



Clear and warm, temps in the low 80s

BEVERLY PRESS

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May 8, 2025

Beverly Hills High School principal plans departure

■ Drew Stewart reflects on tenure with BHUSD

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Beverly Hills High School Principal Drew Stewart announced his departure from the Beverly Hills Unified School District on May 2, after accepting a new position as a middle school principal in the

Lawndale Elementary School District.

Stewart began at Beverly Hills High School as a history, government and economics teacher in fall 2017. After just one semester of teaching, in January 2018 he was

See **Principal** page 30



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Drew Stewart has accepted a middle school principal position at the Lawndale Elementary School District.

Hearing continued for Saks Fifth Avenue

■ 9600 Wilshire Blvd. project has supporters and opponents

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Following a May 1 public meeting that lasted nearly six and a half hours, the Beverly Hills Planning Commission voted to continue a hearing on the specific plan for the Saks Fifth Avenue project at 9600 Wilshire Blvd. to June 10.

The project encompasses two blocks of Wilshire Boulevard between Camden and Bedford drives. The mixed-use development includes the rehabilitation of the historic Saks Women's building at 9600 Wilshire Blvd. and the construction of four new buildings. The project was submitted by Hudson's Bay Company – the parent of Saks Fifth Avenue.

“For 157 years, Saks Fifth Avenue has been one of the premiere luxury retailers in the United States. For over half that time – nearly 90 years – we’ve called Beverly Hills home. These buildings are not just stores to us. They are our West Coast flagships,” said Douglas Adams,



photo by Tabor Brewster

The project includes the rehabilitation of the historic Saks building on Wilshire Boulevard.

senior vice president at Streetworks Development, an affiliate of HBC managing the development process.

A new building immediately to the west of the Saks Women's

store – the former Barney's New York building – will be six stories tall with four levels of office space and two levels of retail and restaurant space. The historic

See **Saks** page 29

Planning commission removed from WeHo approval process

■ Reviews for housing projects under 100 units to be streamlined

BY RANCE COLLINS

After a lengthy discussion in which dozens of residents weighed in, the West Hollywood City Council passed an ordinance aiming to reform the housing approval and permitting process at its May 5 meeting. The item, initiated by

Councilman John Erickson, is an attempt to encourage housing production as the city seeks to meet the housing benchmarks set by the California Legislature.

“The city of West Hollywood has always been at the forefront of being ahead of the curve in terms of policy. This item is no exception,” Erickson said. “The work that every city must do to tackle the housing crisis will be tantamount to our local, regional and statewide success. I’m thankful to my colleagues

for adding to my item to improve it, and grateful to the community who came out to express their opinions. I’m glad we added back a community meeting to ensure that they know that the city is listening to them and that we want all of our housing in West Hollywood to meet our goal of building a city for everyone.”

The primary issue of those dissenting was that the ordinance removes the necessity for Planning Commission approval for residential projects with fewer than 100 units. The argument by those who supported the item is that these meetings logjam the system, allowing developments to stall. Oftentimes, because of state mandates, the meetings, too, were perfunctory.

The lone “no” vote in the City Council’s decision was Councilwoman Lauren Meister.

“The city’s organizational chart has the residents on top,” Meister said. “It sure didn’t feel like it Monday night.”

Meister also said that the state’s requirements for West Hollywood to produce nearly 4,000 new units by 2029 was unrealistic.

“To keep putting this on West Hollywood like we’re going to save

See **WeHo** page 30



rendering courtesy of the city of West Hollywood

An 89-unit affordable housing project on Wetherly Drive in West Hollywood would not have needed Planning Commission approval under the city’s streamlined building process.



photo courtesy of the office of Gavin Newsom

Gov. Gavin Newsom suggested a federal tax incentive program.

Newsom counters Trump with film tax credit plan

■ Rep. Laura Friedman also champions federal incentive program

BY RANCE COLLINS

Following a post on May 4 in which President Donald Trump suggested that a 100% tariff be

applied to films produced “in foreign lands,” California Gov. Gavin Newsom countered with a federal film tax credit program proposal, which would be modeled after the same program the state is currently looking to expand.

“America continues to be a

See **State** page 29



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‘Hide and Hide’

Black Filipinx playwright and Kilroy's List honoree Roger Q. Mason returns to Skylight Theatre Company with the world premiere of “Hide and Hide” running from Friday, May 9, through Sunday, June 29. The production is directed by Jessica Hanna and stars Amielynn Abellera and Ben Larson. Set in 1980 during a seedy period in Los Angeles, “Hide and Hide” is a critique of the American Dream. Previews run from May 9-13. See schedule for showtimes. Tickets are \$20. 1816 1/2 N. Vermont Ave. sky-lighttheatre.org/hide-and-hide.

Culinary history

The Culinary Historians of Southern California presents “Fine Dining at the Bowling Alley: Midcentury Architecture, Design, Food and Entertainment” with historian and author Chris Nichols on Saturday, May 10, at 10:30 a.m., at the Los Angeles Central Library. During the 1950s, technological, social and design advancements allowed luxurious bowling centers to open across America. They featured amenities never before seen in bowling alleys such as free child-care, Las Vegas-style showrooms and fine dining restaurants. Nichols investigates their design and examines the menus, chefs and rooms where guests could enjoy fine dining at a bowling alley. The lecture is free and followed by a themed reception. 630 W. Fifth St. eventbrite.com/e/chris-nichols-fine-dining-at-the-bowling-alley-tickets-1337322440419?.



Chanticleer at BroadStage

Grammy Award-winning ensemble Chanticleer returns to BroadStage for a jubilant celebration of choral singing on Saturday, May 10, at 7:30 p.m. Chanticleer is known as “an orchestra of voices” for its wide-ranging repertoire and virtuosity. Founded in San Francisco in 1978 by singer and musicologist Louis Botto, Chanticleer has become one of the most prolific recording and touring ensembles in the world, selling more than 1 million recordings and performing thousands of live concerts. The group’s repertoire is rooted in the Renaissance, and has continued to expand to include a wide range of classical, gospel, jazz and popular music. Tickets start at \$55. 1310 11th St., Santa Monica. broadstage.org.

‘Zootopia’

Film lovers won’t want to miss the Hammer Museum’s “Family Flicks: Zootopia” screening on Sunday, May 11, at 11 a.m. A plucky rabbit (Ginnifer Goodwin) earns a spot on the police force of a teeming animal metropolis just as the delicate social contract between predators and prey is threatened by a string of mysterious mammal abductions. Teaming up with a sly fox (Jason Bateman), she more than proves her mettle. Admission is free. 10899 Wilshire Blvd. (310)443-7000, hammer.ucla.edu.

Mother’s Day at Theatricum

Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum is holding “MOMentum Place” in celebration of Mother’s Day on Sunday, May 11. Each year, Theatricum Botanicum creates a fantastical world of aerial and circus performers, dancers and musicians in the rustic outdoor amphitheater. Enjoy an afternoon of performance delights that are child-friendly and full of surprises. For an extra treat, enjoy a Mother’s Day brunch at noon in the Theatricum gardens before the 2 p.m. performance. Tickets are \$45 for the performance; and an additional \$40 for brunch. 1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd. (310)455-2322, theatricum.com.

‘White Rabbit Red Rabbit’

The Fountain Theatre, in association with Nassim Soleimanpour Productions, presents the Los Angeles premiere of “White Rabbit Red Rabbit” from Sunday, May 11, through Sunday, June 22. The production by Iranian playwright Soleimanpour explores restrictions, censorship and denial of individual choice under a harsh regime. “White Rabbit Red Rabbit” communicates the experiences of an entire generation living in a restrictive, harshly censored society. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Friday, Saturday and Monday; 2 p.m., Sunday. Tickets start at \$55. 5060 Fountain Ave. (323)663-1525, fountaintheatre.com.

José James at Grammy Museum

The Grammy Museum is holding “Reel To Reel: 1978: Revenge of the Dragon with José James” on Monday, May 12, at 7:30 p.m. James will discuss his new album, “1978: Revenge of The Dragon” and will perform. A special screening of his kung fu short film “Revenge of The Dragon,” executive produced by James and Talia Billig, will also be shown. Tickets are \$25. 800 W. Olympic Blvd. grammy-museum.org.

Art of Lita Albuquerque

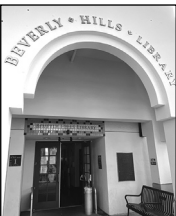
Join the Getty for a screening of the film “Lita Albuquerque” and a conversation with the artist on Tuesday, May 13, at 5 p.m. In the short film, Albuquerque reflects on her creative practice and influences, exploring how her work employs natural pigments, rocks and salt, and reminding people about the link to the planet and stars. Tickets are free but required for event entrance. getty.edu/calendar/lita-albuquerque-film-screening-and-conversation.

‘All-Brass Chamber Music’

LA Phil brass players take over the Walt Disney Concert Hall with a variety of 20th-century works on Tuesday, May 13, at 8 p.m. The “All-Brass Chamber Music” concert highlights the brilliance of the brass-band movement with works including Percy Grainger’s British folk-inspired gem “Lincolnshire Posy,” Nikolai Tcherepnin’s obscure waltz-like quartet “6 Quartets for 4 Horns in F,” Silvestre Revueltas’ rhythmic Afro-Cuban work “Sensemayá” and three iterations of Joan Tower’s spirited “Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman.” Tickets start at \$20. 111 S. Grand Ave. laphil.com.

BH Library book sale

Join Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library for its semi-annual \$1 book sale from Thursday, May 15, through Sunday, May 18. The non-profit supports programs and services at the Beverly Hills Public Library. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday through Saturday; noon-4 p.m., Sunday. 444 N. Rexford Drive. friendsofbhpl.org.



Frida Kahlo play

“Frida-Stroke of Passion: The Immersive Experience” runs from Friday, May 16, through Sunday, May 18, at the Casa 0101 Theater. The production with songs is a reimagined immersive presentation written, directed and produced by Odalys Nanin, co-directed by Carmelita Maldonado and presented by Macha Theatre/Films. It takes audiences into the world of artist Frida Kahlo, where her paintings of vegetation and animals come alive, enhanced with the sounds of Frida’s world. Tickets are \$35. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 5 p.m., Sunday. 2102 E. First St. machatheatre.org.

Andy Garcia at Catalina Jazz Club

Actor, music producer and musician Andy Garcia and the CineSon All Stars return to the Catalina Jazz Club with their “Cuban Jam Session” on Friday, May 16, and Saturday May 17, at 8:30 p.m. Garcia is a Grammy and Latin Grammy Award-winning music producer and performer who worked extensively with Afro Cuban bassist Cachao Garcia. He also recently performed at the Kennedy Center paying tribute to longtime friend Arturo Sandoval. Tickets start at \$57; dinner or two-drink minimum is required. 6725 W Sunset Blvd. catalinajazzclub.com.



photo by Edwin Folven

The Pilot Self-Certification Program has been approved for rebuilding projects in areas such as the Eaton fire zone.

Rebuilding process streamlined in areas impacted by wildfires

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion on May 6 introduced by Board Chair Kathryn Barger, 5th District, and Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, to implement a Pilot Self-Certification Program for residential rebuilding projects. The program is a proactive move to accelerate recovery for communities devastated by the January wildfires. The program will streamline the permitting process by allowing licensed professionals to self-certify that residential plans meet building code requirements, significantly reducing approval timelines while maintaining safety and accountability. “This pilot program is about empowering qualified professionals, cutting red tape and putting families on a faster track

to recovery – without compromising safety,” Barger said. The motion responds to the massive scale of destruction caused by the Eaton and Palisades fires, which damaged or destroyed more than 16,000 structures. The newly approved program will apply to properties in unincorporated Los Angeles County communities impacted by the fires, enabling families to begin rebuilding homes more quickly and efficiently. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works will design and implement the pilot program immediately and report back to the board within 120 days on its effectiveness and viability as a permanent solution that could apply to all unincorporated areas in the county. For information, visit recovery.lacounty.gov.



Metro

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY D LINE SUBWAY EXTENSION PROJECT (PURPLE LINE EXTENSIONS 1, 2, AND 3) SERVICE PLAN TITLE VI ANALYSIS

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority will hold a public hearing to receive community input on the Title VI analysis conducted for Metro’s D Line Subway Extension Project(Purple Line Extensions 1, 2, and 3). The hearing date, time, and methods to participate are listed below.

Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

In person: Metro Headquarters Building 1 Gateway Plaza 3rd Floor Board Room Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: Dial (669) 254 5252 or 833 568 8864 (Toll Free) Enter Webinar ID 161 856 2032

Online: zoomgov.com/j/1618562032

This hearing will be held in a hybrid in-person/virtual format. The public is invited to participate and provide testimony on the Title VI analysis to be adopted. Members of the public may attend in person, via Zoom, or by phone as listed above and in the agenda to be posted online metro.net/calendar/ least 72 hours before the hearing.

The public hearing will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a presentation of the Title VI analysis of the D Line Subway Extension Service Plan to be followed by public comment. The hearing will close after all public comments have been received in person, by phone and Zoom, and public comments received via the comment link in the posted agenda have been read.

Comments can be submitted in person, via the comment link in the public hearing agenda that will be posted at metro.net/calendar/ at least 72 hours in advance of the hearing, or via mail or email.

Comments sent via U.S Mail should be addressed to: Metro Service Planning & Development Attn: D Line Extension Title VI Analysis 1 Gateway Plaza, 99-7-1 Los Angeles, CA 90012-2932

Email comments should be addressed to: servicechanges@metro.net, Re: "D Line Extension Title VI Analysis."

Written comments must be postmarked (U.S. Mail) or timestamped (email) by 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, June 11, 2025, when the public record will close. All public comments received by phone, online agenda link, email, and postal mail will become part of the public record, and will be shared and considered by the Metro Board prior to adoption of the Title VI analysis discussed at the hearing.

The upcoming public hearing is being held in conformance with federal public hearing requirements outlined in Section 5307 (b) of Title 49 U.S.C., and public hearing guidelines outlined in Section 2-50-025 of Metro’s Administrative Code, as amended.

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All requests for reasonable accommodations, interpretation services and materials in other languages must be made at least three working days (72 hours) in advance of the scheduled meeting date. Please submit requests by calling (213) 922-4600 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Our TDD line is (800) 252-9040. Individuals with hearing or speech impairment may use California Relay Service 711 + Metro phone number.



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- x2 Español (Spanish)
- x3 中文 (Chinese)
- x4 한국어 (Korean)
- x5 Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)
- x6 日本語 (Japanese)
- x7 русский (Russian)
- x8 Հայերեն (Armenian)

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Black teachers file lawsuit against BHUSD

■ Instructors allege racism at Beverly Hills High School

BY TABOR BREWSTER

A lawsuit filed by two Black teachers alleges racism, discrimination, harassment and retaliation at Beverly Hills High School. Former fashion design teacher Bella Ivory

and current basketball coach Jarvis Turner filed the lawsuit on April 25 against the Beverly Hills Unified School District. “[The claims] involve the disparate treatment and unfair treatment of our clients, who are both African American,” the plaintiffs’ attorney Brad Gage said. “The Beverly Hills school district, we alleged, has a number of problems of racism within the school [dis-

trict] toward teachers and students.” The lawsuit cites several alleged incidents in which Ivory and Turner were the victims of racism. According to the lawsuit, Turner received an email calling him the n-word and received phone calls from students who used racial epithets. Additionally, it alleges that parents used “derogatory racial stereotypes” toward Turner, and that the police were called on Turner when he was coaching the basketball team. When he reported the incidents to his supervisors, the district ignored his concerns, the lawsuit alleges.

