple Beam Pizza and Ardi’s Eats & Sweets. Music will be played by DJs and guests can visit the COLA exhibition on view at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery.

As part of the series, a limited number of tours of the interior of Hollyhock House will be available for an additional price throughout the evening. The Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, in collaboration with the Barnsdall Art Park Foundation and the Los Angeles Parks Foundation, recently installed native plants at Hollyhock House.

Wine tasting tickets are \$45; \$70 with a guided tour of Hollyhock House. Designated Driver tickets available for \$15 with entry only and wine tasting not included. The park is located at 4800 Hollywood Blvd. For information and tickets, visit [eventbrite.com/e/barnsdall-art-park-foundation-presents-friday-night-wine-tasting-21-tickets-59078739099](https://eventbrite.com/e/barnsdall-art-park-foundation-presents-friday-night-wine-tasting-21-tickets-59078739099).



photo courtesy of Barnsdall Art Park Foundation

The Barnsdall Fridays Wine Tasting events include a festive party on the West Lawn of Hollyhock House.

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# Getty exhibit looks at early depictions of climate change in art

The J. Paul Getty Museum presents “On Thin Ice: Dutch Depictions of Extreme Weather,” an exhibition running from May 28 through Sept. 1 at the Getty Center.

The exhibit includes landscapes from the Netherlands that feature frigid winters and unusually cool summers, highlighting drawings and paintings by Hendrick Avercamp and other Dutch artists largely from the 17th century.

The Dutch Republic experienced a period of political stability, economic prosperity and great technological advancement during the 17th century. With intricate systems of levees, canals and windmills, the Dutch protected themselves from the harsh sea and transformed marshland into highly fertile farmland.

Despite the advancements, the Dutch could not control Mother Nature. During the 1600s, much of

Europe experienced widespread regional cooling that historians have named the “Little Ice Age,” due to volcanic activity, in addition to changes in wind patterns and ocean currents. The Netherlands experienced some of the coldest winters on record during the 1600s. Snow fell more abundantly, and rivers and seaports remained frozen until spring.

“During a period of extended cold in the 17th century, a number of remarkable Dutch artists created a genre of paintings and drawings that capture the icy landscapes and extreme living conditions of climate gone awry,” said Timothy Potts, the Maria Hummer-Tuttle and Robert Tuttle director of the Getty Museum. “There are obvious resonances with the opposite extreme we face today in the rising temperatures across much of the globe.”

Avercamp, who was deaf and

mute, became known for his lively depictions of winter. In his drawing “Skaters, Golf Players, and Sleighs on a Frozen River with a Ship at Right and a Dike at Left,” figures are bustling about transporting goods and engaging in fun pastimes. In the distance, a woman has slipped and fallen, underscoring the treacherous conditions and vulnerability of adapting usual activities to the winter freeze.

Taking cue from Avercamp, amateur artist Jan Berents incorporates vulnerability in his drawing “Winter Landscape with Figures,” a lively scene that features a woman who has fallen on ice as others go on with business as usual. Illustrations of seasonal labor and leisure originated from medieval prayer books and were often framed by a religious context. Seventeenth-century artists in the Dutch Republic moved away from the idealized views of labor and updated the genre with more contemporary imagery. Hendrick Meyer’s “A Winter Scene” depicts men chopping wood despite the cold, as others skate on ice or transport goods.



photo courtesy of the Getty

Hendrick Avercamp’s “A Winter Scene with Two Gentlemen Playing Golf,” circa 1615–1620, will be included in the exhibit.

“Today’s global climate crisis is an ongoing issue affecting current and future generations, and often inspiring the work of contemporary artists. This exhibition offers a glimpse at how Dutch artists in 1600s presented such topics,” added Stephanie Schrader, curator of drawings at the Getty Museum. “Not only will it give visitors a better understanding of the past, but it will also provide an example of

how adaptation is our only hope for the future.”

To complement the exhibition, the Getty will host a free public lecture on July 28 featuring four emerging scholars discussing the works and how they relate to current environmental, political, social and economic topics. The Getty is located at 1200 Getty Center Drive. For information, call (310)440-7300, or visit [getty.edu](http://getty.edu).

# Annual Race to Erase MS Gala brings in over \$1.5 million

On May 10, Multiple Sclerosis advocate and Center Without Walls founder Nancy Davis welcomed guests to the Fairmont Century Plaza for the 31st annual Race to Erase MS Gala. The event raised over \$1.5 million to benefit the Race to Erase MS and its Center Without Walls program, a collaboration of top MS research centers working together as a team on groundbreaking research with the goal of treating and ultimately finding a cure for MS. The star-studded

event, hosted by Caroline Rhea, featured performances by Natasha Bedingfield and A Great Big World. Additionally, L’AGENCE kicked off the evening with a fashion show.

Race to Erase MS was founded in 1993 by Davis and is dedicated to the treatment and ultimate cure of Multiple Sclerosis. Since the Race to Erase MS foundation was created, there has been more than \$59.5 million raised and 24 FDA approved therapies created to aggressively fight MS that have

provided hope, inspiration and resources to those in the Multiple Sclerosis community. The gala directly benefits the foundation’s Center Without Walls program, a unique collaboration between the world’s leading MS research scientists and investigators who have bolstered their individual efforts into collective action that has led to exciting discoveries in the search for a cure.

The Center Without Walls program currently includes physicians, scientists and clinicians from Cedars-Sinai, UCSF, Harvard, Yale, Oregon Health Science University, Johns Hopkins, UCLA and USC. The Race to Erase MS Gala has been instrumental in funding pilot studies that have contributed to drugs now on the market and other important therapies that are improving the lives of people worldwide suffering from MS.

Davis also created the annual “Orange You Happy to Erase MS” campaign, which takes place for the entire month of May – MS Awareness Month – and adds yet another branch of fundraising for MS research. Throughout the month, a variety of orange products, many of which are specially created for this initiative, are sold to benefit the cause and elevate public awareness about MS.

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



photo by Emma McIntyre/Getty Images for Race to Erase MS

Singer Natasha Bedingfield performed at the fundraising gala.

# BroadStage sets the stage for 2024-25 season

There is something for everyone in the 2024-25 season at BroadStage, including “All The Devils Are Here,” direct from a sold-out New York City run, created and performed by Patrick Page; Jenn Freeman and Sonya Tayeh’s “Is It Thursday Yet?,”

presented in association with La Jolla Playhouse; contemporary dance company RUBBERBAND; comedian Maria Bamford; a robust lineup of classical and jazz artists; and the Future Sounds of Jazz Festival opening the season.

Whether you join them, for a performance or on The Plaza, BroadStage is The Place to B.

Members can purchase subscriptions now and can purchase single tickets on Aug. 1. General public subscription sales begin June 13 and single ticket sales begin August 15. Future Sounds of Jazz Festival packages are sold separately and will be available to purchase in July 2024.

This season, there are no more single ticket processing fees, and subscription processing fees are now only \$25 (previously \$36). Purchase before July 8 to waive the



photo courtesy of BroadStage

Comedian Maria Bamford will perform Sept. 27 at BroadStage.