The lawsuit states that Ivory similarly expressed concerns over alleged racism within the district, which were not properly addressed. According to the complaint, Ivory was told to be “compliant with white counterparts” when she expressed concerns to an administrator. The lawsuit also alleges that Ivory and a group of Black students were victims of racism during a pro-Trump demonstration on campus on Nov. 5, 2024. She and Black students spoke at a school board meeting on Nov. 12, 2024, alleging that a pro-Trump mob of students marched through the halls, shouted racist language and attempted to enter her classroom, where seven members of the Black Student Union were present.

According to the complaint, the anti-Black racism and harassment intensified after Ivory spoke out about the Nov. 5 incident. It alleges that a BHHS student announced in



photo by Tabor Brewster

Attorney Brad Gage, center, filed the lawsuit on behalf of former fashion design teacher Bella Ivory, left, and basketball coach Jarvis Turner, not pictured.

a school classroom that “she wanted to stab Ivory in the chest,” and the BHUSD took no action in response to the threat. Furthermore, Ivory was the subject of a retaliatory investigation and was later forced to resign, the lawsuit alleges. The complaint also alleges both teachers received less pay and benefits than their non-Black colleagues in similar positions. Additionally, it alleges that Black students have been the victims of racism, including being called the n-word on a “near-daily basis.” “Although we’re representing the teachers in this lawsuit, we know that the students are having problems as well and they also want to pursue claims,” Gage said. “So we expect more to come.” Gage said he hopes the lawsuit will bring about positive change in

the district. “We want to see equal pay for Black teachers and we want to see compensation for the harms that Bella has suffered by being constructively terminated and having to take a lower-paying job,” Gage said. “We want the public to be made aware of the situation at the high school where the management, the supervisors – all those folks in the school [district] – don’t really seem to take discrimination seriously and they have disregarded the claims and made light of them.” He described the district as “an ostrich burying its head in the sand, hoping everything disappears.” BHUSD Communications Media Specialist Colby Gilardian said the district does not comment on ongoing litigation.

WeHo introduces ‘Text to Pay’ for parking at city’s meters

West Hollywood is introducing a “Text to Pay” option for parking meters throughout the city. Text to Pay allows for payment at parking meters by sending a text message from a mobile phone instead of using coins or a credit card in the meter itself. Parking meters in West Hollywood have distinguishing features from nearby Beverly Hills and Los Angeles meters. Many meters in West Hollywood are painted in a bright teal color and all meters display “West Hollywood” in a digital readout. The city’s new Text to Pay option allows payment in a series of four steps. Each parking meter has Text to Pay details provided on an orange sticker. Start by sending the word “PAY” as a text message to the short code 77447.

Users will be prompted to enter the meter number where parking. Each West Hollywood parking meter has a unique meter code (a combination of letters and numbers) printed on its curb-facing side. Users will receive a text message containing a link to a secure payment portal. Users can click on the link and follow the instructions to enter license plate, desired parking duration and payment details. There is a 35-cent transaction fee. After payment, the system will provide a confirmation message. The Text to Pay system will automatically send a text message when a parking session is 10 minutes from expiration and will offer a link for users to add paid parking time. For information, visit weho.org/parking.

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GRACE IN FULL BLOOM

Celebrate her this Mother's Day

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WeHo gifts donation for Project Angel Food renovation

BY RANCE COLLINS

The city of West Hollywood committed \$400,000 at the May 5 City Council meeting to the renovation of Project Angel Food’s kitchen, a show of support for an organization that has a long history with the city.

“We were born ... at the church at the corner of Fountain and Fairfax, and from the very beginning the city of West Hollywood has been a partner with us,” Project Angel Food president and CEO Richard Ayoub told the City Council. “You were our very first government grant, and you continue to support us to this day.”

In addition to launching in West Hollywood, Project Angel Food’s support of those afflicted with HIV/AIDS kept the city and the nonprofit closely aligned during the worst days of the epidemic.

“Project Angel Food’s mission is tied to the history of West Hollywood, the LGBTQ community and our ongoing fight that seems anew again with federal cuts to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic,” Councilman John Erickson said. “This support has been something I have been pushing for since I was mayor for the city to make this significant capital investment, and I’m glad my colleagues agreed and we

have a healthy budget as a city to make such an important investment in our regional future success by amplifying the work of Project Angel Food.”

Over the decades, Project Angel Food has grown to help provide medically-tailored meals well beyond those suffering from HIV/AIDS, extending to people in need across Los Angeles County. Each day, the organization delivers 2,400 meals.

“The organization has since branched out and is providing those same services to a host of people living with chronic health conditions,” Vice Mayor John Heilman said. “We are so lucky to have organizations like Project Angel Food in our community.”

Project Angel Food has been working to expand its operations with the Chuck Lorre Family Foundation Campus, located at 960 Vine St. – just down the street from its current headquarters at 922 Vine St. The old building will be renovated to improve meal production and packing facilities. West Hollywood’s gift is part of a \$51.5 million investment toward the project.

“The city of West Hollywood’s support for the renovation of its commercial kitchen will help our most vulnerable community members get the food and nutrition they

need, which is something we can all be proud of,” Councilman Danny Hang said.

“Project Angel Food provides nourishing meals to community members in need all across the region,” Mayor Chelsea Byers said. “At a time when food resources are being cut and there is growing hunger due to increasing economic insecurity, West Hollywood’s investment in this regional service provider will help scale their ability to serve and support countless lives.”

Ayoub described just how large an impact the meal deliveries and volunteers have on clients.

“Many people in West Hollywood rely on us every day for medically-tailored meals. It helps them feel better. It helps their quality of life,” Ayoub said “And you can’t underestimate the value of our home visits. Many times, we are the only visitor. One of our clients, Brenda, told a volunteer driver last week, ‘You are the best part of my day.’”

Current executive director John Gile has been volunteering and working with Project Angel Food since 1993.

“I get to see people who are alone and very sick. And when we’re there, their life is changed,” Gile said.



rendering courtesy of Project Angel Food

Project Angel Food’s campus will expand along Vine Street in 2026.

Play at Greystone Mansion dissects antisemitism

The West Coast Jewish Theatre is partnering with the city of Beverly Hills to present a staged reading of “Lebensraum” by Israel Horovitz on Thursday, May 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the Greystone Theatre at the historic Greystone Mansion.



photo courtesy of the West Coast Jewish Theatre

“Lebensraum” will be presented at Greystone Mansion on May 15.

The bold work is based on the fanciful, explosive idea that a German Chancellor might, as an act of redemption, invite 6 million Jews to Germany and promise them citizenship and jobs. A resulting scenario unfolds that explores the

effects of the policy on Jews and gentiles, with widely varying outlooks: an out-of-work Jewish dock worker from Massachusetts who brings his Irish wife and his son to Bremerhaven to start a new life; a survivor of Auschwitz who returns to find the woman who betrayed his family to the Nazis; a young German smitten by a Jewish-American teenage girl; and an unemployed German laborer. The logical progression of the artfully drawn script raises the terrifying possibility that history may repeat itself.

Artistic director Howard Teichman leads the West Coast Jewish Theatre. The reading is part of an ongoing series by West Coast Jewish Theatre on antisemitism.

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

For tickets, visit beverlyhills.org/1420/play-readings.

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

Dodgers receive Make-A-Wish award

Make-A-Wish Greater Los Angeles celebrated World Wish Day at Dodger Stadium on April 29 by presenting the prestigious Chris Greicius Award to the Los Angeles Dodgers, a long-standing partner since the 1980s, honoring their commitment to granting wishes for children with critical illnesses.

The Chris Greicius Award is presented annually to celebrities, athletes and industry partners who have played a significant role in furthering the Make-A-Wish mission. Each honoree has made a lasting impact on the organization’s ability to deliver life-changing wishes at moments when hope is needed most.

“Celebrating World Wish Day at Dodger Stadium and presenting the Chris Greicius Award alongside two of our wish kids, was a truly special moment,” said Aparna Pande, president and CEO of Make-A-Wish Greater Los Angeles. “This award

reflects the Dodgers’ long-standing generosity and commitment to children in our own backyard. We’re proud to honor this meaningful partnership and the hope it brings to children and families.”

World Wish Day commemorates the first official wish granted by Make-A-Wish in 1980, which

sparked a global movement. Today, communities around the world come together each April 29 to celebrate the transformative power of a wish. In Los Angeles, the evening at Dodger Stadium highlighted the impact of collective generosity and community spirit in supporting children facing critical illnesses.

To learn more about Make-A-Wish Greater Los Angeles and how to get involved, visit wish.org.



photo courtesy of Make-A-Wish Greater Los Angeles

The Los Angeles Dodgers received the Chris Greicius Award on World Wish Day.



Your Pet Knows When It’s 5:00... But Not Because They Understand Time

If you live with a dog or cat, you’ve probably seen it: that uncanny moment when your pet stares at you like clockwork right before dinner. You glance at your watch—yep, it’s exactly 5:00. Every. Single. Day.

So how do they do it?

No, your pet doesn’t understand time the way you do. They don’t read clocks, wear watches, or count down minutes. But that doesn’t mean they’re guessing. In fact, animals experience time in ways we’re only beginning to understand—and it’s nothing short of fascinating.

🕒 Enter: Circadian Rhythms

Like humans, dogs and cats have internal biological clocks, known as circadian rhythms. These cycles regulate everything from sleep and hunger to hormone release and body temperature. They’re influenced by light, behavior patterns, and environmental cues. If your dog eats at 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. every day, their body starts preparing for that event hours in advance—triggering hunger hormones, digestive readiness, and alert behavior. Your pet isn’t waiting for a number on a screen. Their body knows it’s almost mealtime.

👉 But It Gets Weirder: They May Smell Time

Recent research suggests dogs may actually be able to smell the passage of time. As humans leave for the day, the scent concentration in the house changes. By afternoon, it has dissipated to a level the dog has learned corresponds with your arrival. In a sense, your dog might not just know you’re coming home—they may smell that it’s almost time.

🕒 Routines, Sounds, and Your Subtle Cues

Pets are also master observers. They learn your schedule through subtle cues: the sound of your keys, the change in your voice, the pacing of your steps. You might think you’re being spontaneous, but to your pet, your routine is more predictable than you realize. And if your cat comes running every day at 5:00, it might be because she’s been watching how you shift in your chair around 4:58 for weeks.

🐾 They Don’t Need a Clock—They Have You

So no, your pet doesn’t “know” time like a person does. But they’ve developed an entire sensory and behavioral toolkit to anticipate the things that matter: food, play, walks, and you. Because to them, time isn’t measured in hours. It’s measured in moments with you.

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

Dr. Ameis is a member of Wilshire Blvd Temple, a devoted husband to Lindsay, and a proud dad to their two kids. Their family wouldn’t be complete without their two beloved dogs, Lyla and Rex.



8020 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90046
hello@pp.vet • www.pawpriorityvet

Menendez case returns to court May 9

■ Hochman opposes attorneys’ effort to recuse D.A.’s office

BY TABOR BREWSTER

A hearing on the potential resentencing of Erik and Lyle Menendez will continue on May 9 at the Van Nuys Courthouse. The hearing, originally scheduled for April 17, was delayed after a report from the governor’s office on the potential parole of the brothers created confusion in the courtroom. Additionally, the brothers’ attorney Mark Geragos filed a motion to recuse Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman and his office from the case.

The brothers were sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the 1989 double murder of their parents, José and Kitty Menendez, in their Beverly Hills home. The ongoing resentencing will assess if the brothers have been rehabilitated.

The hearing on May 9 will determine whether the parole report is admissible in the resentencing and whether to remove the district attorney’s office from the case.

In court, Geragos and defense attorney Bryan Freedman argued

that Hochman should be removed from the case because of alleged mistreatment of victims. The district attorney’s office displayed an image of the crime scene without warning while family members of the Menendez brothers were present, to which Geragos objected. Additionally, Freedman alleged that Hochman has a “personal bias,” given his upbringing in Beverly Hills.

“Erik and Lyle Menendez are entitled to a fair resentencing process. José and Kitty Menendez’s family members – regardless of what position they take as to resentencing – are all entitled to a fair sentencing process. The public is entitled to a process that appears fair,” the recusal motion read.

Defense attorneys also argued that the family members have been denied victim services by the district attorney’s office. Geragos highlighted the fact that Hochman hired Kathleen Cady – a former lawyer for the Menendez brothers’ uncle Milton Andersen, the only relative who opposed their release – to lead the victim services department. Andersen died in March at 91 years old.

Hochman filed an opposition to the recusal motion on May 2.

“In the opposition, the district attorney’s office has argued that

in a ‘drastic and desperate step,’ the defense has decided to ‘side-step the central issue of resentencing’ and present an argument ‘devoid of merit’ to recuse the entire district attorney’s office,” Hochman said. “The entire defense argument over recusal boils down to the defense not being happy with the current district attorney’s position on resentencing. While this desperate argument may work in a press interview, it fails in a court of law based on an adversarial system of justice.”

“Erik and Lyle Menendez are entitled to a fair resentencing process.”

Mark Geragos, Attorney

Hochman also reiterated the prosecution’s argument – that the brothers have not been rehabilitated during their time in prison.

“Our position on resentencing is not yet, rather than never, as it depends on the Menendez brothers finally coming clean after 30 years with all the crimes, lies, deceptions and



photo by Tabor Brewster

The brothers’ lawyer Mark Geragos filed a motion to recuse Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman on April 25.

cover-up they engaged in and refuse to renounce,” Hochman added. “From lying about their claims of self-defense to trying to get friends to lie about their father being a violent rapist of one of the brother’s girlfriends or the mother trying to poison the family, these continuous lies demonstrate that the Menendez brothers have not shown full insight into their crimes, have not been rehabilitated and continue to constitute a risk of danger to society.”

Separate from the resentencing hearings, the brothers will undergo a comprehensive risk assessment performed by the California Board of Parole Hearings on June 13. The assessment was ordered by Gov. Gavin Newsom, and marks the first step in a potential pardon.

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



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Thursday, May 22, 2025

TIME: 1:30 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard

LOCATION: **Meeting will be held in person at:**
Commission Meeting Room 280A
Beverly Hills City Hall
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Members of the public may also participate via teleconference; Details provided below

PROJECT ADDRESS: **Citywide**

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at a **REGULAR** meeting on **May 22, 2025**, will hold a public hearing beginning at **1:30 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider:

A DRAFT ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE TO REPEAL RESIDENTIAL FRONT YARD SYNTHETIC TURF ALLOWANCES, ADOPT A 15-YEAR PHASE-OUT (AMORTIZATION) PERIOD FOR THE REMOVAL OF EXISTING PERMITTED FRONT YARD SYNTHETIC TURF INSTALLATIONS, AND FIND THE ORDINANCE EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

The proposed amendments to the Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC) would:

- 1. Prohibit new installations of synthetic turf in required residential front yards** (including both single-family and multi-family residential zones), consistent with Senate Bill 676 (Allen, effective 2024), which restores local authority to regulate or ban synthetic turf; and
- 2. Require removal of existing permitted synthetic turf in required residential front yards within 15 years** of the date this ordinance becomes effective.

Following the Planning Commission’s review and recommendation, the draft ordinance will be considered for adoption by the City Council.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The draft ordinance was assessed for compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and City environmental regulations, and has been determined to be exempt from CEQA per Section 15305 (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations). Additionally, the project is exempt under Section 15060(c)(2), because no direct or

reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental changes are expected. As a result, staff recommends the Planning Commission find that the draft ordinance is exempt under these provisions from any further review under CEQA.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

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

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

It is recommended that written public comments be submitted to the Planning Commission Recording Secretary by 11:30 AM on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the Planning Commission. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item number or topic in the subject line of the email.