# Celebrities gather around poker table to support City of Hope

City of Hope’s Future Hope Committee, part of its Music, Film and Entertainment Industry Volunteer Fundraising Group, hosted the annual “All in for Hope” Poker Tournament on May 19 at the Creative Artists Agency office in Century City.

The event raised over \$160,000 to benefit City of Hope research and innovative treatment. Attendees included Grammy award winners Krish Sharma, Tom Syrowski and Theron “Neff-u” Feemster, director Frank Coraci, poker pro Robbi Jade Lew, actress Mimi Rogers and songwriter Justin Jesso.

The All in for Hope Poker Tournament presented by the Natalie Cole Foundation, supports

City of Hope’s mission to treat and ultimately cure cancer, diabetes and other life-threatening diseases. In its 50-plus-year history, MFEI has raised more than \$150 million for City of Hope research and care.

The late American comedian Judy Tenuta gifted \$650,000 to City of Hope as part of her trust, with another forthcoming gift to be made from her ongoing trust administration. Actress Kate Linder and comedian Elayne Boosler presented the gift on the trust’s behalf. Tenuta, known for appearances in “The Love Goddess” as well as television and theater, died on Oct. 22, 2022, after a battle with stage 4 ovarian cancer. For information, visit [cityofhope.org](http://cityofhope.org).



photo by Ryan Hartford/eclipticmediaphoto.net

The poker benefit raised \$160,000 for the City of Hope’s research and treatment initiatives.



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# Ten animated series for adults from 2024

As the summer movie season continues, anyone looking for more adult stories might declare a media drought. Oddly 2024 offers a healthy amount of adult alternatives in animated form. That tracks considering those raised on Saturday morning cartoons all grew up and got jobs in the industry.

## ‘In the Know,’ season 1

This quirky satire finds the humor in NPR. Hot mics cranked uncomfortably loud, true crime references and ultra-dry humor – this is the way of public radio. It’s subtle humor that likely appeals to a modest audience, meaning its fate is unclear. In the meantime, “Silicon Valley’s” Zach Woods guides us through discomfort.

*Streaming: Peacock*

## ‘Ninja Kamui,’ season 1

Mech suits, magical fighting abilities and revenge – that’s all anyone should need from a ninja show. Action sequences are the star of the show as ninja Higan, hiding in the United States as Joe Logan, seeks out the secret clan that trained him to even a score. Several mysteries occur along on Higan’s bloody trail, each one accented by a

lost head or limb of some foe.

*Streaming: Max*

## ‘Ark: The Animated Series,’ season 1, part 1

Once more, the curse of video game adaptations seems to be over. “Ark” follows folks pulled from various moments in history, marooned on an island overrun with dinosaurs and various critters that want them dead. Some major names appear in the voice cast: Gerard Butler, Michelle Yeoh, Jeffrey Wright, David Tennant, Russell Crowe, Monica Bellucci and Vin Diesel, who also serves as an exec. Plenty of characters meet a bloody demise while the island’s mystery textures each episode.

*Streaming: Paramount+*

## ‘Masters of the Universe: Revolution,’ part 1

Remember how a bunch of folks raised on ’80s media grew up. They now do things like reboot He-Man. That came with some tedious judgment when the first season, 2021’s “Revelation,” turned out to be quite enjoyable. Kevin Smith’s series returns with more nostalgia from

## ON SCREEN WITH TIM POSADA

that ‘80s hardbody icon, including some winks to both the series and even the Dolph Lundgren film. It works well as both an homage and something with its own fun, playful plot line.

*Streaming: Netflix*

## ‘The Second Best Hospital in the Galaxy,’ season 1

Did you ever wonder if a medical drama in outer space, featuring only alien species, could work? “The Second Best Hospital in the Galaxy” takes on a challenge nobody asked for and somehow succeeds. Sporting the same humor and pace as “BoJack Horseman” – and concern for mental health – it never feels dull as events become more unhinged, confusing and slimy. It’s hard to look away or stop.

*Streaming: Prime*

## ‘Hazbin Hotel,’ season 1

Satan’s daughter wants to redeem lost souls so they aren’t destroyed in an annual culling since hell is always overpopulated. But what does she and other members of the damned know about redemption? Luckily plenty of showtunes and incredibly crass situations help us all realize just how lost they all are and how cruel and judgmental angels can be.

*Streaming: Prime*



photo courtesy of Marvel Studios

“X-Men ‘97” picks up directly after season 5 of the original “X-Men” series from the 1990s.

## ‘Invincible,’ season 2, part 2

Robert Kirkman made a name for himself with “The Walking Dead,” but his superhero series “Invincible,” entirely separate from Marvel and DC print universes, is his opus. The first season packs some punches, including perhaps the biggest pilot episode twist, but season 2 goes out strong. Everything about this season is a setup for war between the super-heroes of Earth and an entire planet of Superman-strong aliens. What comes next will be wild. What’s here is a whole lotta fun, ranging from multi-verse romps to galactic explorations.

*Streaming: Prime*

## ‘Blood of Zeus,’ season 2

Four years ago, this Netflix presented one of the best explorations of Greek mythology. Then nothing. Finally, a second season picks up the story Zeus’ son Heron, a demigod, on his heroic journey. We also learn more about plenty of mythical characters and critters. It’s a fun ride that doesn’t pull any punches as it adapts a lore rarely explored so violently, much like its source material.

*Streaming: Netflix*

## ‘X-Men ‘97,’ season 1

If you only watch one animated series this year, let it be “X-Men ‘97.” It picks up directly after season 5 of the original “X-Men” series from the 1990s – the first production of Marvel Studios – not only continuing the original series but expanding upon it. It’s more polished, less corny and far more complex. Again, it ain’t for the kids, especially from episode 5 on. The action scenes and storytelling are incredible, while various plotlines directly draw upon comics from the time period. It’s a love letter to fans, an easy watch for anyone looking for something new and a wakeup call to modern superhero media.

*Streaming: Disney+*

## ‘Star Wars: The Bad Batch,’ season 3

The animated “Star Wars” shows present to be appropriate for kids. They’re not. “Bad Batch’s” final season employs a darker tone as this team of abnormal clone soldiers attempts to prevent the Empire from harnessing the Force on a molecular level.

*Streaming: Disney+*



photo courtesy of A24

“Hazbin Hotel” follows Charlie Morningstar, the princess of Hell, in a quest to redeem souls.

# Walk of Fame gains the ultimate ‘Avenger’

Actor Chris Hemsworth will be honored with the 2,781st star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Thursday, May 23, at 11:30 a.m. at 6819 Hollywood Blvd., in front of Ovation Hollywood. Hemsworth will receive his star in the category of Motion Pictures. Joining emcee Ellen K as speakers are filmmaker George Miller and actor Robert Downey, Jr.

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce administers the legendary Hollywood Walk of Fame for the city of Los Angeles and has proudly hosted the globally iconic star ceremonies for decades. Millions of people from

here and around the world have visited this cultural landmark since 1960.

“The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce is proud to honor Chris Hemsworth with a well-deserved star. Chris is known for his remarkable performances that have captivated audiences worldwide,” said Ana Martinez, producer of the Hollywood Walk of Fame. “Along with his many fans, I am sure his fellow Australians will be so happy to know that we are adding another talented Aussie to our iconic Walk of Fame.”

For information, visit [walkoffame.com](http://walkoffame.com).



photo courtesy of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce

“Thor” himself will receive a star on May 23.

# The Broad is ‘All About love’

Tickets for The Broad’s special exhibition “Mickalene Thomas: All About Love” are now on sale. The exhibit will be on display from May

25-Sept. 29.

The first major international tour of Thomas’s oeuvre shares its title and several of its themes with the



photo courtesy of Mickalene Thomas

Mickalene Thomas’ “Din avec la main dans le miroir et jupe rouge” is part of The Broad’s new exhibit, opening May 25.

pivotal text by feminist author bell hooks, in which love is an active process rooted in healing, carving a path away from domination and towards collective liberation. With over 80 works spanning 20 years of Thomas’s career, the exhibit will explore themes of sexuality and memory.

Thomas first gained acclaim for her large-scale acrylic paintings of Black women in states of leisure and repose. Depicting women with confident and assured expressions, the subjects of her works are often seen in domestic interiors from Black America, claiming the agency of womanhood while deconstructing the art historical canon.

For information, visit [thebroad.org/art/special-exhibitions/mickalene-thomas-all-about-love](http://thebroad.org/art/special-exhibitions/mickalene-thomas-all-about-love). The Broad is located at 221 S. Grand Ave.

# KCCLA film series explores the meaning of family

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles will hold Family Movie Nights on Wednesdays, May 29, June 12, July 10 and July 31 in KCCLA’s Ari Hall.

In celebration of National Family Month, the series will reflect on the meaning of family through Korean films. The series opens on May 29 with director Kim Tae-Yong’s “Family Ties” (2006), which tells a story of love, scandal and secrets. It stars Korean actors Moon So-ri, Go Doo-shim and Gong Hyo-jin.

Additional films in the series are “Quiet Family” (1998), directed by Kim Ji-woon; “The Host” (2006), directed by Bong Joon-ho; and “Scandal Makers” (2008), directed by Kang

Hyeong-Cheol. The films capture the trajectories of modern Korean history from liberation to the present within the framework of the family. They are intended to help audiences better understand Korean society and culture.

“This is an opportunity to look at the changes in the Korean family and Korean society through four excellent Korean films with the theme of family,” KCCLA director Jung Sang-Won said. “I hope everyone can deeply feel the meaning and value of the family community, which is essential for humans to advance into the world.”

The screening series is free. KCCLA is located at 5505 Wilshire Blvd. For information and to RSVP, visit [kccla.org](http://kccla.org).



photo courtesy of KCCLA

The series opens on May 29 with director Kim Tae-Yong’s “Family Ties” (2006).



# East West Players announces new artistic and managing directors

Lily Tung Crystal will become the next artistic director of East West Players, one of the nation’s oldest theaters of color and the largest producer of Asian American theatrical works. She is joined by managing director Eugene J. Hutchins as the historic theater company – founded in 1965 – implements a co-leadership model in anticipation of its 60th anniversary season.

Tung Crystal will become East West Players’ fifth artistic director, succeeding Snehal Desai who departed the company in summer of 2023 to become the artistic director of Center Theatre Group. She

returns to her hometown of Los Angeles and joins East West Players after five years serving as the artistic director for Theater Mu, an organization based in Minneapolis and St. Paul, with the mission of producing great performances born of arts, equity and justice from the heart of the Asian American experience.

“I’m humbled and honored to be given the opportunity to lead the nation’s largest Asian American theater company and longest-running theater of color,” Tung Crystal said. “My life’s work has centered on the intersection of art and social justice, increasing representation of

Asian American and other marginalized artists on stage and in TV and film, and telling more Asian American stories. I’m looking forward to working with East West Players’ managing director Eugene J. Hutchins and its talented, committed and welcoming staff, board and artists to continue that work nationally in collaboration with artists and organizations across the country, including Theater Mu.”

The artistic future of East West Players will be supported with the implementation of a refined co-leadership model. Hutchins, named late last year as EWP’s managing director, is the organization’s first managing director in 18 years.

Hutchins’ multifaceted nationwide career encompasses opera, theater, the choral arts and dance, as well as a background that includes directing, choreographing, produc-

ing and stage managing in spaces from intimate black box spaces to large scale performing arts centers to site-specific works. Hutchins draws from his previous experiences working as a managing director for Theatre West and Barak Ballet.

“I am thrilled to be named East West Players’ new managing director at this extraordinary time on the eve of our 60th season,” Hutchins said. “I remember with fondness attending EWP’s productions as a college student at UCLA. I look forward to partnering with our new Artistic Director, Lily Tung Crystal, and engaging all our stakeholders, including our patrons, supporters and partners, as we work together to advance our mission of elevating the Asian American experience on stage and in our communities.”



photo courtesy of East West Players

Lily Tung Crystal will step into her new role after serving as artistic director of Theater Mu in Minneapolis.

# ‘Talk & Tasting’ series looks at cross section of health and chocolate

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County will present the second installment in the ChocoLate Talk & Tasting series, “The Chocolate Cure” on May 30.

As the second of three evening events designed to further expand upon the ongoing ChocoLate: From Beans to Bliss online video series, “The Chocolate Cure” will take a deep look at the connections between mental health and chocolate. Featuring an hour-long discussion with Albert Daniel of Albert’s Petite Sweets and SueEllen Mancini, owner of Sad Girl Creamery (and moderated by NHM’s associate director of community engagement and mastermind behind the Being Los Angeles initiative and ChocoLate series, Milena Acosta), the trio will share stories of chocolate as a source of comfort and recovery and reflect on their experiences in entrepreneurship and resilience.

With a focus on allowing guests to explore the universal ways chocolate has impacted people’s

lives, each guest will also receive a chocolate tasting from Sad Girl Creamery and Albert’s Petite Sweets with admission. While the ChocoLate video series will continue to share the stories behind these local chocolatiers and influential figures, the Talk & Tasting series presents an opportunity to meet and directly connect with these experts and hear their thoughts on some of the key topics within the industry and community.

In order to continue the celebration of culture, heritage and history of the people who call L.A. home (even beyond a shared love of chocolate), select first-floor exhibitions will be on view before and after the conversation.

The event will begin at 6 p.m. The cost is \$18 for members and \$20 for non-members. For information, visit [nhm.org/calendar/chocolate-talk-tasting-may-2024](http://nhm.org/calendar/chocolate-talk-tasting-may-2024). The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is located at 900 Exposition Blvd.