In order to be read at the meeting, written comments will be allowed with a maximum of 350 words, which corresponds to approximately three (3) minutes of speaking time. If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record.

Any written comments received by end of the day on **Tuesday, May 13, 2025** will be attached to the agenda report regarding this item. Any comments received after **Tuesday, May 13, 2025**, but prior the public hearing, will be distributed to the Commission under separate cover.

According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the City’s action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing. Please note that any comments received prior to or during the public hearing will be considered as part of the public record.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact **Patrick Achis, Associate Planner**, in the Planning Division at **(310) 285-1129**, or by email at pachis@beverlyhills.org. Copies of the project materials are on file in the Community Development Department, and can be reviewed by any interested person at 455 North Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

Patrick Achis, Associate Planner



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

Planning Commission updates builder’s remedy guidelines

■ Draft ordinance awaits Beverly Hills City Council approval

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Planning Commission on May 5 approved a draft ordinance that streamlines the approval process for certain builder’s remedy projects submitted in the city. The ordinance is aimed at encouraging developers to reduce the size and scale of such projects in exchange for an expedited permitting process.

The draft ordinance will now be reviewed by the City Council, which will vote on its formal adoption.

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

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

The city of Beverly Hills’ housing element for the 2021-29 cycle was out of compliance for approximately three years between 2021-24.

“The city is currently processing 14 builder’s remedy projects, all of which have characteristics that generally far exceed the existing development standards and the type of development typically seen throughout the city,” said Cindy Goden, principal planner for the city of Beverly Hills. “Because of this, the city is exploring options to encourage developers to voluntarily reduce the scale of their buildings and their projects in order to be more in line with existing development patterns.”

The draft ordinance shifts the permitting process for builder’s remedy projects that adhere to the guide-

lines from a discretionary process to a ministerial process. A ministerial process does not require city officials – including commissioners and City Council members – to review the project, while a discretionary process includes public hearings and actions taken by city officials.

For example, building permits for houses that comply with all standard zoning and building code requirements are ministerial, while development plan reviews and conditional use permits are discretionary.

Builder’s remedy projects that adhere to the ministerial permitting guidelines will be exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, and will not require public hearings or public notice. There is no right of appeal for projects approved through ministerial permitting.

To qualify for the ministerial permitting under the new ordinance, developers must adjust the builder’s remedy projects to be 85 feet tall or less. The buildings also must adhere to the uses submitted in the projects’ preliminary application, and the maximum density must be the number of units originally listed in the preliminary application.

In addition to other specifications including setbacks and parking adhering to the preliminary application, no barbecue or kitchen facilities may be installed or utilized on balconies of the projects. Outdoor common space is limited to the operating hours of 7 a.m.-10 p.m. on weekdays, 9 a.m.-10 p.m. on weekends and amplified sound must be prohibited in all outdoor areas.

“We are here because there is a collective hope that this ministerial process would provide an incentive for some of these developers who have builder’s remedy applications currently in front of the city to reduce the scale of their project in exchange for a more streamlined approval process,” Commission Chair Terri Kaplan said. “Some of them will likely say, ‘no I don’t want to reduce the scale of my project under any circumstances’ Even in the discretionary process we do not have a lot of wiggle

room. If we do nothing, and leave it as it is, these projects – many of them, some of them – will be massive. And we have no effective way to stop that. This holds promise to mitigate some of the overall impacts.”

The draft ordinance was approved in a 3-0 vote.

Commissioner Myra Demeter and Vice Chair Jeff Wolfe recused themselves from the meeting, disclosing that they had “financial interests” in properties less than 500 feet from properties that may be affected by the draft ordinance.

Kaplan said that she and Commissioner Lou Milkowski also had similar financial interests. However, Kaplan and Milkowski attended the meeting after drawing straws with Demeter and Wolfe to determine attendance.

The city is currently engaged in at least one lawsuit over the denial of a 19-story builder’s remedy project at 125-129 S. Linden Drive. The lawsuit, filed by the developers, seeks a court order mandating that the city approve the development. The next hearing is scheduled for May 15.



rendering courtesy of Ottinger Architects

The draft ordinance aims to encourage developers to reduce the size of proposed builder’s remedy projects, such as the planned development at 125-129 S. Linden Drive.



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD; ADDING CHAPTER 9.27B OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE REQUIRING GUN OWNERS TO OBTAIN FIREARM LIABILITY INSURANCE; PROHIBITING AN ESTABLISHMENT THAT OFFERS FIREARMS FOR SALE FROM BEING LOCATED WITHIN 1,000 FEET OF AN ESTABLISHMENT OFFERING ALCOHOL BEVERAGE SALES, PROHIBITING FIREARMS AT CERTAIN LOCATIONS, AND FINDING THE ACTIONS EXEMPT FROM CEQA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **May 19, 2025**, the City Council will hold a public hearing to conduct a first reading of an Ordinance requiring gun owners to obtain firearm liability insurance; prohibiting an establishment that offers firearms for sale from being located within 1,000 feet of an establishment offering alcohol beverage sales, prohibiting firearms at certain locations, and finding the actions exempt from CEQA.

The public hearing will commence at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, as part of the open session of the City Council meeting in the West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room - Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, West Hollywood, California. Anyone wishing to speak may attend the hearing or submit written comments no later than 12:00 p.m. on the above Council meeting day via email to publiccomment@weho.org or via E-Comment by visiting www.weho.org/wehotv.

Written comments should be addressed to City Clerk, City of West Hollywood, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, California 90069.

A copy of the proposed ordinance will be available with the online City Council Agenda Packet, beginning Wednesday, May 14, 2025. Please visit <https://www.weho.org/councilagendas> to view the May 19, 2025, City Council Agenda Packet.

For further information regarding this item, contact Melissa Crowder, City Clerk, at (323) 848-6356, or via email at mcrowder@weho.org.

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

Dated: May 8, 2025

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum holds annual Rubin Lecture

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum presents the 14th annual Linda and Tony Rubin Lecture program, “Rescuing the Hidden Michalovce Collection,” on Tuesday, May 13, at 7 p.m.

In 1942, members of the Schwarz family packed their belongings, hid them in the attic for safekeeping and left their home. Like many Jews who received deportation orders during the Holocaust, they hoped to return one day. But they never did. Those possessions – personal letters, photographs, Hebrew prayer books and clothing – stayed hidden, frozen in time, for nearly 80 years. Then, during renovations in September 2019, a new homeowner stumbled upon the time capsule still hidden in the attic in Michalovce, Eastern Slovakia.

Attendees will learn about the museum’s work to unravel the mystery of the remarkable collection now in its care and discover what has been learned so far about the family who left it behind.

Speakers include Seth Gottlieb, collections curator at the United

States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and Beth Gottschling Huber, assistant curator at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Linda and Tony Rubin, dedicated supporters of the museum since 1994, will open the program with remarks. Their annual Rubin Lecture has consistently brought thought-provoking discussions on Holocaust history and education to audiences in the Western Region.

“Rescuing the Hidden Michalovce Collection” is free and open to the public, but advance registration is required. Interested individuals must register by Monday, May 12, to the Museum’s Western Regional Office at (202)817-4725 or email westernteam@ushmm.org.

The event will take place at the Wilshire Boulevard Temple, Resnick Family Campus, at 11960 Sunset Blvd. Entrance to the parking lot is on Saltair Avenue, with additional parking located nearby.

For information, visit ushmm.org/online-calendar/event/wcpubp10525.

Vacant house razed after fire in Hollywood

■ Owner claims city process slowed progress

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The city of Los Angeles demolished a vacant building in the 1700 block of North Wilton Place in Hollywood on May 1 that nearby residents said was a longstanding problem in the community.

The demolition occurred after a fire erupted in the house at 1744 Wilton Place shortly before 2 a.m. on May 1, causing significant damage to the structure. The blaze was the latest of approximately seven fires at the site since the start of April, residents said.

City officials claim they tried unsuccessfully over the past month to reach the owner, Lindon Shiao, to force him to comply with orders to secure the building and address issues. A hearing is scheduled at the next meeting of the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety Commissioners on May 27 to determine what steps will be taken next with the property, including whether it will potentially be declared a public nuisance due to continual problems at the site.

A representative for Los Angeles City Councilman Hugo-Soto Martinez, 13th District, said on April 6 that the councilman’s staff tried to contact Shiao multiple times, and finally reached him this

week. Shiao has agreed to hire a private contractor to remove debris from the fire and building demolition. If he does not clear the site, the city will remove it and charge the owner.

Residents said the property at 1744 Wilton Place, and a second similar home next door at 1750 N. Wilton Place, have been vacant for weeks. The two buildings appear to be part of one property, but have different owners, according to the city. The owner of the building at 1750 N. Wilton Place is working with the city, has boarded the building and fenced the property, and has hired a security guard, Soto-Martinez’s spokesman Nick Barnes-Batista said. Soto-Martinez visited the site on May 4 and said he is prioritizing the efforts to ensure the property is safe.

“Neighbors shouldn’t have to pay the price for negligent property owners, and we’re looking into how the city can urgently step in to eliminate these types of public safety risks,” Soto-Martinez said.

Shiao, who was reached by phone on May 7, said the city’s claims that they could not reach him are false, adding that he has been in regular contact with an inspector from the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety. He said he is ready to remove debris from the site but is waiting for approval by the Air Quality

Management District. Shiao also said he would have demolished the site months ago but faced hurdles with the city of Los Angeles in securing permits.

“It’s not me, as the property owner, who wants to hold this up. We are trying to do our part, were trying to build affordable housing,” Shiao said. “There are a lot of hurdles that impede the process of development in Los Angeles. Part of the issue is the bureaucratic process of getting permits.”

Shiao also said homelessness in the area is rampant. He has tried to keep the site fenced, but unhoused people find ways to get onto the property.

“I understand the frustration of the neighbors. We’ve been doing everything we can to keep it fenced. Every time we erect a fence, it’s breached an hour later.”

Residents near the property said the city and the developer are not doing enough to address the issues. Multiple vacant properties are located in the 1700 block of Wilton Place, attracting unhoused people and causing a public safety risk. Resident Jennifer Martinez, who was captured on video on May 4 urging Soto-Martinez to do more to address problems in the neighborhood, said the problems with unhoused people on the stretch of Wilton Place date back to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I was reiterating how the laws



photo courtesy of Jennifer Martinez

Residents captured images of the May 1 fire that damaged the vacant house at 1744 Wilton Place, prompting the city to raze the building.

need to be fixed, just recognize that it is an issue,” Martinez said. “There’s a lot of problems here. They should go back and review their whole permit processing and really enforce more laws on property owners, because they’re pretty much doing whatever they can get away with.”

Jeff Newton, a North Gramercy Place resident who lives just east of the vacant properties, said he is fed up with inaction. He said he is considering filing a lawsuit over the situation.

“[The owner] put up this fence, which says nothing. I mean, I could climb over that myself at age 67,” Newton said. “The owner has stonewalled the city and actively interfered with efforts to secure it and get the squatters out. That’s

intentional, not simply benign neglect.”

Wilton Place resident Carolita Blythe also said the larger problem is that it takes too long for the city to move projects through the permitting process, which results in properties staying vacant in neighborhoods for months.

“You can’t be waiting on a permit since June of last year, because what happens is the minute something is abandoned, the squatters go in. And who can blame them? It’s a roof over their head,” Blythe said. “We’re not the only ones dealing with this. They drag their feet. I don’t know what’s going on with the city, but when you’ve had repeated fires, how have you still not done anything? What is happening?”



photo courtesy of CHA Health Systems

Collier Douglas “Doug” Long said CHA Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center will continue its longtime commitment to compassionate care.

CHA Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center names new CEO

CHA Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center, a member of CHA Health Systems, has announced the appointment of Collier Douglas “Doug” Long as its new chief executive officer. A seasoned health care executive, Long brings a proven record of operational excellence, strategic leadership and transformative growth across leading health care institutions.

“We are thrilled to welcome Doug Long to lead CHA Hollywood Presbyterian into its next chapter of growth and patient-centered care,” said Paul Kim, CEO of CHA Health Systems. “His leadership history speaks volumes about his ability to drive operational

improvements while maintaining focus on quality patient care aligns perfectly with our mission and vision for the future.”

Most recently, Long served as president of Dameron Hospital, following his tenure as senior vice president of business development at Adventist Health, where he helped transition the organization to a shared services model, leading enterprise-wide business development, strategy implementation and major system integration efforts. He also oversaw the enterprise project management office, quality improvement initiatives, data and analytics and biomedical engineering across the network.

Before joining Adventist Health, Long spent several years with HCA Healthcare, including six years as president and CEO of West Hills Hospital and Medical Center. Long spearheaded major advancements in emergency services and quality of care, introduced a robotic surgery program and executed a five-year strategic plan that resulted in significant revenue growth. Earlier in his career, he held key leadership roles at Riverside Community Hospital, Sunrise Hospital and Sunrise Children’s Hospital, delivering operational improvements and enhanced community-focused health care initiatives.

“I am honored to join CHA Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center, an organization with a rich legacy and a strong commitment to compassionate care,” Long said. “Together with the talented physicians, nurses and staff, I look forward

to building on its commitment to providing high-quality care and strengthening our position as a leading provider of health care services in Los Angeles.”

Long is also an active community leader and has served on boards for the Hospital Association of Southern California, United Hospital Association and Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

CHA Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center is a nationally recognized acute care facility that has cared for people in Hollywood and the surrounding communities since 1924. CHA HPMC offers comprehensive health care services with a 434-bed acute care facility, including 89 skilled nursing beds. The hospital has a medical staff of more than 550 physicians and specialists, representing 69 specialties and 75 different countries. For information, visit hollywoodpresbyterian.com.

ONE receives \$2.5 million endowment

Paul D. Lerner and Stephen Reis have made a transformative gift of \$2.5 million to ONE Archives at the USC Libraries to name and endow the ONE Archives director position. That post has been held with distinction for many years by Dr. Joseph Hawkins, who has held leadership roles at ONE Archives since 2002.

“We feel that we are fortunate people who have benefited from the blood, sweat, and tears of early LGBTQ+ activists who opened up opportunities we enjoy today,” Lerner and Reis said. “It’s important for us to give back, and we hope our gift will inspire others to support ONE Archives so it can reach its full potential.”

Lerner’s ties with ONE Archives date to 1992, when he was completing a master’s degree at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and was asked to give a talk at ONE about his research on LGBTQ+ media. He has been a supporter ever since.

Together as a couple since 2000, and married since 2014, Lerner and Reis have focused on supporting LGBTQ+ organizations with their philanthropy. Reflecting on their decision to invest in ONE, the couple said, “So often our history has been denied, forgotten or erased – but there are many fascinating historical records of LGBTQ+ people and communities in the archives just waiting to be discovered.”

Lerner is widely known for his marketing communications and public relations work on health care issues, as well as his LGBTQ+ activism since the early 1980s. While a volunteer on the first communications committee supporting same-sex marriage rights, organized in 1995 by the Los Angeles LGBT Center, he coined the phrase “Freedom to Marry.” The rallying cry echoed across the country over the next twenty years, until the Supreme Court’s 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges decision legalized mar-

riage for gay and lesbian couples nationwide. Lerner also won awards for his work in the 1990s with AIDS Project Los Angeles and Los Angeles Shanti. He later donated archival materials from the Freedom to Marry Coalition and Los Angeles Shanti to ONE.

“We hope our gift is the first of many major gifts to ONE Archives,” said Reis.