# Getty’s outdoor summer concert series returns

Getty’s free annual outdoor concert series “Off the 405” is back with an exciting lineup, kicking off June 1 and running through Aug. 24. Featured artists include Hailu Mergia, Slauson Malone 1, Helado Negro, Julia Holter and Woods. Tickets for the first concert are available now. Future tickets will be released three weeks prior to each concert.

Concerts take place from 6-9 p.m. and will begin with a live DJ set. Attendees are welcome to arrive early, explore the Getty Center’s Central Garden and current exhibitions, bring a picnic or purchase food and beverages onsite before the show begins.

Since 2009, “Off the 405” has brought a succession of critically-acclaimed musical artists to the Getty Center for memorable experiences amid stunning architecture and breathtaking sunset views. Past performers include Chicano Batman, Makaya McCraven, Barteaux Strange, L’Rain, Allah-Las, Hand Habits and Cate Le Bon.

Parking at the Getty Center is \$25, or \$15 after 3 p.m. and \$10 after 6 p.m. Take advantage of the “pay once, park twice offer” and visit the Getty Villa first before heading to the Getty Center concert, using the same-day parking ticket.

The Getty Center is located at 1200 Getty Center Drive. The Getty Villa is located at 17985 Pacific Coast Highway. For information, visit [getty.edu/visit/cal/performances.html](http://getty.edu/visit/cal/performances.html).

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photo courtesy of the Getty Museum

This year’s concert series will begin on June 1.



photo courtesy of NHMLAC

“The Chocolate Cure” tasting and discussion will be held on May 30.

# ‘Hidden West’ explored at Autry

The Western landscape is a place where the transformation of physical space involves both visualization and manipulation, where the connections between what can be physically seen and how it is visually represented are not always clear; technologies originally designed to render places visible often became instruments of invisibility and surveillance, severing western lands from the populations that depend on them.

The Autry Museum’s “Out of Site” exhibit focuses on three technological revolutions to examine how visual technologies, artistic

interventions, and the workings of state power have evolved in tandem with the Western landscape: wet-plate photography, used to theorize geological processes; the rise of aerial photography and pattern recognition; and the increasing use of drones, satellites and other long-range photographic technologies to image secretive sites, military installations and other technologically-mediated locales.

The exhibit will be on view through Jan. 5, 2025. For information, visit [theautry.org/exhibitions/out-of-site](http://theautry.org/exhibitions/out-of-site). The Autry Museum is located at 4700 Western Heritage Way.

# The latest in luxury now open at The Grove

From new luxury collections and a fragrance pop-up, to personalization experiences and restaurant openings, The Grove has something for everyone and is constantly refreshing its repertoire.

The recently opened David

Yurman has collections for women and men that express effortless American luxury and superb craftsmanship. The Acne Studios Par Frederic Malle pop-up allows guests to experience l’avant-garde du parfum with

olfactive masterpieces born from total creative freedom and signed by the world’s greatest perfumers.

For information, visit [thegrove-la.com](http://thegrove-la.com). The Grove is located at 189 The Grove Drive.



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

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## L.A. Zoo’s ‘Angela & Lulingu’ wins IBPA Benjamin Franklin Award

The Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association announced that “Angela & Lulingu: Two Gorillas, A World Apart” received a silver award in the best nonfiction children’s book category for the 36th annual IBPA Benjamin Franklin Awards.

“Angela & Lulingu” is a captivating nonfiction children’s book published by Blue Sneaker Press that features the L.A. Zoo’s superstar gorilla Angela, the youngest in her troop, along with Lulingu, who was orphaned in the wild and the youngest gorilla to reside at Gorilla Rehabilitation and Conservation Education Center in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Readers

learn how two young gorillas – one in Los Angeles, the other in Africa – have inspired millions of people to care about gorillas and their future.

Brenda Scott Royce, the author of more than 30 books for children, has been a driving force behind the impactful story. Her extensive experience and dedication to wildlife conservation are evident in her work as the editor of Zoo View, GLAZA’s award-winning magazine, since 2004. Brenda’s commitment to raising awareness about wildlife and conservation has been ongoing throughout her career, and her master’s degree in conservation biology from Miami University has

provided her with the expertise to authentically bring the world of primates to young readers.

“Brenda’s achievement serves as a testament to the power of storytelling in driving awareness and action for conservation causes,” GLAZA interim president Dawn Petersen-Amend said. “Her dedication to inspiring young readers and making a difference in the world is truly commendable.”

According to GLAZA, “Angela & Lulingu” is not just a book; it is a catalyst for positive change. A portion of the proceeds from its sales will directly support GRACE, demonstrating the zoo and GLAZA’s commitment to making a tangible impact on gorilla conservation efforts. To purchase the book, please visit the L.A. Zoo gift shop online at [shop.lazoo.org/en\\_US](http://shop.lazoo.org/en_US).



photo courtesy of the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association  
Author Brenda Scott Royce, left, and director of philanthropy for GRACE Gorillas attended the award ceremony on behalf of GLAZA.

## Join All Saints’ Beverly Hills for an evening of baroque music

All Saints’ Beverly Hills will host Tesserae Baroque Ensemble’s Season Finale Concert featuring Alessandro Scarlatti on Sunday, May 26, at 5 p.m.

Travel back in time with the exceptional talents of the period music ensemble Tesserae, presenting Scarlatti’s monumental late oratorio “Cain, overo Il Primo Omicidio,” a Baroque masterpiece rarely heard in Southern California.

The piece features an all-star cast of characters (including

Lucifer) as Scarlatti depicts the Biblical tale of Cain and Abel with the high drama that can only be provided by the Roman Baroque theatrical style and Scarlatti’s intense harmonic language.

“We are excited to welcome Tesserae back and host their season finale,” said Dr. Craig Phillips, music director of All Saints’ Beverly Hills. “Tesserae’s beautiful ensemble of voices and period instruments, along with their musical mastery, will trans-

port the audience to the Baroque era.”

Formed in 2010, Tesserae explores the most beautiful repertoire of the Renaissance and Baroque periods, from intimate chamber music to large-scale orchestral works. Based in Los Angeles, the ensemble specializes in historically informed performances of music from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

All Saints’ Beverly Hills is located at 504 N. Camden Drive. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$25 for seniors and \$20 for students, and are available at the door. For information, visit [allsaintsbh.org](http://allsaintsbh.org).



photo courtesy of All Saints’ Beverly Hills  
The Tesserae Baroque Ensemble will perform music by Alessandro Scarlatti during its final concert of the season at All Saints’ Beverly Hills.

## Beverly Hills High School student named National Merit Scholar



photo courtesy of Graham Lee  
Beverly Hills High School senior Lucas Eskildsen-Lee was named a winner of the 2024 National Merit Scholarship. He plans to attend UC Davis and study psychology.

## Hollywood PAL hosts workshop to empower girls

The Hollywood Police Activities League will host a special Girls Empowerment Workshop on Saturday, May 25, from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at 6501 Fountain Ave.

Hollywood PAL Girl Scouts, Santa Monica PAL Girl Scouts and LAPD Hollywood Division cadets will receive a makeup and self-care workshop from DeAndra Pearce, a professor of cosmetology at Pasadena Community College. The workshop is by invitation only and aims to boost self-esteem and combat social insecurities among young girls. Many of the youth face chal-

lenges that can lead to serious issues such as depression, high dropout rates and human trafficking. Hollywood PAL’s goal is to empower girls with confidence and self-worth.

Hollywood PAL is partnering with multiple organizations that will donate supplies for the activities. The partners include Guardians of Love, Target, Coco’s Angels, Lily Lashes, Simple Human and Santa Monica PAL.

For information about Hollywood PAL programs, visit [hollywoodpal.org](http://hollywoodpal.org).

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A large advertisement for Marlborough Summer 2024. It features a large rainbow graphic on the right side. Various images of children are scattered throughout: a girl hanging upside down, a boy with a ball, a girl taking a photo, a group of girls, a boy jumping, and a girl in a pink dress. The text 'Register for Marlborough Summer Today!' is at the top. The logo 'SUMMER 2024' is in the center. Below it, the dates and camp names are listed. At the bottom, there is a call to action to join at Marlborough School and the website marlboroughsummer.org.



## Los Angeles Urban League hosts annual awards gala

The Los Angeles Urban League is set to host its 49th Whitney M. Young, Jr. Awards Gala on Thursday, May 30. The awards dinner will take place at the Fairmont Century Plaza, located at 2025 Avenue of the Stars. The red carpet arrivals begin at 5:30 pm and the awards celebration begins at 6:30 pm.

This year's prestigious honorees include Noel Massie, chairman emeritus of the Los Angeles Urban League, who will receive the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award; Robert Simonds, founder and chairman of STX Entertainment and Anne Biondi Simonds, founder and CEO,

Muse Systems Enterprises, will jointly receive the John Mack Legacy Award; Sandra Jackson-Dumont, director and CEO of the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, will be awarded the Trailblazer Award; and Ron Frierson, Amazon's director of economic development of the Western U.S., will be the recipient of the Visionary Award. David A. Thomas, president of Morehouse College, is the Keynote Speaker.

"We are thrilled to be celebrating the contribution of our honorees. Not only are they some of the best individuals who contribute immensely to our community, but their largess help empower the Los

Angeles Urban League" said Cynthia Mitchell-Heard, president and CEO of the Los Angeles Urban League. "We are grateful for the support that our sponsors continue to provide us to uplift Los Angeles County's underserved community."

The black-tie gala's past honorees include a list of "who's who in Los Angeles." Sports legends such as the late John Wooden and Earvin "Magic" Johnson, as well as entertainers such as Denzel Washington, the late Natalie Cole, Sidney Poitier and the legendary Stevie Wonder were past honorees. The list of past honorees also included businessman and media

mogul Byron Allen; political commentator and author Van Jones; educator, historian and the 14th secretary of the Smithsonian Institute Lonnie G. Bunch III, and community leaders from organizations such as Toyota, Disney, NBC Universal, Los Angeles Police Department and Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund.

The 2024 gala ambassadors include Kathy Ireland, Jason Collins, Mattie McFadden Lawson and Paula Madison. The Honorary Committee includes Liza Minnelli, John Feltheimer, Irena and Mike Medavoy, Cheryl Boone Isaacs, Carol Biondi, Leslie & Cliff Gilbert-Lurie, Tom Rothman, Marilyn McCoo, Billy Davis Jr., Michael Feinstein and Terrence Flannery. For information, visit [laul.org](http://laul.org).



photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Urban League

Director and CEO of the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art Sandra Jackson-Dumont will receive the Trailblazer Award.

## Sound Series makes Palos Verdes a summer destination

Starting Friday, May 31, with a memorable concert performed by 80z All Stars, Terranea Resort launches its exciting 28-performance annual summer Sound Series – held on the Sunset Bluff at

Nelson's. The series starts on May 31 and is held every Friday and Saturday night with doors opening at 6 p.m. and live music from 7-10 p.m. Max 80s concludes the series on Aug. 31. Featured are South

Bay's best tribute, country, reggae and classic rock bands. Guests can dance in the evening air along the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

The family-friendly summer Sound Series delights destination travelers from all over the world, as well as regional and local music lovers of all ages who want to enjoy good times oceanfront, fantastic Pacific sunsets, excellent coastal fare, California wines, local microbrews, expertly crafted blended cocktails from Nelson's and al fresco dining all near the bluff stage. Favorite menu highlights available for concertgoers include Shrimp Kabobs, Mexican Street Corn, Bratwurst Pretzel Dog, Asada Quesadilla and Sound Series Burger.

In addition to Nelson's sound series, music lovers and guests can enjoy nightly live entertainment at 7 p.m. and sip hand-crafted cocktails at the Lobby Bar and Veuve Clicquot Terrace.

The Sound Series at Nelson's at Terranea Resort happens every Friday and Saturday. Doors open at 6 p.m. and live music is from 7-10 p.m.

For information, visit [terranea.com/soundseries](http://terranea.com/soundseries) or call (310)494-7891. Terranea Resort is located at 100 Terranea Way, Rancho Palos Verdes.



photo courtesy of Terranea Resort

Sunsets will be extra special all summer long at Terranea Resort.

## Applications open for annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration

Applications are now open for local talent to apply to perform in the 65th Annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration, sponsored by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and presented by The Music Center.

L.A. County-based performing arts groups interested in representing the talent, cultures and traditions of communities across the region are encouraged to apply. Selected performers will receive an honorarium and perform on stage at The Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

Selected groups will perform in this long-standing, multi-cul-

tural, multi-denominational L.A. tradition, which will be livestreamed and broadcast on PBS SoCal to audiences throughout Southern California. The three-hour live televised production is a holiday celebration expanding this year to include dance, music, vocal arts, musical theatre and circus arts.

Applications must show a continuous performance, without editing or montages and be a recent recording from the past 2-3 years. To apply online, visit [musiccenter.org/holidaycelebration](http://musiccenter.org/holidaycelebration). The deadline to apply is Aug. 13 at 11:59 p.m.



photo courtesy of The Music Center

The Music Center is looking for local talent to apply to perform at the L.A. County Holiday Celebration.

## VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

### Memorial Day commemorates those who lost their lives in service



Flags waved along Fairfax Avenue in observance of Memorial Day in this photograph in the May 25, 1972, issue of the Park Labrea News. The flags commemorated military men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. The Vietnam War was occurring at the time and the accompanying article stated the flags also honored prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action. This year, Forest Lawn-Hollywood Hills and the Los Angeles National Cemetery are each hosting Memorial Day ceremonies on Monday, May 27, at 10 a.m. Forest Lawn is located at 6200 Forest Lawn Drive and the Los Angeles National Cemetery is located at 950 S. Sepulveda Blvd. For information, visit [forestlawn.com/events/memorial-day](http://forestlawn.com/events/memorial-day) and [cem.va.gov/memorial-day](http://cem.va.gov/memorial-day).