Through its celebrated arts and cultural programs, ONE Archives engages artists, community members, educators, and the public and adds to the wealth of stories in its collections. The transformative gift by Lerner and Reis will extend the reach of LGBTQ+ history preserved at ONE through its support for the director position, which oversees curatorial, archival and general operations at ONE and serves as primary liaison with the USC Libraries and USC leadership.

For information, visit one.usc.edu.



photo courtesy of Paul D. Lerner

Paul D. Lerner and Stephen Reis have been together for 25 years.

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Who really needs a mom?

I'm thumbing through my closet right now, trying to find a sweater without a soup stain, and I'm thinking: "Sure could use a mom right now."

A good mother refuses to put up with that. A good mother is the master of sarcasm, the maestro of shame. She would throw out all my stained sweaters and insist I wear a big bib perhaps, or slow down when I eat. My dear mom, long gone, was forever trying to get me to slow down when I eat.

OK, Ma. I hear you now. That said, who really needs a mom?

Mine was a force of nature. She was built like a cat and walked like Genghis Kahn. I can still hear her clomping around the kitchen ... her long, oversized strides. She kettle-drummed to the basement, then thumped to the den to let out the dogs, shouting instructions like a quarterback.

Still, when the lilacs bloomed in spring, or the first snow fell each



November, no one was more excited by those quiet moments than my mom.

A good mother is a poet, naturalist, mechanic, moralist, humorist, pastor, baker, spy. A good mom can pull together a Halloween costume in 30 minutes, save a science project, untangle a kite string, blow up hundreds of birthday balloons.

Before there was Google, there were moms.

"Mom, was Rudyard Kipling a boy or a girl?" you'd ask.

"Hey Mom, how did Anne Boleyn die again?"

If she didn't know, she'd make it up.

"Anne Boleyn was hit by a Budweiser truck," she told me once.

All moms are different, but all moms are a little the same – their devotion, their faith in you, their quirky tastes in husbands. Like a thoroughbred racehorse, moms are all descended from one incredible mare crossed with a Turkoman stallion.

They're magic, most of them. Without moms, there would be no wandering minstrels, no Irish tenors, no Nobel laureates, no Chicago Bears. They are the source

of everyone and everything that we cherish. If mothers ever unionized, we'd all be out of luck.

Honestly, there was nothing in my middle-class background to indicate I'd ever amount to much.

But I had a great mom. So I did OK, I managed. If she were still alive, she'd probably say: "Sweetie, maybe all your good days are still ahead of you?"

Thanks, Mom.

So ... who really needs a mom?

My daughters do. My late wife Posh was their anchor, their prime meridian.

They have produced – to date – two golden grandchildren with more on the way.

Sure, they listen to all the podcasts and study the latest blogs, but they still need their mom to tell them when to worry, how to handle a fever, what happens when "the baby swallowed so much sand you wouldn't believe it."

Modern pediatricians are wonderful, but they're not around at 3:47 a.m. when the baby won't stop hurling out her butt. That's what mothers are for.

Without a mom, my daughters mother each other. In a city the size of Europe, they live four doors apart. From Posh, they learned tenderness and devotion. It is Posh's priceless legacy, their best inheritance.

Yet, in the end: Does anyone really need a mom?

My son Smartacus certainly does. He lost his mom at 15, and I've tried to fill some of her roles. So, I can burn a pork chop, mangle an omelet, even iron his favorite shirt. But I could never hug him the way she could, never tousle his hair in a way that made him feel like a billion bucks.



photo by Chris Erskine

Who really needs a mom? Well, they sure do.

See, only a real mom can both shame you and make you feel like a billion bucks in the same moment.

You know, A.I. will probably replace moms at some point. A.I. will aggregate all the good habits and behaviors of all the best moms in history into one program – one robot, one app – and children will never again miss a practice, flub a test, spill salsa all over the couch.

What happens then? Well, as a species, we will become far more efficient, soar to heights never before seen. But will we be happier? Because, in the end, only a real

mom can lift you when you're down. Only a real mom is the virtuoso of your entire life.

Happy Mother's Day.
Love ya, Mom.

We'll toast the moms on Saturday, at our Gin & Tonic Society bash in Hidden Hills. Space is limited. If you made the pre-May 2 cutoff and haven't received info, please email me at Letters@ChrisErskineLA.com Cheers!

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Table Cloths • Table Skirts

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BEVERLY HILLS

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ON BH

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Mother’s Day Remembrance Service
Sunday, May 11, 2025 10:00AM

Join us for a meaningful and uplifting Remembrance Service as we honor the extraordinary women who have shaped our lives — our mothers. Whether they are present with us or in cherished memory, we come together this Mother’s Day at Hillside Memorial Park to celebrate their love, wisdom, and enduring legacy.

This special morning will be filled with music, song, and prayer, offering a space for reflection, gratitude, and community support. We are honored to welcome **Rabbi Cantor Alison Wissot of Temple Judea and Cantor Ilan Davidson of Temple Beth El**, joined by composer **Bob Remstein and musical accompaniment**, to lead us in this beautiful service.

Understanding you are not alone, we welcome you to join us following the service to share your stories, memories, and support with one another, led by Maggi Scharf, M.Ed., CPCC, Certified Grief Educator.

Refreshments will be served. The park will be open from **8:00 AM to 5:00 PM**, and a **florist will be on-site**.
For more information, or to view our livestream, visit hillsidememorial.org/mothers-day



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Be a part of WeHo’s largest drag story hour

■ City strives to set a new world record

BY RANCE COLLINS

In 2026, the city of West Hollywood will coordinate with Guinness World Records to produce the largest drag story hour event in history. The city aims to set the world attendance record as a show of solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community, which Mayor Chelsea Byers noted is “facing increasing threats.”

“We recognize the need to demonstrate support and engaging the community in a record-breaking drag story hour as a fun and memorable way to show that we are resolved in our embrace of free expression, joy and inclusion,” she added.

Vice Mayor John Heilman went further in calling out the Trump administration for its attacks on the community.

“We need to do everything we can to support our entire community whether they are drag performers, transgender activists or LGBTQI refugees and immigrants,” Heilman said. “Supporting and highlighting all members of our community sends a strong signal that we will fight efforts to strip us of our rights and freedoms.”

Drag story hours are readings for children by drag performers, which are currently held regularly at West Hollywood Library. The current record for the largest story hour was set in 2024 in Philadelphia, when 263 people attended a Pride-affiliated event



photo by Tony Coelho

West Hollywood Drag Laureate Pickle has led several drag story hours with local students.

held at the National Constitution Center.

Drag performances have been the subject of right-wing attacks in recent years, with numerous legislative items passed in southern states attempting to outright ban drag performances. Virtually all of these bans have been challenged in court.

West Hollywood has a long association with drag performance, and installed its first drag laureate, Pickle the Drag Queen, last year. Its second will be chosen in 2026.

No specifics or funding allotment have been set. City staff will return to the council at a later date for further direction.

“Drag artists and LGBTQ+ culture have become targets of right-wing attacks in the current political climate,” Councilman Danny Hang said. “The city of West Hollywood, by organizing the largest drag story hour in history, will send a clear message of resilience, pride and strength. In West Hollywood, we celebrate drag and we won’t stand idly by as marginalized people in our nation and our community are targeted with hate and intolerance. Our hard-fought rights are under threat by the actions of the current federal administration. We must embrace visibility, culture and expression in affirming spaces.”



photo courtesy of Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian

Beverly Hills celebrates Arbor Day

The city of Beverly Hills held an Arbor Day celebration on Friday, April 25, at Roxbury Memorial Park. Mayor Sharona Nazarian, Urban Forest Bureau staff, CalFire representatives and the Beverly Hills community helped plant a coast live oak tree in the park.

The city of Beverly Hills has been a Tree City USA award recipient for 41 consecutive years. Significant factors in Beverly Hills’ ability to receive the prestigious award each year include an annual Arbor Day program, the Street Tree Master Plan, a well-managed tree care program and a commitment to responsible environmental efforts.



NEVER AGAIN is NOW

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

6:00 p.m. Refreshments

6:30 p.m. Panel Discussion

Writers Guild Theater

135 S. Doheny Dr.
Beverly Hills, CA

FREE to attend. No RSVP is required.
Panelists to be announced soon.

DIVERSITY OF THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE

Join us for a lively conversation on the diversity of the Jewish community. Led by Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona R. Nazarian, Jewish leaders from a range of cultural backgrounds will share stories, confront stereotypes and celebrate identity.

In an era where understanding and unity are more vital than ever, this event reminds us:

Never Again Is Now.



For details, please visit
beverlyhills.org/neveragainisnow

Street closures planned for upcoming subway work

Metro plans to close the intersections of Wilshire/Fairfax, Wilshire/La Brea and Wilshire/Western on different weekends in June as part of the D Line subway extension project. Wilshire/Fairfax will be closed from June 13-16, Wilshire/Western will be closed from June 20-23 and Wilshire/La Brea will be closed from June 27-30. The closures run from Friday at 9 p.m. through Monday at 6 a.m. At Wilshire/Fairfax, Wilshire

Boulevard will be closed from San Diego Way to Spaulding Avenue. At Wilshire/Western, the closure runs between Western Avenue and Saint Andrews Place. At Wilshire/La Brea, the closure will be located between Mansfield and Cloverdale avenues. Detour routes will be announced prior to the street closures. Metro is also advising about the closure of the Wilshire/Western and Wilshire/Normandie stations from Saturday, May 17, at 9 p.m. through

Friday, July 25, at 11 p.m. The closure is required to link the new subway project with the existing D Line. Bus Shuttle 855 and Metro Lines 720 and 20 will transport Metro D Line riders in the area during the closure. Work on the subway project will also require daily lane closures at many locations along Wilshire Boulevard through June. Crews are rebuilding streets, curbs, sidewalks and medians along the thoroughfare.

At the Wilshire/La Cienega station, street restoration continues on the north side of Wilshire Boulevard and the east side of La Cienega Boulevard. Two lanes on Wilshire Boulevard are open in each direction between La Cienega and San Vicente boulevards.

From Monday, May 19, through Tuesday, May 27, northbound La Cienega Boulevard will be reduced to a single lane from approximately 200 feet south of the intersection to approximately 150 feet north of Wilshire Boulevard. Crews will install a new bus pad, which is an area with reinforced concrete to support frequent bus traffic, at the northeast corner of Wilshire/La Cienega. Farther west, work is progressing at the Wilshire/Rodeo station. Construction is ongoing on road-



photo by Edwin Folven

Street restoration work is ongoing around the future Wilshire/La Cienega station.

Metro welcomes older adults to transportation expo on May 9

Metro’s “On the Move Riders Program” will hold the “Your Ticket to the World-Older Adult Transportation Expo” on Friday, May 9, from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Pasadena Convention Center. The event will provide older adults ages 55 and over with hands-on workshops, panel discussions and on-site transit resources so they can confidently navigate public transportation. “Millions of older adults in L.A. County rely on Metro to connect them to family, social activities and doctors’ appointments,” Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins said. “Through our annual Older Adult Transportation Expo, we’re giving our senior riders tools, tips and strategies to become power users of our system and to benefit from all the investments we’ve made in public transportation.” The expo will include a panel discussion with transit leaders from Foothill Transit, Big Blue Bus and Pasadena Transit, as well as two breakout sessions for more targeted instruction. The breakout sessions will help all levels of riders, from those who have never taken public transportation to frequent riders who want to learn more about Metro and destinations available via transit. Pasadena Transit will provide a free shuttle to the expo from the

Metro’s A Line Memorial Park Station to the Pasadena Convention Center for attendees. The morning route runs from 8-9:30 a.m. from Raymond/Holly and stops in front of the Convention Center. The afternoon route runs from 2-3 p.m. from the Convention Center to Raymond/Holly and Green/Marengo. Since the inception of the program in 2013, Metro’s “On the Move Riders Program” has empowered older adults with the information and confidence to travel on fixed-route transportation. The annual event prepares more than 500 attendees to use the Metro system. The program currently includes 58 dedicated volunteer Travel Buddies who lead 30 peer-to-peer travel training clubs. Each month, these Travel Buddies help older adults in their communities practice using public transportation, guiding them on trips to transit-accessible destinations. Along the way, participants gain confidence navigating the transit system, discovering new places and forming meaningful friendships. The Pasadena Convention Center is located at 300 E. Green St. For information, call (213)922-2002, or visit OTMRPEXpo2025.eventbrite.com.

Cal Fire offers tips for fire prevention

The California Fire Foundation, a nonprofit supporting active and fallen firefighters, their families and communities, is calling on all Californians to prepare for fire season and honor those who risk their lives on the front lines. May is Wildfire Preparedness Month. To help residents and businesses, the Firefighters On Your Side campaign has been relaunched offering multilingual, community-based resources to help people create defensible space around homes, develop a five-minute evacuation plan, pre-pack emergency go-bags and download a complete wildfire preparedness checklist.

Residents are encouraged to create defensible space zones around homes and buildings. Keep areas clear of flammable items, use gravel or concrete, trim trees, clear dry brush, thin vegetation, remove dead plants and maintain clear separation between trees. Use fire-resistant roofing materials and keep roofs and gutters clear of debris, install ember-resistant vents and enclose eaves, use non-combustible materials for homes and seal all ember entry points and replace fire-prone landscape with fire-resistant materials. For information, visit cafirefoundation.org and firefightersonyourside.org.



photo courtesy of the California Fire Foundation

The California Fire Foundation offers resources on how to make homes more resistant to wildfires.

NOTICE CALLING FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) BEVERLY HILLS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invitation to Submit Proposals

Notice is hereby given that the Beverly Hills Unified School District, acting by and through its Governing Board, will receive sealed proposals up to but **no later than 2:00 p.m. on the 5th day of June, 2025** for:

Request for Proposal No. 2425-027 – Kosher Vended Meals

Services that the District may require will consist of furnishing kosher school lunch meals in accordance with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations and guidelines as well as State of California Department of Education policies and guidelines.

Each bidder will be required to furnish and maintain Commercial General Liability Insurance, endorsed naming the District as “additional insured,” Comprehensive Automobile Liability Insurance, and Workers’ Compensation Insurance.

Proposals shall be received in the District’s Purchasing Department located at: Beverly Hills Unified School District, 624 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 or can be emailed to GKeshishyan@bhusd.org.

This document is for informational purposes and shall not relieve the Bidder of the requirements to fully become familiarized with all the factors affecting the Proposal. The Bidder is advised that all inquiries and clarifications about the RFP documents, specifications, etc., shall be submitted to the District in writing no later than **May 30, 2025, 4:00 p.m.** The District will respond at its earliest possible opportunity. Verbal communication by either party regarding this matter is invalid. Inquiries shall be emailed to: Gilda Keshishyan, Director of Purchasing, at GKeshishyan@bhusd.org.

The Proposal package, required forms, and other components of this request for proposal may be obtained from the District’s website at https://www.bhusd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=31867&type=d&pREC_ID=1074500.

Any proposal not received by the time and date specified above at the above location will not be accepted and will be returned unopened.

RESTAURANT NEWS

Gracias Madre, appropriately, gives thanks to mothers

Treat mom to vibrant, plant-based Mexican cuisine in a beautiful setting at Gracias Madre on May 10-11, with brunch items served until 4 p.m., including complimentary long-stemmed red roses for every mom and live music. Enjoy special cocktail and non-alcoholic beverage offerings, as well. Gracias Madre is located at 8905 Melrose Ave. For information, visit graciasmadre.com or call (323)978-2170.