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# Veteran reflects on World War II experiences

From page 1

Like many of his Greatest Generation peers, Corre’s adolescence was shaped by hardships. Born in Boston in 1923, his earliest memories are of the Great Depression. His single mother worked six days a week for the Works Progress Administration, earning \$13 a week. When he was 6 years old, he too started working – selling newspapers on the corner after school from 6 p.m. until midnight.

“When I was 18, I joined the army. There [were] no jobs at all at that time and things were pretty rough,” he said.

With the war in Europe already in full swing, he was given a list of options on where he would be stationed, and he chose the Philippines. He soon became a corporal in the 59th Coast Artillery Regiment on a tiny island called Corregidor.

“It was the furthest away from the war at that time,” he said.

Everything changed on Dec. 7, 1941, when Japan launched its surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, and then the Philippines. He was sent to the Bataan Peninsula to train Filipino civilians. Allied forces were outnumbered, and they needed to get creative.

The Philippines were quickly surrendered, and Corre became a prisoner of war on the now-infamous Bataan Death March.

“I witnessed personally, and not to exaggerate, at least 500 guys that were soldiers – Filipinos as well as the Americans – that were either bayoneted or shot or had their head chopped off,” Corre said.

After two and a half days of marching without food or water, Corre escaped through the jungle under the cover of a heavy rainstorm. He swam through shark-infested waters and made his way back to Corregidor, which was still under U.S. control. The American soldiers didn’t believe him when he told them about the atrocities he witnessed. That is until Corregidor was surrendered just a month later,

and Corre became a prisoner of war once again.

For the next two years, he was imprisoned in a town called Omuta in Japan – across the bay from the larger port city of Nagasaki – where he endured back-breaking coal mining, a severe case of diphtheria and untreated wounds.

Eventually, he became too injured to continue mining and was moved to working above ground.

One day, he noticed something unusual across the bay.

“All of a sudden it just got much brighter, and I couldn’t figure out what the heck that was,” he said. “There was a tremendous, big cloud of smoke ... I didn’t know what it was at that time.”

Corre had witnessed the atomic bombing of Nagasaki.

In a few days, the Japanese guards had disappeared, but it was still too dangerous to leave – even Japanese women and children were trained to fight. The imprisoned soldiers wrote “POW” on the camp’s roof and began receiving airdropped supplies from American planes. After food ran out, Corre and two other men decided they were going to make a break for Tokyo. They went into town – dressed in Japanese uniforms – and boarded a train filled with Japanese soldiers. The soldiers didn’t touch the three Americans.

“I don’t even know why I’m here. I should’ve been in pieces,” he said.

Corre found out the U.S. had won the war when he arrived in Tokyo. He was intercepted by American troops, and sent back to a hospital in the states. By the end of the war, he weighed only 97 pounds.

After a few months, he was finally reunited with his mother, and returned to life in Boston. Only then did he learn about the true scale of the war – he heard about the atomic bomb, and realized he had witnessed its detonation. He learned about the Holocaust, and the atrocities committed by Hitler.

Corre went back to work in Boston, first as a cab driver, then in an auto parts facility. He described this part of his life in less detail than the war. It was “normal,” he said. He got married, had a child, worked in his father-in-law’s restaurant, grew weary of the Boston snow and moved to Los Angeles with his wife and baby.

Years went by, then decades, all while Corre was suffering from undiagnosed PTSD. He lived much of his post-war life before the disorder had ever been studied or recognized. He had two more children, his marriage fell apart and he got divorced. He blames himself for many of the problems in his first marriage.

“My first wife, I must’ve really given a hell of a problem to without realizing it,” he said.

Corre eventually remarried, and he said his second wife Marilyn helped him work through a number of the struggles he faced due to PTSD.

He learned to look at the war differently, without hate for the soldiers who fought for Japan.

“It took me many years to realize a soldier is a soldier, from whatever country he is. He don’t know who he’s shooting at,” Corre said.

On May 1, Corre turned 101. He now lives alone in a duplex in Hancock Park. His wife passed away last year, and his caretaker Marta visits him three times a week. He’s remarkably sharp for his age – during our conversation, he got up to greet the mailman at the door, laughed over the phone with old friends and answered calls from his relatives wishing him Gut Shabbos. Corre has maintained his Jewish identity to this day, but lost his religion due to the needless death he witnessed during the war.

“How could you let so many people die like that, for no reason? Other than they had to go urinate off to the side of the road, or they were trying to find water ... If there was a God, how could he let young babies at two or three months old –



photo by Tabor Brewster

Harry Corre served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was a prisoner of war.

or less – die?” he asked. “But as far as being Jewish, I’ll always be Jewish. I will defend it. But I don’t disrespect anybody else’s religion. It’s what they believe in ... who am I to discredit them?”

Corre was part of an army that won the most destructive war the world has ever seen, defending the principles of democracy and freedom. Though he survived, saw victory and America’s prosperity, he still worries about the future of the country and the world. He worries about nuclear war with China or Russia.

“There’s always going to be wars, it’s part of the animal kingdom. Everybody’s looking for salvation. Everybody’s looking for power,” he said. “It’s going to happen. It will happen. I’m not going to be around because I’m too old.”

He also worries about the future of democracy, not for himself, but for his grandchildren.

“At 101, how much longer am I going to live? I know I’m going to die, and there’s nothing I can do about it, so you accept it. I guess a lot of people don’t accept it, but I do. So I don’t worry for me, I worry for my grandchildren. And I worry that the United States won’t be a democracy. But I have no control over that except to vote,” Corre said.

He sees Donald Trump as a threat to freedom.

“As far as I’m concerned, Trump is the worst thing that could possibly happen to this country ... white supremacy and all that bullshit, it’s not what we stand for. It’s not what the Constitution stands for. That’s why America is what it is. But he takes it and turns all the American concepts around and plays it against itself.”

Still, Corre has not stopped trying to make the world a better place. In 2005, Corre began working at the VA hospital in West L.A. as a patient advocate and service officer for former POWs. He retired at 98, after a 16-year career serving veterans in need.

“I swore that I would do that when I was on the death march, because I could see how soldiers were treated. I swore that I would do as much as I could for veterans if I ever lived through it,” he said.

At the end of our conversation, Corre reflected on the importance of Memorial Day, on war and on freedom. He wants “youngsters” – as he referred to me, born 78 years after he was – to realize and appreciate the freedoms granted in the U.S. His story is a painful reminder of the hardships of generations of Americans and veterans that came before, that paved the way for the American way of life. It’s also a reminder to not take those freedoms for granted, that everything can change in an instant.

## L.A. County examines ways to improve LAHSA services

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors received input on May 21 on the financial stability of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

The discussion, which was initiated by a motion authored by chair Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, addressed challenges with how LAHSA reimburses service providers that are the backbone of the regional homeless services system. Often, nonprofits provide interim housing, street outreach and case management without timely payment for services rendered, slowing the county’s homelessness emergency response, Horvath said.