Juniper Lounge, both crafted by Culinary Director Chef Ginger Pierce. Guests joining for brunch can enjoy 1 Kitchen’s signature garden-to-table menu featuring locally and sustainably sourced ingredients, along with seasonal dishes created just for the occasion, including shakshuka for \$26 and rhubarb ice-box pie for \$18. Those celebrating over dinner can enjoy Juniper’s signature Southern California cuisine, plus a few additions like seared diver scallops for \$42 and vegetable lasagna for \$31.

For information, visit 1hotels.com/west-hollywood/taste. 1 Hotel is located at 9590 Sunset Blvd.

For Mother’s Day, WeHo has the 1

1 Kitchen at 1 Hotel West Hollywood will be offering festive Mother’s Day brunch specials, along with dinner specials at

Mom deserves the Culver Hotel brunch

The Culver Hotel will serve its annual prix fixe Mother’s Day

Brunch to deserving moms and their families from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Accompanied by the sounds of a live pianist, the three-course feast will feature a selection of Chef Diana Khngikyan’s seasonal favorites served in The Grand Lobby, as well as under the flowering trees on the garden patio. Starters include Kushi oysters, baguettes and a beet and goat cheese salad. Entrées include tomato basil frittata, crab and avocado tartine, smoked salmon croissant and a brunch burger. The experience is \$75 per person. For information and to book, visit opentable.com/restaurant/profile/1250839. The Culver Hotel is located at 9400 Culver Blvd., Culver City.

Agnes sets the table for Mom

Agnes Restaurant & Cheesery will have its annual Mother’s Day brunch on May 11, priced at \$75 per person. Treat the moms in your life to a beautiful, indulgent brunch – complete with a welcome mimosa, a special gift for each mom and a thoughtful curated



photo courtesy of Terrazza

Enjoy a delicious dessert table with Mom at Terrazza.

Grant Mom a coastal brunch experience

Celebrate Mother’s Day in style at Terrazza, located at the beautiful Hotel Casa del Mar. Treat loved ones to a coastal brunch experience featuring a mouthwatering selection of dishes. Start with appetizers like oysters and caviar, bluefin crudo, chilled Spanish gazpacho or a refreshing citrus salad. For the main course, choose from indulgent options such as cinnamon French toast, a truffle crab omelet, artichoke and mushroom

risotto, Chilean seabass, steak and eggs, or a classic Croque Madame. End your meal on a sweet note with a visit to the curated dessert table, brimming with irresistible treats. Join on Sunday, May 11, starting at 11 a.m. The Mother’s Day menu is priced at \$125 per person. To make a reservation, visit resy.com/cities/santa-monica-ca/venues/terrazza. Terrazza is located at 1910 Ocean Way, Santa Monica.

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menu to enjoy. Brunch items include artisan cheese, cured meats, deviled eggs, seasonal jams, whipped feta dip, dried fruit, pickles, quicos, grilled sourdough bread, crackers, omelet Florentine, braised bacon benny and mushroom grain bowl. For dessert, enjoy banana pudding and guava sorbet. Agnes Restaurant & Cheesery is located at 40 W. Green St., Pasadena. For information, visit agnesla.com or call (626)389-3839.

Have a ‘Proper’ Mother’s Day

Downtown L.A. Proper Hotel invites guests to enjoy a one-of-a-kind brunch experience on Sunday, May 11 from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at its signature restaurant Caldo Verde. The special Mother’s Day brunch is curated by James Beard Award-winning Chef Suzanne Goin and Restaurateur Caroline Styne, blending rustic charm with seasonal California-inspired flavors. The menu features standout dishes such as steak and eggs, Ube waf-

fls and Piri Piri avocado toast among other elevated offerings. With a welcoming, family-friendly atmosphere and a menu designed to impress, Proper Hotel, located at 1100 S. Broadway, offers the ideal setting for celebrating mothers. To book, visit opentable.com/r/caldo-verde-los-angeles.

Enjoy Mother’s Day at The Belvedere

Indulge in an unforgettable four-course brunch at The Belvedere crafted by Executive Chef Luis Cuadra and The Peninsula Beverly Hills culinary team. Savor a decadent first-course spread to share, followed by classic favorites like crab cake Benedict, Shakshouka, crème brûlée French toast and the restaurant’s signature Brunch Burger. End on a sweet note with an irresistible array of handcrafted desserts, perfect for celebrating Mom. Mother’s Day Brunch is on Sunday, May 11 with seating available from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Pricing is \$195 per person and \$95 for chil-

dren under 12. Reservations are suggested and can be made online on OpenTable or by calling (310)975-2736. The Peninsula Beverly Hills is located at 9882 S. Santa Monica Blvd.

Three-course brunch makes Mother’s Day ‘SALTy’

Make this Mother’s Day memorable with a decadent three-course brunch by the water at SALT. Start with fresh flavors like Kushi oysters or a vibrant spring salad, then dive into indulgent mains such as steak and lobster, a Maine lobster French omelet or crispy fried chicken with Belgian waffles. End on a sweet note with chocolate molten cake or banana brûlée bread pudding. Prefer more flexibility? The regular à la carte brunch menu will also be available. Join on Sunday, May 11, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The price is \$70 per person. For reservations, visit opentable.com/restaurant/profile/1

See page 18



photo courtesy of Pez Cantina

The shrimp and chicharron diablo is back at Pez Cantina.

Pez brings back fan favorite

In celebration of 10 years of Pez, the restaurant is bringing back one of its most iconic dishes – available exclusively at Pez Cantina in Downtown Los Angeles. The shrimp and chicharron diablo is back by spicy demand. “I often tell Lucy that chicharron will be the death of me,” executive chef Bret Thompson said. “It’s so delicious. The combination of the crunchy chicharron with the shrimp in the deli-

cious spicy salsa, diablo and crunchy lettuce cups topped with pickled onions and avocado, doesn’t get any better. It’s also become a cult favorite among many of our customers, including Oscar De La Hoya.” Come taste the throwback that made waves – only for a limited time. For information, visit pez-cantinala.com or call (213)258-2280. Pez Cantina is located at 401 S. Grand Ave.

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City Nature Challenge documents local biodiversity

The results are in for the 10th annual City Nature Challenge, a community science initiative in which 102,945 people participated in 62 countries, documenting more than 3.3 million wildlife observations.

More than 73,765 species were observed, with the common dandelion as the most common nature observation around the world. In Los Angeles County, 1,514 people made 27,067 observations and documented 2,803 species, including 88 rare, endangered or threatened species. The western fence lizard retained the title of the most common nature observation in Los Angeles County.

The global event called on community scientists, nature and science fans and people of all ages to observe and submit pictures of wild plants, animals and fungi from April 25-28. Participants submitted photos using free mobile apps such

as iNaturalist. The initiative shows the power of community science to track real-time changes in the planet’s biodiversity.

“Never in my wildest dreams did I expect the City Nature Challenge to grow and become the largest annual biodiversity census in the world,” said Lila Higgins, co-founder of the City Nature Challenge and senior manager of community science for the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County. “It is amazing that over the course of 10 challenges, more than 364,000 community scientists have come together to gather more than 12 million observations around the world. This data is essential for the fight against biodiversity loss and to help us protect species.”

After launching the City Nature Challenge in 2016 with 1,000 observers across a pair of California cities, the challenge – hosted by the

Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County and San Francisco’s California Academy of Sciences – broke numerous records in 2025. Since its inception, the City Nature Challenge has collected more than 12 million urban biodiversity observations of 110,000-plus species, and engaged more than 364,000 people.

“The City Nature Challenge happened at a particularly difficult time for many in Los Angeles County, with wildfires and government concerns leading to a general feeling of instability,” said Amy Jaecker-Jones, NHMLAC’s community science program manager and CNC global manager. “It would be understandable if these issues pushed nature to the periphery of life, but what we saw is that – even on a rainy weekend – thousands of people experienced the healing power of nature and did their part to reciprocate by contributing com-



photo courtesy of NHMLAC

More than 1,500 community scientists from L.A. County documented 2,803 species, including 88 rare, endangered or threatened species, during the four-day community science effort.

munity science data that will help researchers, land managers and policymakers protect our precious biodiversity.”

The Natural History Museums of

Los Angeles County include the Natural History Museum, La Brea Tar Pits and William S. Hart Museum. For information, visit nhmlac.org.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Winners of the rugelach contest on May 4 posed with Beverly Hills City Council members and Mayor Sharona Nazarian.

From page 17

56871. SALT is located at 13534 Bali Way, Marina Del Ray.

Sip mimosas with Mom by the sea

Guests are invited to celebrate and treat the special mothers in their lives to an exquisite dining experience at Viceroy Santa Monica’s Sugar Plum, featuring bottomless mimosas until 3 p.m. Attendees can sip and savor as they dive into the restaurant’s delightful special brunch menu, offering both a brunch buffet and à la carte options that are set to mark the occasion.

Guests can enjoy brunch favorites like made-to-order crepes, French toast, scrambled eggs, crispy potato medley and a decadent charcuterie board with imported cheeses and cured meats. Other highlights include Tuscan chicken, a vegetarian quiche with Havarti cheese and cherry tomatoes, fresh fruit and berries, and Basque cheesecakes for a sweet finish.

The meal is priced at \$70 for adults and \$35 for kids under 13. Reservations open at 10 a.m. Book through OpenTable by visiting opentable.com/r/sugar-palm-ocean-avenue-santa-monica. Viceroy Santa Monica is located at 1819 Ocean Ave., Santa Monica.

Make ceramics with Mom at Sandbourne

Celebrate Mother’s Day weekend at Sandbourne Santa Monica with a special ceramic class

experience. Join Sandbourne Santa Monica in the courtyard for their Mother’s Day ceramic classes on both May 10 and 11 at 1 p.m. Open to hotel guests and the public, each session includes all materials, expert instruction and a complimentary mimosa or mocktail. Tickets are \$50 for the public and complimentary for hotel guests, making it the perfect way to treat Mom. After class, continue the celebration with a delicious brunch at Marelle, the property’s coastal-inspired signature restaurant serving seasonal favorites for unforgettable Mother’s Day moments. For information and to book, visit sandbournesantamonica.com/events/mothers-day-ceramic-classes or call (310)395-9700. Sandbourne Santa Monica is located at 1740 Ocean Ave.

Skybar introduces brand new happy hour

Skybar Los Angeles has introduced a brand-new weekday happy hour from 6-9 p.m. Set against sweeping city views and golden hour vibes, guests can enjoy sunset sips like the signature Mondrian Margarita and well cocktails for \$12, beer for \$7, wine for \$9 and, for the first time ever, Pizza Girl by Caroline D’Amore. The cult-favorite brand known for its clean, organic ingredients will be serving up whole pies at Skybar for the first time at special happy hour pricing. For information, visit mondrianhotels.com/los-angeles/dining/skybar for (323)848-6030. Skybar Los Angeles is located at 8440 W. Sunset Blvd.

Beverly Hills kicks off Jewish American Heritage Month with festive events

The city of Beverly Hills and its Community Services Department are celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month throughout May with a series of festive events. The kickoff took place on Sunday, May 4, at the Beverly Hills Farmers’ Market, drawing hundreds of community members to an engaging morning of cultural activities and delicious competition.

The event featured a variety of activities, including a stop-motion animation and illustration workshop, a tzedakah-box making session hosted by the Skirball Cultural Center, lively performances by the klezmer band Mostly Kosher, a rugelach baking contest and an onsite gondi/matzo ball soup competition.

A distinguished panel of judges – Mayor Sharona Nazarian, Vice Mayor John Mirisch, Councilman Craig Corman and Councilwoman

Mary Wells – rated the entries to select the top winners. Nearly 20 contestants competed in the rugelach contest, while six participants cooked their gondi/matzo ball soup recipes onsite. Winners received \$200, \$100 and \$50 in market money prizes.

In the gondi/matzo ball soup competition, Devorah Leah Illulian placed first, Matt Cowman placed second and Farah Kohan placed third.

In the rugelach contest, Elaine Maltzman placed first, Franne Goldberg placed second and Brooke Kahn placed third.

The event exemplified the rich cultural heritage and culinary traditions celebrated during Jewish American Heritage Month. Festivities throughout May in Beverly Hills include “Jewish Tales of Wonder, Wit and Wisdom” with

Karen Golden on Thursday, May 15, at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the Beverly Hills Public Library, 444 N. Rexford Drive; “Lebensraum,” a staged reading presented by West Coast Jewish Theatre on Thursday, May 15, at 6:30 p.m. at Greystone Theatre at Greystone Mansion and Gardens, 905 Loma Vista Drive; and “The Jewish American Foodie: A Conversation” on Monday, May 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the Beverly Hills City Hall Municipal Gallery, 455 N. Rexford Drive.

In addition to the events, a series of films will be shown each Thursday in May at 1 p.m. at Roxbury Park Community Center, 471 S. Roxbury Drive. The films explore Jewish themes and cultures, offering a cinematic celebration of heritage.

For information, visit beverlyhills.org/csevents.

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Community Services

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Art by Larisa Safaryan



LAUSD community invited to college signing day, wellness festival

The Los Angeles Unified School District is holding its Commitment/College Signing Day and 5K Wellness Festival on Saturday, May 10, from 7:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. The event is open to all LAUSD students, teachers, staff and their families.

The district is hosting the inau-

gural event celebrating the academic milestones and well-being of the class of 2025. The district-wide recognition of student achievement, postsecondary commitments and healthy lifestyles will bring together graduating seniors, families and more than 100 community partners for a vibrant day of inspiration, education, movement and pride.

BHHS senior to attend University of Michigan

Beverly Hills High School announced that Bradyn Prisand, a proud member of the class of 2025, will be attending the University of Michigan. Prisand will pursue a BFA in musical theater at one of the



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Brady Prasad will study musical theatre as an undergraduate at the University of Michigan.

most selective and celebrated programs in the country, with an acceptance rate of under 1%.

Prisand has spent her entire K-12 journey in BHUSD, beginning at Beverly Vista Middle School and continuing through Beverly Hills High School, where she became a standout in the performing arts. On the BHHS stage, she brought unforgettable energy to productions such as "Mean Girls," "The Diary of Anne Frank" and "Mary Poppins." She also played key roles in dance production advanced, the capstone theater class and Madrigals Choir.

At BHHS, Prisand didn't just perform, she inspired. Her discipline, artistry and heart lit up every space she stepped into, earning her recognition in regional competitions and national showcases.

"Bradyn is a true force of talent and perseverance," BHHS Principal Drew Stewart said. "Her dedication to her craft and her ability to connect with audiences and peers alike is extraordinary. We are all cheering her on as she takes this next big step at the University of Michigan."

For information, visit bhusd.org.

Join L.A. Children's Chorus for annual Spring Concert

Song will ring out when the Grammy Award-winning Los Angeles Children's Chorus presents its annual Spring Concert over Mother's Day weekend on Saturday, May 10, at 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Pasadena, and Sunday, May 11, at 7 p.m. at Pasadena Presbyterian Church.

The uplifting program spotlights the exceptional artistry of the 400 choristers from six of LACC's celebrated ensembles. LACC's Concert Choir, led by LACC artistic director Fernando Malvar-Ruiz, appears at both concerts. Malvar-

Ruiz also conducts the Chorale and Chamber Singers, and LACC associate artistic director Fred Meads leads the Intermediate Choir on May 10. Dr. Steven Kronauer conducts the Young Men's Ensemble and Eric Lifland leads the Apprentice Choir on May 11.

United Methodist Church is located at 500 E. Colorado Blvd. and Pasadena Presbyterian Church is located at 585 E. Colorado Blvd. Tickets to LACC's Spring Concert start at \$10.35. Children 17 and under are half price. For tickets and information, call (626)793-4231, or visit lachildrengschorus.org.



photo by Ricardo Mendoza

The Los Angeles Children's Chorus performs two concerts on May 10-11.

More than 3,000 people have registered for the 5K “Move It” run/walk. The Commitment/College Signing Day Celebration event will feature community, health and educational resource booths from more than 30 colleges, financial aid experts and career placement agencies. Student performances, fitness and dance classes, live entertainment, drawings and giveaways, special guest appearances, food trucks and a Mother’s Day tribute are included.

The 5K run/walk will begin at 7:45 a.m.; the Commitment/College Signing Day will begin at 9 a.m. The Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum is located at 3911 S. Figueroa St. For information, visit qr.me-qr.com/link-list/CmpxS1Ah/show.



photo courtesy of the LAUSD

Students can receive information at educational resource booths from more than 30 colleges and career placement agencies.

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SATURDAY
MAY 24

Observatory celebrates 90 years of celestial exploration

The Griffith Observatory celebrates nine decades of public service, astronomy and observation with activities on Wednesday, May 14, marking the 90th anniversary of the observatory's opening in 1935.

The activities will include a private ceremony, in-person and broadcast presentation from the Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon, a late evening broadcast of the major lunar standstill moonrise and free anniversary buttons for everyone who purchases a ticket to a show in the Samuel Oschin Planetarium.

The observatory will be open to the public from noon-10 p.m. on May 14. The button giveaway will be held throughout the day. At 6:15 p.m., "Celestial Celebrations: 90 Years of Griffith Observatory" and "Stories in the Sky" with Rex Saint Onge, Sr. will be held. Celebrate the observatory's 90th anniversary with Saint Onge, a Chumash cultural advisor for the observatory's original "PST ART" short film "Pacific Standard Universe" (2024). Saint Onge draws from thousands of years of indigenous California astronomy to show how celestial alignments mark significant

moments such as birthdays and the observatory's anniversary. The program will be presented live in the Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon and broadcast online. Registration to attend the lecture in person is encouraged but not required.

A live broadcast of the 90th anniversary major lunar standstill southern moonrise (online only) will begin at 9:52 p.m. The observatory continues its marking of the two-year major lunar standstill cycle with a live broadcast on YouTube of the moonrise along the southeast horizon at 10:12 p.m. The broadcast will include information about the major lunar standstill phenomena in 2024 and 2025.

The Griffith Observatory is located at 2800 E. Observatory Road. For information, visit griffithobservatory.org/90th-anniversary.



photo courtesy of the Griffith Observatory

The Griffith Observatory will hold special events on May 14 including live shows.

Apatow to guest curate Academy comedy exhibit

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures has announced that legendary writer, director and producer Judd Apatow will be the Academy Museum's first guest curator of its newest comedy film exhibition, opening in April 2027, focused on celebrating and presenting the comedy genre and filmmakers.

The announcement on occurred on May 2, during the Academy Museum's 20th anniversary celebration and screening of Apatow's hit feature directorial debut, "The

40-Year-Old Virgin" (2005), as part of an onstage conversation between Apatow, Steve Carell, Catherine Keener, Jane Lynch, Gerry Bednob and Kat Dennings in the museum's David Geffen Theater. On the evening of the event, audiences were treated to behind-the-scenes stories of the making of the film and heartfelt moments and anecdotes from Apatow, Carell, Keener, Lynch, Bednob and Dennings on how the classic film came together.

Slated for April 2027, the yet-to-be-titled exhibition is the first

Academy Museum exhibition dedicated to the art of comedy in film. Using the resources of the Academy Collection – which includes over 52 million items across the Academy Museum, the Academy's Margaret Herrick Library and the Academy Film Archive – and through original content featuring a diverse range of comedy filmmakers, Apatow will bring his sense of humor and decades of comedy expertise and fandom to the museum exhibition.

"We're thrilled to announce that our first guest curator at the Academy Museum is none other than the hilarious and brilliant Judd Apatow," Academy Museum director and president Amy Homma said. "Judd's comedies have shaped entertainment and culture, and we know his expertise, appreciation and love for the art of comedy will bring a unique exhibition to our audiences."

"The cat is out of the bag. I'll be working with the Academy Museum to showcase some of my favorite films and filmmakers throughout the ages," Apatow said. "I am honored to curate this project alongside the museum's talented team and with access to the Academy Collection. We hope to leave visitors inspired and, of course, with a big smile on their faces."

For information, visit academy-museum.org. The Academy Museum is located at 6067 Wilshire Blvd.



photo courtesy of the Academy Museum

Judd Apatow made his directorial debut, "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," in 2005.

Applications open for Beverly Hills playwriting competition

The Beverly Hills Theatre Guild's Julie Harris Playwriting Competition is accepting applications for its annual playwriting competition. The prestigious competition is in its 48th year and attracts interest from around the world. Entries are accepted year-round, and winners are selected each June or July.

Each year, three winners are selected and are presented with cash prizes for full-length (75 minutes minimum) previously unproduced plays – no previous production (equity or non-equity) for which actors or authors were paid or admission was charged, or

both. Musicals are not eligible. Plays with an occasional song for ambience are considered. The plays must also be unpublished and not currently under any option.

This year, the prizes will be \$3,500, \$2,500 and \$1,500 for first-, second- and third-place winners, respectively.

A \$25 entry fee is required for submissions. Only one play per entrant will be considered.

To apply, and for submission rules and guidelines, visit beverly-hillstheatreguild.com or contact Donna King, donnaking2015@gmail.com.



photo by Ed Krieger

Previous winner "The Consul, The Tramp, and America's Sweetheart," received a full professional production at Theatre 40 in Beverly Hills.

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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 April 27 and May 4. The information was compiled from crimemapping.com. To report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies: Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (213)473-0476, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department West Hollywood Station (310)855-8850, and the Beverly Hills Police Department (310)550-4951.

Beverly Hills Police Department

April 27

At 9 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft near Arden and Palm.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 9500 block of Wilshire at 3:10 p.m.

At 3:48 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Santa Monica and Beverly.

April 28

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 400 block of N. Crescent at 10:19 a.m.

At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire.

April 29

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 400 block of N. Crescent at 10:19 a.m.

At 6:10 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 300 block of S. El Camino.

April 30

At 9:43 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 400 block of N. Doheny.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 400 block of S. Beverly at 10:30 a.m.

At 1:52 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Beverly and Charleville.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 9900 block of South Santa Monica at 8:17 p.m.

May 1

A vandalism incident was reported in the 9600 block of Olympic at 8:24 a.m.

At 8:55 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 9600 block of Olympic.

May 2

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of N. Cañon at 11:10 p.m.

May 3

At 9:15 p.m., an arson fire was reported in the 8400 block of Gregory.

May 4

At 2:14 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Rexford and Santa Monica.

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

April 27

At 12:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of N. Robertson at 1:05 a.m.

At 2:20 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9000 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 8800 block of Rosewood at 9:30 a.m.

At 1:54 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9600 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1000 block of La Jolla at 1:54 p.m.

At 5:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 600 block of N. Orlando.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at midnight.

April 28

At 4:20 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 300 block of N. Larrabee.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7900 block of Santa Monica at 11:30 a.m.

At 11:47 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1000 block of N. La Brea.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1200 block of N. Sweetzer at 12:10 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8500 block of Melrose.

April 29

At 9 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 900 block of Havenhurst.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1200 block of N. La Brea at 10:49 a.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 700 block of N. Huntley.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Sunset at 10:45 p.m.

April 30

An arson fire was reported in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at 2:27 a.m.

At 5:20 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8500 block of Santa Monica.

A domestic violence assault occurred in the 600 block of N. Robertson at 11:30 p.m.

May 1

At 12:25 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8400 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 1:50 a.m.

At 8:50 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8500 block of Melrose.

BHPD issues 67 distracted driving citations in two days

The Beverly Hills Police Department cited 67 drivers for hands-free cell phone violations during a distracted driving enforcement operation on April 14 and April 28.

“Despite repeated efforts to warn drivers about the hands-free cell phone law, some drivers continue to use their phones while operating a vehicle,” BHPD Chief Mark Stainbrook said. “Our ultimate goal is to change behaviors that help make our roads safer.”

California enacted distracted driving laws in 2008. Drivers are not allowed to hold phones or electronic devices while driving, including talking, texting or using an app. Using a handheld cell phone while driving is punishable by a fine. Violating the hands-free law for a second time within 36 months of a prior conviction for the same offense will result in a point being added to a driver’s record.

Police warn that drivers must pull over to answer a phone or text.



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

The enforcement operation on April 14 and April 28 was aimed at reducing the number of people using cell phones behind the wheel.

Before driving, either silence phones or put them somewhere out of reach.

Funding for the program was

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

District attorney takes strict stance against animal abuse

Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan J. Hochman announced on May 6 that his office has filed 25 animal cruelty cases – including 18 felonies – over the past six weeks, underscoring his commitment to holding animal abusers accountable.

“Let me be clear: If you harm an animal in our community, we are watching you – and we will find you,” Hochman said. “Animal cruelty is a serious crime. It’s also a red flag for possible future violence and we treat it exactly as it should be treated – with zero tolerance and aggressive prosecution.”

The filings include cases from the Hollywood and Koreatown areas. Authorities said animal cruelty often emerges as an extension of domestic violence. Defendant Joseph Melnyk, 50, was charged with two felony counts for injuring his girlfriend, one felony count of cruelty to an animal and misdemeanor contempt of court. He pleaded not guilty.

Melnyk allegedly threw his girlfriend’s 4-year-old terrier mix, Charlie, off the balcony of an apartment in Hollywood on April 21, killing the dog. A medical examination revealed that Charlie had injuries consistent with prior abuse. If convicted as charged, Melnyk faces up to seven years state prison, plus 364 days in county jail on the misdemeanor charge.

In a case from March 18 in the Los Angeles Police Department’s Olympic Division, Miguel Abadmunoz, 44, was charged with two felony counts of arson and one felony count of cruelty to an ani-

mal. He pleaded not guilty.

Abadmunoz allegedly used a torch to set a 10-year-old male Siamese cat on fire on Dewey Avenue. A witness then observed the defendant attempting to ignite a nearby apartment building, police said. When officers arrived, they found a butane torch in the defendant’s front left pocket. Due to the extent of its injuries, the cat was euthanized. If convicted as charged, Abadmunoz faces up to 13 years and eight months in state prison.

The cases were filed due to the hard work and vigilance of many law enforcement and animal control agencies, the public and the District Attorney’s Target Crimes Division, Animal Cruelty Section, Hochman said.

“I want to personally thank Deputy District Attorney and Animal Cruelty coordinator Kimberly Abourezk and our outstanding legal team for their unwavering dedication,” he added. “Their work reinforces that our office stands firmly between abusers and the animals they harm.”

“We will not tolerate the abuse of defenseless animals and if you witness or suspect cruelty, report it to local law enforcement immediately,” Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said.

“The LAPD consistently pursues animal cruelty cases with integrity and intensity, many of which do not receive media attention,” LAPD Deputy Chief Alan Hamilton added.

To report instances of animal abuse, call Los Angeles Animal

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1000 block of N. Formosa at 9:30 p.m.

May 2

A vehicle theft occurred in the 9000 block of Dorrington at 7:50 a.m.

At 9:56 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 600 block of Huntley.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7900 block of Santa Monica at 7 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Sunset.

At 5:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7700 block of Santa Monica.

May 3

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 900 block of N. Palm at 1:15 a.m.

At 2:42 a.m., a domestic violence assault occurred in the 900 block of Hancock.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1100 block of N. Alta Loma at 2:30 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of N. Robertson at 7 p.m.

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY HOSPITAL CLOSURE

Effective January 1, 2025

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

The three nearest facilities offering comparable services are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This notice is provided in compliance with California law.

Dynamic film series hits MOCA

The MOCA Artist Film Series, an active and dynamic platform for the presentation of artist films, continues at MOCA Grand Avenue on

select Saturdays from May 24-July 26. Originally launched in spring 2023 and presented by The Edward F. Limato Foundation, the artist

film series is inspired by film and video works in MOCA’s renowned collection. The upcoming 2025 season features works by Sharon Hayes, Harmony Holiday, Genesis P-Orridge and Billy Woodberry.

All MOCA Artist Film series screenings are free with reservations. Tickets for each screening are released on a rolling basis and become available up to 21 days in advance.

All screenings take place in the Ahmanson Auditorium at MOCA Grand Avenue.



photo courtesy of Grasshopper Film

“And When I Die, I Won’t Stay Dead” (2016) will screen on July 26.

Fine Arts Theatre spotlights Christopher Nolan films

The Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills will celebrate the films of award-winning director Christopher Nolan in two separate upcoming film series.

The “2025 Christopher Nolan 70mm Film Series” runs from May 18-Sept. 14. The “Christopher Nolan Non-70mm Film Series,” featuring some of his earlier works based on suggestions made by fans, will be held on Labor Day weekend, beginning on Friday, Aug. 29.

Launching on May 18 with 2010’s “Inception,” the “2025 Christopher Nolan 70mm Film Series” also includes 2014’s “Interstellar,” 2017’s “Dunkirk” (celebrating his first film shot almost entirely in large format), 2020’s “Tenet” and 2023’s “Oppenheimer.”

The “Christopher Nolan non-

70mm Film Series” will be held on Labor Day weekend and includes 2000’s “Memento” and “Insomnia” on Aug. 29. The “Batman” trilogy will be shown on Aug. 30 including 2005’s “Batman Begins,” 2008’s “The Dark Knight” and 2012’s “The Dark Knight Rises,” with the highly lauded, chillingly realistic portrayal of the Joker by the late Heath Ledger.

“The Fine Arts Theatre is all about preserving the grand tradition of motion picture exhibition for our patrons of the cinema, especially the 70mm patrons,” said Jerry A. Blackburn, director of public programming.

The Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills is located at 8556 Wilshire Blvd. For tickets and information, call (424)438-4013, or visit fineartstheatrebh.com.



photo by Edwin Folven

The Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills’ special screening series includes “Inception,” “Interstellar,” “Dunkirk,” “Oppenheimer,” and the “Batman” trilogy.

VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

Show mom your appreciation on Mother’s Day



Dorothy Nelson and her sons Robert, 12, and Leo, 2, were shown in the May 10, 1954, issue of the Park Labrea News in observance of Mother’s Day. The Nelson family lived on Fuller Avenue in Park La Brea at the time and were active in the community. Alfred Nelson met Dorothy, who was born in Australia, when he was manager of Pan American Airways. The couple lived in Sydney and San Francisco before moving to Los Angeles. Dorothy described L.A. as having a climate like Sydney and said it felt like home. This year, Mother’s Day is observed on Sunday, May 11. For Mother’s Day dining and celebrations, see pages 16-18.

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the West Hollywood City Council will hold a Public Hearing to consider the following item:

LOCATIONS:	Citywide, West Hollywood, California
REQUEST:	The City Council will hold a public hearing to consider a request for a proposed zone text amendment to require increased outreach and noticing for projects requesting development agreements.
PERMIT(S):	Zone Text Amendment, and any other required permits.
APPLICANT(S):	City of West Hollywood
TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:	Monday, May 19, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard West Hollywood, CA 90069
ZONES:	Citywide SSP (Sunset Specific Plan)
ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:	Categorically Exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Sections §15270(a) (Projects Which Are Disapproved) and if an alternative action of adopting the Ordinance, it is exempt under 15378(b)(5) (Project) and 15061(b)(3) (Review for Exemption).