“Los Angeles County’s state of emergency on homelessness requires transparency and accountability to fix every problem that stands in the way of results. It’s clear the payment system we have today is broken,” Horvath added. “It’s time to end the practice of overburdening our service providers by building a new funding model that matches

the scale of the humanitarian crisis we are committed to ending. I am grateful for all of our partners’ dedication to delivering the results our unhoused neighbors deserve.”

The discussion included Cheri Todoroff, of the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative, LAHSA CEO Dr. Va Lecia Adams Kellum and representatives from the People Concern, People Assisting the Homeless, L.A. Family Housing, HOPICS and SSG, five of Los Angeles County’s largest nonprofit service providers. The county’s auditor-controller Oscar Valdez also participated to follow up on the department’s financial audit of LAHSA.

Horvath introduced a motion directing the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative to report back with potential alternative models to fund homeless service providers that would replace the existing reimbursement model. The presentation of options will be part of a homeless emergency update presented to the board on June 18.

## Cedars-Sinai and Covenant House partner to help youth

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center has committed to matching up to \$200,000 in donor contributions to Covenant House California to provide sanctuary and support for young people ages 18-24 who are unsheltered or have been victims of trafficking.

Covenant House California is a nonprofit shelter that has combatted youth homelessness in California for more than 36 years. The organization shares Cedars-Sinai’s commitment to building stronger, safer and healthier communities.

“We are so grateful for the support of Cedars-Sinai,” said Heather Flynn, senior vice president of development and administration at CHC. “We strive every day to relentlessly engage our young people and surround them with unconditional love, in addition to much-needed services, so that they can successfully build healthy futures. Maintaining shelters and providing youth-tailored care is costly, and our capacity to do this important work depends heavily on meaningful involvement from our local community and generous, unrestricted support from local funders, so we are fortunate to be able to count on partnership with Cedars-



photo by Edwin Folven

Covenant House California provides services for unsheltered youth.

Sinai in this endeavor.”

Nearly 30% of all youth experiencing homelessness in the U.S. are living in California.

“Cedars-Sinai is honored to support this campaign by Covenant House California that will provide resources to unsheltered youth,” said Jonathan Schreiber, vice president of community engagement at Cedars-Sinai. “Homelessness is a pervasive and devastating problem across California and particularly in

Los Angeles, but no young person should be unhoused. Through visionary partnerships like this, we can affect positive change.”

Donations to CHC will be automatically matched by Cedars-Sinai, up to \$200,000, through June 2024. Donations can be made by mail to Covenant House California, 1325 N. Western Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027, by calling (323)461-3131, or visiting [covenanthousecalifornia.org](http://covenanthousecalifornia.org).



# Playhouse project advances in WeHo

From page 1

adorned lobby space. The plans were formally approved at the May 20 City Council meeting.

The design was conceptualized by the firm Perkins & Will, and a steering committee for the project was led by Vice Mayor Chelsea Byers.

“I appreciate the process itself,” Byers said. “The steering committee that was established not only had a good representation from this body and other commissioners, including the public facilities commission, but there were a number of subject matter experts, people who work in theater, who really understand what it takes to build this sort of next generation theater.”

She added that after discussion

over the nature of the build, the committee was able to put together what Byers deems an investment that is not just cost effective, but will bring “something to the community that will last for a long time.”

“[This project] is taking us to the next level,” Councilwoman Lauren Meister said.

The project’s approval was heralded by the community, led by the vigorous support of 92-year-old actress and resident Barbara Bain, who won three Emmy Awards for playing Cinnamon Carter on the original series “Mission: Impossible.” Bain spoke prior to the council’s approval.

“An extraordinary thing is happening here in this city,” Bain said.

“We are considering approving a theater. It is happening nowhere else in the country. They’re ripping theaters down left and right, putting in cleaners and gas stations, Lord knows what else.”

Bain went on to note that West Hollywood calls itself “the creative city,” positioning the theater as an opportunity to prove and expand upon the moniker.

“I have been here since 1984 when you first became a city and watched that kind of growth – the creative solutions to many problems, the welcoming of people from all over, the embrace of so many new ideas – and you’re a leading city in that regard. And this is another chance to lead, to show what can be done,” she concluded.



photo by Jon Viscott

Actress Barbara Bain spoke in favor of the City Playhouse design plan at the May 20 West Hollywood City Council Meeting.

Now, city staff will move into the design development and construction document phases, eventually returning to the City Council to approve a final contract.

# Clinic supporters address City Council

From page 1

have an abortion before viability, which is determined by a physician. Abortion is also legal in California after viability if continuing the pregnancy would pose a risk to the pregnant woman’s health. California’s Constitution guarantees the right to an abortion and prohibits the state from denying or interfering with a woman’s right to choose to have an abortion.

The city of Beverly Hills passed a resolution supporting abortion in 2022, after the overturning of Roe v. Wade. For this reason, DuPont Clinic said it chose Beverly Hills for its newest location, which was going to provide all-trimester abortion procedures.

In June 2023, 8920 Wilshire Blvd. building owner Douglas Emmett rescinded the lease for the clinic, which was scheduled to open in Beverly Hills that fall. Earlier that summer and spring, anti-abortion groups from outside of Beverly Hills such as Stop DuPont Clinic and Survivors of the Abortion Holocaust descended upon the city to rebuke the clinic’s scheduled opening. Some anti-abortion activists met with various city employees and representatives.

In a public comment at the City Council meeting, Grossman brought attention to a Zoom conference that occurred on May 15, in which Councilwoman Sharona

Nazarian, City Manager Nancy-Hunt Coffey, Assistant City Manager Ryan Gohlich and City Attorney Laurence Wiener – among other possible city representatives – met with anti-abortion Stop DuPont Clinic members Tasha Barker and Omid Shabani.

“You have an obligation to your constituents to be straight with us,” Grossman said to the council. “We know from the emails we received from our public records act request that only moments after a non-resident extremist asked for a meeting with councilmember Nazarian, she and city staff couldn’t schedule it quickly enough ... Was the meeting decisive in the clinic’s fate? With so many involved in the scheduled meeting, shouldn’t there be notes? Where’s the recording? All we have is a paper trail that’s blank except for the addressees. What was the big secret? We want to know ... and soon after that ultra-discreet meeting, the lease was rescinded. What happened in there? What promises were made? Show us. And show us with an independent investigation.”

L.A. county resident Dale Gibson spoke in support of an independent investigation.

“My wife and I moved to California from Mississippi two years ago. Prior to moving, we had been pro-abortion escorts [at the

clinic] for almost seven years at the Jackson Women’s Health Organization ... That was the clinic that was involved in the landmark Dobbs case that overturned Roe v. Wade. The way that ultimately came about was from outside, anti-abortion agitators ... and other elected officials at the state and local levels, not being transparent about backroom emails, deals and conversations. We need transparency, please do better than Mississippi did,” Gibson said.

DuPont Clinic filed a lawsuit against the city, alleging that it conspired with the anti-abortion groups to have the clinic’s lease rescinded. Earlier this month, a judge ruled that Beverly Hills must turn over messages sent on private devices by city employees and representatives. DuPont argues that the messages may show evidence of interference. The city must turn over the messages by June 24. The next hearing in the lawsuit is scheduled for Sept. 18.

Beverly Hills for Choice co-founder Gay Abrams echoed the calls for transparency.

“My friends and family have asked me, why is the DuPont clinic issue so important? It is because our democracy is fragile, and I cannot fix the ills of our country. I wish I could. But I can try and fix the problems that are happening in

my own backyard,” Abrams said. “I ask our City Council members, what will you do when another group returns, objecting to our books, gay pride month, contraception, IVF, election results or our religious institutions? Will you cave to their demands so they go away? Who or what will you decide are worth safeguarding? It is no secret that the rights of Americans are threatened by a minority of loud, aggressive voices, that are drowning out most of the quieter ones. Protecting and defending our legal rights is not an option, or based on your preference. It is an obligation and your responsibility.”

At the end of the meeting, Mayor Lester Friedman announced he would be limiting public comments on non-agenda items to a 30-minute time frame at the beginning of the meeting when there are further comments on agenda items. After the comments on the agenda items are heard and the agenda items are discussed, the remaining non-agenda public comments would be heard. The non-agenda public comments in the May 21 meeting lasted an hour and a half.

“When we have a full calendar – that is when people are here to speak on agendized items – I do not think it is fair to have those people ... wait for all of public comments. So it’s my intention to limit public comment before the consent and regular agenda to 30 minutes, with the hope of getting up to 15 speakers, if there are a lot

of speakers,” Friedman said. “Before we go to council comments and the city manager’s report, then the rest of the comments would be heard. So no, I’m not trying to cut off anyone from speaking, I just want to have an orderly progression of the meeting.”

In an interview, Grossman criticized the restructuring of the public comments.

“It’s clever of the city of Beverly Hills to move non-agendized because nobody’s there. Nobody’s going to sit there and wait,” Grossman said. “We have no idea when that public discourse or commentary will happen. At the present, we know that the meetings start at 7. We know that public comment will start soon after the meeting begins. But now we have absolutely no idea. So public participation will be discouraged, and that’s never a good thing.”

When Beverly Press asked if Beverly Hills would comply with an independent investigation, a spokesperson for the city did not provide a comment and referred back to the city’s May 15 statement on the lawsuit:

“To date, the city has provided over 3,000 pages of responsive documents in this case,” the statement read. “The city of Beverly Hills has been very clear in its position of strongly supporting a person’s right to choose. The decision to rescind DuPont Clinic’s lease was not made by the city of Beverly Hills.”

# Learn about inspiration for Metro artwork

Join Metro Art for a panel discussion with artist Eloy Torrez on Wednesday, May 29, from 6-7 p.m. at the Bob Hope Patriotic Hall, 1816 S Figueroa St.

Torrez will be joined by veterans featured in his artwork “Five Veterans’ Stories,” which will be located at the West Los Angeles/VA Medical Center station on the D Line subway system. The artist will share behind the scenes video footage created with Juliane Backmann of his interviews with veterans about their pre-military, military and post-military lives. The panel discussion will focus on the importance of representing a vast array of veteran experiences, including those of female veterans and veterans of color. The veterans will also discuss how their military backgrounds shaped their reintegration



photo by Juliane Backmann

Artist Eloy Torrez’s “Five Veterans’ Stories” will be displayed at the West Los Angeles/VA Medical Center station on the D Line.

into civilian life and influenced professions, creative projects and activities. Filmmaker Mobolaji Olambiwonnu, of Dreamseeker Media, will moderate the panel discussion, which will be followed by a Q&A session.

RSVP is encouraged and admission is free. For information, visit [eventbrite.com/e/meet-the-artist-eloy-torrez-tickets-905599100287?aff=oddttdcreator](https://eventbrite.com/e/meet-the-artist-eloy-torrez-tickets-905599100287?aff=oddttdcreator).

# Medical center receives high marks for LGBTQ+ health care

Los Angeles General Medical Center was recognized as a leading institution in LGBTQ+ health care equality for 2024. The prestigious acknowledgment is bestowed upon the medical center by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation’s Healthcare Equality Index, where Los Angeles General once again secured the top score of 100, earning the esteemed “LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Leader” designation. The accolade underscores the medical center’s steadfast dedication to providing inclusive and affirming care to all patients, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

The HEI serves as the nation’s premier benchmarking survey, meticulously evaluating healthcare facilities’ policies and practices aimed at

fostering equitable treatment and inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals. Los Angeles General’s exemplary score reaffirms its unwavering commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in health care.

## Answers From Page 27

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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

1. Lima's locale

5. Choristers

10. Grasslands

14. Rich Little, e.g.

15. "Smart" guy

16. U.S. soprano Gluck

17. Attorney no-no?

20. One of the Gorgons

21. Distinguish

22. Alack's partner

25. Uncredited actor

26. \_\_\_\_ do for now

30. Work time period

33. Bighorn, for one

35. Classical column

36. Toronto media inits.

39. Enforcement power

42. Suffix with respond

43. Big bill

44. Bakery need

45. June \_\_\_\_ of 40s and 50s

46. Soap ingredients

47. Kenya inhabitant

51. Invitation letters

54. Uzbekistan border lake

57. Like some penguin feet

62. What a lawyer might collect

65. Possess, archaic

66. \_\_\_\_ buena

67. Tombstone name

68. Creme-filled cookie

69. "What \_\_\_\_!"

70. Songbird

Down

1. Place for a date

2. Fencing weapon

3. Understand something printed

4. Pakistani language

5. Trité

6. H.S. subject

7. Et \_\_\_\_ (and the following)

8. Surface gunk

9. Big furniture retailer

10. Kind of paint

11. T.S. or Spitzer

12. French love

13. Christmas giver

18. "Life \_\_\_\_ cabaret, old chum ..."

19. Tentative

23. "The Naked Sun" author

24. Playing marble

26. St Thomas, e.g.

27. Fund-raising suffix

28. Season of fasting

29. \_\_\_\_ of lamb

31. Reaches a conclusion

32. In shape

34. Board game

36. Pot material

37. Headquarters

38. 100-lb. units

40. Letters after "messenger" or "transfer"

41. Wiggly fish

47. Manly, man

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14					15						16				
17					18						19				
20								21							
					22		23	24			25				
26	27	28	29			30		31	32						
33					34		35					36	37	38	
39						40					41				
42					43						44				
					45						46				
47	48	49	50				51		52	53					
54						55	56			57		58	59	60	61
62								63	64						
65						66						67			
68						69						70			

48. Clamorous

49. Health, in Le Havre

50. In spite of the fact, shortly

52. Not shy

53. Be nosy

55. One-named Irish Grammy winner

56. Got mellow

58. Some

59. Within reach

60. "An Officer and a Gentleman" star

61. Cable staple

63. Before poetically

64. Warriors' grp.

answers on page 22



# WEHO PRIDE *Weekend*

**MAY 31  
THROUGH  
JUNE 2**

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WeHo Pride Parade,  
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