Complete digital agenda packets will be available on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at 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 City Council, 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 Paige Portwood, Associate Planner at (323) 848-6401, or via email at: PPortwood@weho.gov

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

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

Adam Lambert performs as Judas in ‘Superstar’

The LA Phil has announced that Grammy-nominated entertainer Adam Lambert has been cast as “Judas” and will star opposite Cynthia Erivo as “Jesus” in a special production of “Jesus Christ Superstar” at the Hollywood Bowl Aug. 1-3.

An award-winning singer/songwriter, actor, producer, philanthropist and LGBTQ+ trailblazer, Lambert has previously been cast in iconic stage roles, most recently his critically acclaimed role of “Emcee” in the Tony Award-winning production of “Cabaret,” which marked his official Broadway debut, as well as the first National Tour and Los Angeles Company of “Wicked.”

“Jesus Christ Superstar” was originally performed at the Hollywood Bowl in 1971. In addition to lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, the production will be directed and choreographed by Tony Award-winner Sergio Trujillo, conducted and musically directed by Tony and Grammy-winner Stephen Oremus, with casting by The Telsey Office, and is produced in association with Neil Meron and Robert Greenblatt.

“For many Angelenos and concertgoers, the Hollywood Bowl is the premier summer destination for live music,” LA Phil President and CEO Kim Noltemy said. “Each season, the LA Phil presents world-class artists in a truly one-of-a-kind setting, and this year is no exception. We’re especially thrilled to welcome Adam Lambert to the cast of ‘Jesus Christ Superstar’ and look forward to sharing this bold, fresh interpretation of a legendary musical, returning to its rock roots, with our audiences.”

Tickets for the Hollywood Bowl 2025 summer season are available online at hollywoodbowl.com or via phone at (323)850-2000.



photo by Nicholas Wilson

Entertainer Adam Lambert will star in “Jesus Christ Superstar.”

The Music Center’s vinyl fair spins back around

The Music Center’s “On the Record: Vinyl Fair” is the ultimate destination for vinyl lovers. On Saturday, May 17, from 4-8 p.m., the eclectic outdoor hangout returns for a third year on Jerry Moss Plaza at The Music Center to dig into Angelenos’ discovery and love of vinyl records. Held in collaboration with The Music Center’s Partner Network Initiative, the fair will feature more than 16 vendors selling a variety of music genres, art-making and interactive activities, live DJs dropping beats, a mix CD swap and so much more – including a sound bath-meets-music lounge inside The Music Center’s Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Chill at the onsite bar, enjoy local fare and connect with fellow music lovers as well as vinyl enthusiasts and collectors.

Attendees are encouraged to take public transportation. The Civic Center/Grand Park station along the Metro B Line and Metro D Line is located in Gloria Molina Grand Park with a short walk to Jerry Moss Plaza at The Music Center. Additionally, the plaza is easily accessible by taking Metro’s Regional Connector to the Grand Ave Arts/Bunker Hill station along the Metro A Line and E Line. Metrolink’s \$10 Weekend Day Pass offers easy, free transfers to Metro. Plus, kids ride free on weekends. Learn more and plan a trip at metrolinktrains.com.

Jerry Moss Plaza is located at 135 N. Grand Ave.

For information, visit musiccenter.org/ontherecord.



photo courtesy of The Music Center

Visitors can explore extensive vinyl libraries at Jerry Moss Plaza on May 17.

Documentaries take home top prizes at Women’s Voices Now

The 11th annual Women’s Voices Now Film Festival, promoting emerging women filmmakers creating social-change films that advocate for girls’ and women’s rights around the world, awarding a total of \$13,000 in cash prizes to winning filmmakers, is in the books and the winning films have been selected by

the jury.

The top documentary feature winner is “Angels of Sinjar,” directed by Hanna Polak, which was awarded \$3,500. Among the other winners was “We Iranian Women,” “Standing With Moms,” “Bangla Surf Girls,” “Chalk Back,” “Urban Amazons,” “Making Waves” and

“More Than Milk.”

The Leslie J. Sacks Grand Prize Winner “Angeles of Sinjar” will be screened live at the Renberg Theater, located at 1125 N. McCadden Place, Sept. 21. Tickets will go on sale in August 2025.

For information, visit womensvoicesnow.org.



photo courtesy of Kids Mental Health Foundation

The Kids Mental Health Foundation promotes mental health for children in the U.S.

The Grove sponsors Kids Mental Health Day

The Kids Mental Health Foundation is the nation’s leading organization promoting mental health for children in the United States. The foundation will be holding its flagship event, Kids Mental Health Day, a free, all-day community-focused celebration at The Grove in Los Angeles on May 17.

The fun-filled, family-friendly event will be packed with activities and programs designed to boost children’s mental health and wellness – along with celebrity volunteers and special surprises. Parents and caregivers will receive free resources created by mental health experts that empower them to raise strong, confident kids ready to take on life’s challenges. Educational resources and activities will also be available with the community’s needs in mind as they continue to recover and rebuild following the tragic wildfires earlier this year.

The Kids Mental Health Foundation is the leading organization promoting mental health for children in the United States. To achieve its vision to build a world

where mental health is a vital part of every child’s upbringing, more than 1,000 mental health professionals and researchers at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, in partnership with other trusted experts, provide real-world knowledge and expertise to power the foundation’s free educational videos, guides and curriculum. Launched in 2018 as The On Our Sleeves Movement for Children’s Mental Health, the organization recently expanded its mission as The Kids Mental Health Foundation to reflect the belief that emotional and physical well-being should be treated the same.

To date, more than 24 million people have engaged with the foundation’s materials, empowering parents, caregivers, educators, coaches and employers as the guiding force for children’s mental health across the United States.

The event will be held at The Grove, located at 189 The Grove Drive, from 10 a.m.-10 p.m. For information, visit kidsmentalhealthfoundation.org/support-kmhf/events/kmhd-2025.



photo courtesy of LACMA

LACMA held its annual Collectors Committee fundraiser on April 26.

LACMA adds six acquisitions to its permanent collection

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art announced six new acquisitions for its permanent collection during the museum’s 39th Collectors Committee fundraiser on April 26, including works by Max Beckmann, Manuel de Arellano, Chiura Obata, Miné Okubo, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Tokio Ueyama and Virginia Vezzi (also known as Virginia da Vezzo), as well as a collection of 101 Indonesian textiles spanning five centuries.

Since 1986, Collectors Committee Weekend has been one of the museum’s most important fundraising events and continues to enable major acquisitions for every area of LACMA’s encyclopedic collection. This year, 62 members raised over \$2.5 million for art acquisitions.

The 2025 fundraiser was sponsored by Cartier. For information, visit lacma.org. LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd.

Experience family-friendly events all season long at NHM sites

The Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County have announced their slate of spring and summer programming for the Natural History Museum in Exposition Park and La Brea Tar Pits in Hancock Park. The mix of family-friendly and adult programming and events features a wide range of exhibitions, hands-on activities, talks and performances both in-person and online. In addition, NHMLAC community scientists will spearhead a number of research initiatives and expeditions open to the public that will highlight the museums’ ongoing impact and discoveries and allow Angelenos to get involved.

Among the events is “Fierce! The Story of Cats,” a new exhibition that will be on view starting July 13. For information, visit nhm.org/cats. A discussion entitled “Dire Wolves: Still Extinct?” will be held on May 13. Admission is free. For information, visit nhm.org/direwolvesstillexinct. “Ocean Encounters” will feature live performances with life-size sea creature puppets on Fridays and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Admission is \$10 per person. For information, visit nhm.org/oceanencounters.

At the La Brea Tar Pits, Mark



photo courtesy of NHMLAC

Events will be held throughout the spring and summer at the Natural History Museum in Exposition Park.

Dion’s installation “Excavations,” goes behind-the-scenes of the Ice Age, on view through Sept. 14. For an Excavator Tour, visit 1 p.m. every day, or 10:30 a.m. on weekends, while Ice Age Encounters is available Thursdays and Fridays at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. For information, visit tarpits.org/iceageencounters.

For a full list of summers happenings across all campuses, visit nhm.org. The Natural History Museum is located at 900 Exposition Blvd.

The La Brea Tar Pits and Museum is located at 5801 Wilshire Blvd.

Television Academy honorees announced

The Television Academy announced on May 1 the recipients of its 18th Television Academy Honors, recognizing six exceptional television programs and their producers who have leveraged the extraordinary power of television to advance social change.

The honorees include four non-scripted programs and two scripted series representing some of the most inspiring and meaningful television of 2024, including “Daughters,” “Genius: MLK/X,” “Independent Lens: Greener Pastures,” “Out of My Mind,” “We

Will Dance Again” and “Will & Harper.”

Each year, Television Academy Honors celebrates programs across numerous platforms and genres that raise awareness about complex issues facing society. This year’s honorees include compelling programs that address transgender identity, friendships and allyship; the legacy of the prison-industrial complex on Black communities; mental health issues in farming families and communities; social justice and racism; the Americans with Disabilities Act and “special

needs” students; and the Israel/Palestine conflict.

“Now more than ever, television serves as a powerful platform for information and discourse on important social issues that affect so many of us throughout the world,” Television Academy chair Cris Abrego said. “We honor this year’s winners for their dedication and commitment to creative and effective storytelling that both educates and motivates audiences around the globe.”

For information, visit television-academy.com.

Ruskin Group Theatre creates transformative new hub for arts and culture in Santa Monica

Ruskin Group Theatre is expanding its arts programing, which will soon include regular music events, spoken word, acting training and visual arts in addition to professional live theater at its nearly completed new venue at 2800 Airport Ave. in Santa Monica.

John Ruskin’s vision to establish a world-class theater in Santa Monica took flight in 2002 at 3000 Airport Ave. — once the Gunnell Maintenance airplane hangar at the Santa Monica Airport. With a determined group of actors, designers and producing partner Michael Myers, the building was transformed into a thriving cultural hub. For more than 23 years, the Ruskin Group Theatre was a cornerstone of the Westside’s performing arts scene.

By 2021, the theater’s future required a bold new step. Audiences and arts programming grew beyond the confines of the original space, which needed extensive repairs. They located a space at 2800 Airport Ave. — two doors away — once home to the Museum

“I remember being in awe of the height and the perfect bones of the space. I always thought, if we ever had the opportunity to build a bigger theater, this would be the place to do it.”

*Michael Myers
producing partner*

of Flying and a satellite campus for Santa Monica College. In the early 2000s, the college temporarily converted it into a performance space and renovated the main theater.

“It was in 2003 when we were getting ready to open our first show, and people kept wandering in, searching for the SMC temporary theater. They showed me a card, and I walked down to take a look. I remember being in awe of the height and the perfect bones of the space. I always thought, if we ever

had the opportunity to build a bigger theater, this would be the place to do it,” Myers said.

In 2023, the Ruskin Group Theatre entered into long-term lease negotiations with the city of Santa Monica and enlisted local architect Ralph Mercer to help guide the project. The new Ruskin Arts Center, scheduled to open later this year, is a state-of-the-art facility featuring two performance stages, two multipurpose rooms, an outdoor gathering and performance area and a dedicated meeting space.

To support the expansion, the Ruskin launched a major capital campaign, raising more than \$500,000 and securing naming rights for both stages. The Kaplan Family Stage, with a 99-seat capacity, will host top-tier revivals and new works. The Audre, a more intimate 65-seat venue, will be a space for smaller plays and live music.

For information on the Ruskin Group Theatre’s new performing arts center, sponsorship opportunities and upcoming productions, visit ruskingrouptheatre.com.



photo courtesy of Getty Images for Women’s Cancer Research Fund

Olivia Munn has been open about her cancer journey.

Munn receives Women’s Cancer Research Courage Award

Actress and activist Olivia Munn received the Courage Award at the Women’s Cancer Research Fund’s “An Unforgettable Evening” benefit at the Beverly Hilton on April 28. Munn was given the award for selflessly sharing her ongoing breast cancer journey and, in doing so, inspiring countless women to take their health into their own hands and get screened for breast cancer.

Describing her cancer diagnosis, Munn said, “Courage in those first days after my breast cancer diagnosis meant letting myself be afraid, being afraid and walking into the void regardless, step by step. The first step I had to take was to walk out of the office and call my husband ... As I struggled to say these words, John just said, ‘Come home.’”

Munn publicly shared her cancer journey in March 2024 and brought attention to the Tyrer-Cuzick Breast Cancer Risk Assessment test, which was developed by BCRF researcher Dr. Jack Cuzick, and looks at fami-

ly history in-depth.

“This one test led to my diagnosis of bilateral breast cancer, and it saved my life,” said Munn.

Munn then devoted the rest of her speech to her medical team.

“I’d like to especially and eternally thank some very special guests who are with us tonight: the team of doctors who saved my life,” she said, recognizing her oncologist, oncological surgeon, reconstructive surgeon, as well as the fertility doctor who helped with the birth of her daughter through surrogacy last September.

Munn has since undergone five surgeries, including a lymph node dissection, a double mastectomy and a hysterectomy.

“I don’t wish this journey on anyone; but if you have to face cancer, I pray you meet the kind of doctors that I did,” she said. “The nurses, the hospital administrators, everyone along the way here showed me kindness in those scary days.”

For information, visit wcrfure.org.

Ruskin Art Club welcomes author Mark D. Usher for book talk

The Ruskin Art Club is holding “Upcycling Antiquity in Ruskin’s ‘Unto This Last’” on Thursday, May 15, from 5-7 p.m., via Zoom.

The talk is drawn from author Mark D. Usher’s new book “Following Nature’s Lead: Ancient Ways of Living in a Dying World.” It highlights how Ruskin’s “upcycling” of the classical past informs his views on political economy in “Unto This Last.” His admiration for Xenophon’s “Oeconomicus” is well known. In the book, the author elucidates several other connections that have gone largely unobserved such as Ruskin’s debt to Aristotle’s critique of money in the “Politics,” Plato’s arguments about just distribution in the “Republic” and Hesiod’s notion of productive limits to wealth in “Works and Days.” The book also unpacks Ruskin’s allusion to a story about the Gracchi, champions of artisans and agriculturalists in Republican Rome, and his approval of Horace’s castigation of the pursuit of private luxury at the expense of the public good.

Usher is the Lyman-Roberts Professor of Classical Languages and Literature and a member of the Department of Geography and



photo courtesy of Ruskin Art Club

Author Mark D. Usher will discuss his new book “Following Nature’s Lead: Ancient Ways of Living in a Dying World.”

Geosciences, Environmental Program and Food Systems Graduate Program at the University of Vermont. The Ruskin Art Club, founded in 1888, embraces English art critic John Ruskin’s philosophies about the Arts and Crafts Movement and the rights of women.

For information, visit ruskinartclub.org.

A24's 'Warfare' favors accurate military combat over theatrics

■ The thrilling war film might be available for digital download, but a theatrical experience is the better option

Alex Garland is one of the more original filmmakers of the last decade. So, of course, his portrayal of a war film would stand out. But "Warfare" is more than another notch on his filmography. It's a hyperrealist depiction that only works with someone on the inside. It's 2006 during the Iraq War. The Battle of Ramadi is underway. The Marines require support from

Alpha One, a Navy SEAL platoon. The mission specifics are unclear. But Officer in Charge Erik (Will Poulter) runs the show, as the unit enters a building, posts up and observes the streets as support for a Marine operation. Soon enough, things go wrong, and Alpha One needs to evacuate. But their exit won't be clean or quick. Garland is an incredible filmmaker. The screenplay for "28 Days Later" and "Dredd," and writing and directing "Ex Machina," "Annihilation" and "Civil War," along with creating Hulu's "Devs." He's a special auteur whose work has singular purpose. In "Warfare," he tries a much more grounded

ON SCREEN WITH TIM POSADA

story and seeks out help to do so. Unlike other Garland films, he shares the directing credit with Ray Mendoza, a technical adviser on films like "Lone Survivor," "The Terminal List" and Garland's "Civil War." This time, the former SEAL tells his story in "Warfare." While the names of all but two characters are changed, communications officer Ray Mendoza (D'Pharaoh Woon-A-Tai from "Reservation Dogs") needs no anonymity. As for the other guy, let's keep that a secret for now. No spoilers needed. "Warfare" is a different kind of war film. Like "Black Hawk Down," it portrays a mission gone wrong, but it doesn't present all points of view or provide spectators with any emotional help through a music score. This one occurs in real time (or close to it), no strings or brass to break up the residual sound. Events unfold slowly at first. And even when shooting and explosions begin, the platoon's isolated position denies any possible satisfaction that would normally be permitted to filmgoers in such action sequences. Anxiety is king. Other films like "All Quiet on the Western Front" lay it on thick: War is hell, war is useless. "Warfare" doesn't have much to say about those things. Compare it to "The Hurt Locker." It's more interested in something closer to objective coverage. This is everyday life for soldiers. Let other films debate the merits of war or particular missions. If the mission in "Warfare" is sig-



photo courtesy of A24

"Warfare," a film by Alex Garland and Ray Mendoza, takes audience behind the lines in the Iraq War.



photo courtesy of A24

Navy SEAL group Alpha One faces a tough road ahead in "Warfare."

nificant to the war effort, that isn't addressed on screen. We have very little context and even less character development. We don't need it. Frankly, most films that try to cover both tend to dumb down the material and manipulate us with too much pathos. This is a more pure, sincere experience. Things go south – time to go. But the raw emotion and refusal to glamorize military service stand out. This is everything a Michael Bay film is not. No hardbodies, no visual tricks to romanticize weaponry, no single heroic figure taking on 30 foes at once. The human body is frail, so too is the mind. And when those bodies come close to an IED, the mind takes time

to catch up. The young men on screen try their best, but they aren't action figures. Special props to performances by Michael Gandolfini, Charles Melton, Joseph Quinn (soon to be the Human Torch), Cosmo Jarvis (FX's "Shogun") and the other actors who went through a three-week SEAL BUDS bootcamp to prepare. "Warfare" seems like the first real contender for awards like sound editing or cinematography. As expected from both Garland and A24, it's a memorable, modest story the gets to the point and concludes without room for melodramatics or the average actioner's spectacle.



OUTDOOR WARNING SYSTEM Audible Siren TEST Notification

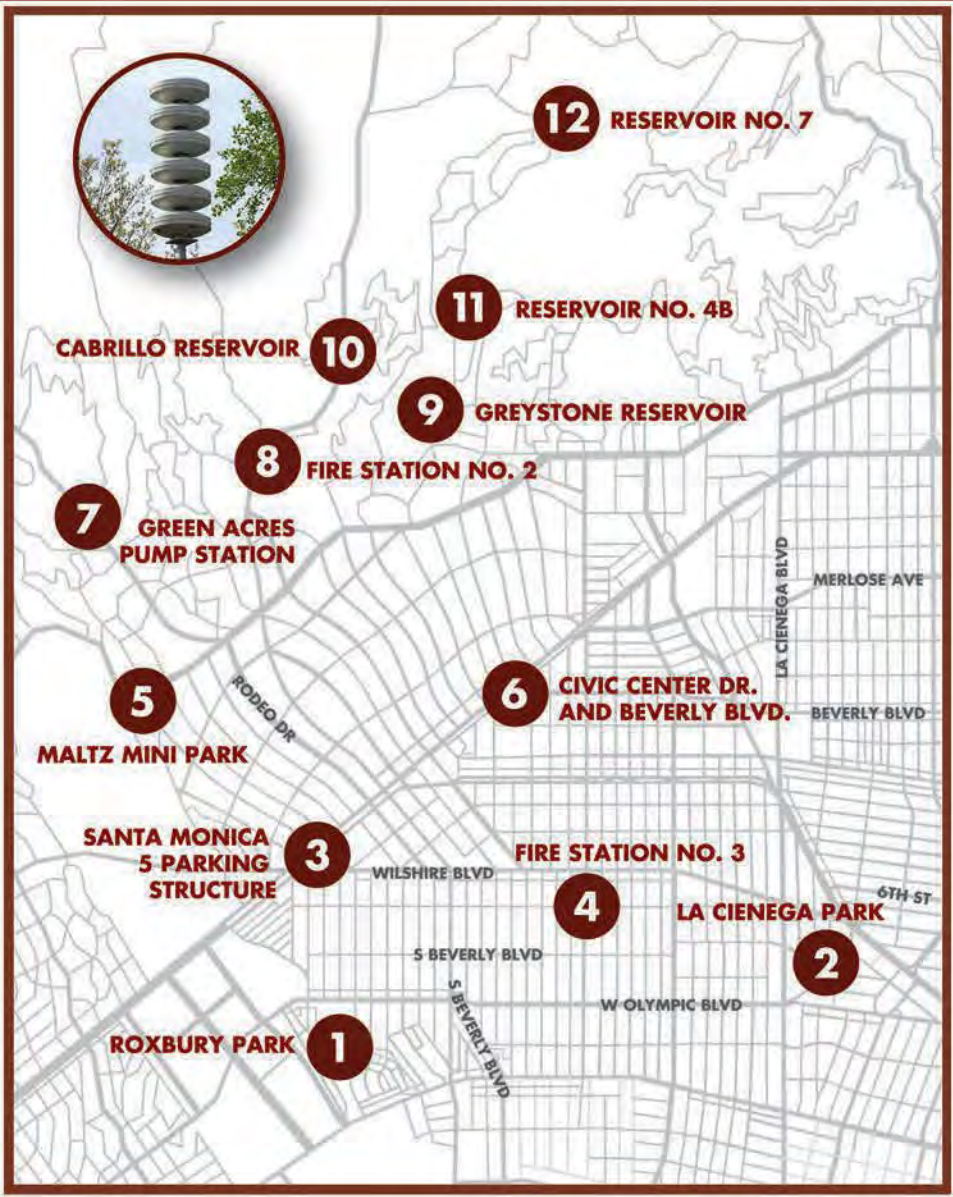
The City of Beverly Hills will be conducting quarterly testing of its Outdoor Warning System (OWS) as part of ongoing education with the goal of enhancing public safety.

All 12 sirens, which have been placed strategically around the City to ensure maximum sound coverage for outdoor emergency notifications, will be activated as part of this test. The announcement will contain a tone-voice-tone sequence.

NEXT UPCOMING AUDIBLE TESTING DATE:
(no action required of the community)
Wednesday, May 14TH at 1:00 p.m.
All 12 sirens will be tested throughout the City.

AUDIBLE TONES WILL BE HEARD INDICATING IT'S A TEST.

To learn more, visit [BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/OUTDOORWARNING](https://www.beverlyhills.org/outdoorwarning) or contact the askBH Hotline at (310) 285-1000.



New directors appointed to Mike Kelley Foundation

The Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts announced on April 24 the appointment of artist Ken Gonzales-Day, museum leader Lisa Mark and artist Cauleen Smith to its board of directors. They join Chair Edward Rada and members Elizabeth Armstrong, Connie Butler, Gianna Drake-Kerrison, Claire Peeps and Pilar Tompkins Rivas.

“The foundation is thrilled to welcome Ken, Lisa and Cauleen to the board,” Rada said. “They bring with them a profound commitment to the arts and arts education, as well as personal connections to the foundation and its mission of supporting critical thinking, risk taking and provocation in the arts. We are fortunate to have their expertise and experience as we look towards the future.”

Gonzales-Day’s interdisciplinary and conceptually grounded projects consider the history of photography, the construction of race and the limits of representational systems from lynching photography to museum displays. His work has been exhibited internationally and is in the permanent collections of the Getty, LACMA, MOCA, MoMA, The National Gallery of Art and the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery and American Art Museum.

Mark is the chief of public engagement, learning and impact, at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, where she is responsible for shaping the museum’s public-facing programs and initiatives, as well as publications,

research and archival projects.

Smith is an interdisciplinary artist whose work reflects upon the everyday possibilities of the imagination. Her work is currently on view at the Hammer in “Alice Coltrane, Monument Eternal” and her film was recently featured in the Museum of Modern Art’s Doc Fortnight 2025.

Founded in 2007 by artist Mike Kelley, the Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts supports artists and arts organizations committed to supporting compelling practices and programs – including experimental projects, lesser-known artists and daring content across a wide range of disciplines. Led by Executive Director Mary Clare Stevens, the organization has



photos by Ken Gonzales-Day, MB Maher and Joshua Franzos

Ken Gonzales-Day, Lisa Mark and Cauleen Smith have been named to the Mike Kelley Foundation’s board.

furthered Mike Kelley’s philanthropic work through the Artists Projects Grants, the Organizational Support Grants and the current Infinite Expanse Expansion Grants, all conceived to support the creation of vital and often difficult-to-produce work in the Los Angeles area. The foundation also preserves

Mike Kelley’s legacy more broadly and advances the understanding of his life and creative achievements through exhibitions, loans from its collections, and providing information and resources to curators, scholars, students and the public.

For information, visit mikekelleyfoundation.org.



photo by Jeffrey Fiterman

Snehal Desai has been named the artistic director of Center Theatre Group.

Brindell Roberts Gottlieb Estate awards CTG major donation

Center Theatre Group announced at its ONE LA Celebration on April 27 that the organization has been awarded a final gift from the Brindell Roberts Gottlieb Estate that creates the naming of the artistic head of the organization as the Brindell & Milton Gottlieb Artistic Director.

“Snehal Desai will hold the title as

the Brindell & Milton Gottlieb Artistic Director in recognition of the extraordinary resources and tremendous service that the Gottliebs provided to Center Theatre Group over the past quarter century,” Center Theatre Group Board President Amy R. Forbes said.

“Two years ago, I was honored to be named just the third Artistic

Director in Center Theatre Group’s storied history,” Desai said. “And now, I am grateful to be the first artistic leader to be called the Brindell & Milton Gottlieb Artistic Director. The Gottliebs and I both strongly believed in the transcendental power of the arts, and I could not be prouder to represent this belief and carry on their legacy here at CTG.”

Roberts Gottlieb joined the Center Theatre Group Board of Directors in 1999. She became an Emeritus member in 2021. Together, Brindell and Milton

chaired the CTG Act Two Campaign, contributing five million dollars for the renovation of the Mark Taper Forum completed just after its 40th year in 2008. Brindell passed away in the fall of 2024, predeceased by Milton in 2006.

Altogether, Brindell and Milton provided over twenty-five years of support, and contributed well over \$10 million to Center Theatre Group, one of the largest and most meaningful commitments in the history of the organization. For information, visit centertheatre-group.org.

L.A. Jewish Health leader recognized for work on behalf of seniors

Los Angeles Jewish Health CEO and president Dale Surowitz was recognized with the Valley Economic Alliance’s Humanitarian Award on April 17 at the 30th anniversary Valley of the Stars Awards Gala.

The event, which took place at the Hilton Los Angeles in Universal City, celebrated Surowitz’s work on behalf of some of the most vulnerable members of the community. Surowitz acknowledged the role his LAJH coworkers have played in his success.

“This Humanitarian Award is not just a personal award – it belongs to the entire LAJH family,” he said. “It reflects the unwavering dedication of our staff and volunteers, who bring our mission of compassionate care to life every day.”

Surowitz joined LAJH in 2020, bringing more than three decades of experience leading hospitals and health care organizations. His career has been driven by a focus

on improving quality of life for a broad range of residents.

“I believe we have an ethical and social responsibility to take care of those who don’t have the ability to care for themselves,” Surowitz said. “At Los Angeles Jewish Health, we work together to uplift our community’s seniors and treat them with the respect and dignity they deserve.”

Valley Economic Alliance CEO and president Sonya Blake said Surowitz has had a profound impact.

“We are proud to present the Humanitarian Award to Dale,” Blake said. “His unwavering commitment to leading an organization that provides exceptional care and support to our seniors is truly inspiring and strengthens the fabric of our community.”

The Humanitarian Award is among a long list of honors Surowitz has received throughout his career including the Fernando Award, the Community Leadership

Award from MAPS Charities and the Heart of Gold Award from the Child Development Institute. He is also a member of Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass’ Valley Advisory Board.

Surowitz oversees LAJH, the largest nonprofit, single-source provider of comprehensive senior health care in the greater Los Angeles area. From independent and assisted living to short-term rehabilitation, skilled nursing and a leading PACE adult day health care program, LAJH serves more than 4,000 seniors each year.

For information, visit lajhealth.org.



photo courtesy of Los Angeles Jewish Health

Los Angeles Jewish Health CEO and President Dale Surowitz, center, received the Humanitarian Award.

Explore Buddhist art at LACMA



photo courtesy of LACMA

Ancient artwork from across Asia will soon be on view at LACMA.

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art will present “Realms of the Dharma: Buddhist Art Across Asia” beginning May 11. International in scope, the exhibition examines key concepts of Buddhist thought and practice through sculptures, paintings, textiles and ritual objects. Incorporating 180 works of pan-Asian Buddhist art, “Realms of the Dharma” begins with the religion’s origins in India in the fifth century B.C.E. and follows its spread through Southeast Asia, the Himalayas and East Asia.

This exhibition will be on view through July 12, 2026.

For information, visit lacma.org/press/realms-dharma-buddhist-art-across-asia. LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd.

10 Reasons Why I Don’t Want An Estate Plan

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

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

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State asks for federal film tax credit plan

From page 1

film powerhouse, and California is all in to bring more production here,” Newsom said. “Building on our successful state program, we’re eager to partner with the Trump administration to further strengthen domestic production and Make America Film Again.”

According to Newsom’s office, the program – which currently offers \$330 million in annual credits – has been “a home run success,” and that for every tax credit dollar approved, \$1.07 in tax revenue is earned. The governor’s office also said that \$24.10 in output, \$16.14 in gross domestic product and \$8.60 in wages results from each tax credit dollar.

Currently, the California Legislature is considering the Film & TV Jobs Act, which would increase the tax credit amount to \$750 million. Other states, like Georgia and Louisiana, also have lucrative tax incentives, which has negatively impacted production in Los Angeles. Last week, the L.A. City Council unanimously approved a motion that would look to reduce permitting costs for productions. The council will also vote May 9 on supporting the Film & TV Jobs Act.

Since the January wildfires, the grassroots organization Stay in LA has advocated for studios to return production to California to help bolster the local economy, hire unem-

ployed workers and to cement the area’s foothold on the film and television industry.

“We’re finally on the radar – as one team, one country,” Stay in LA co-founder Pamala Buzick Kim said. “Now let’s make sure we’ve got our commercial and post family covered and roll out our red carpet.”

“We know that a national film tax credit will level the field with other countries that are luring productions away from Los Angeles and the United States.”

-U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman

“A federal film incentive is long overdue. It is smart industrial policy,” said Adam Fowler, a representative of the consulting firm CVL Economics. “Film and television are rare U.S. industries that combine high-skilled jobs, global exports, and cultural influence. While other countries treat screen production as a strategic export and support it with national policy, the United States has left the responsibility to states with limited tools and

balanced-budget constraints. A federal incentive puts us back in the global game and on a level playing field.”

Upon taking office in January, Trump named actors Jon Voight, Mel Gibson and Sylvester Stallone as leaders in helping return film and television production to the United States. The tariff idea reportedly resulted from a meeting between Trump and Voight.

Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) has been an advocate for a federal film and television tax credit, and she said she is ready to discuss the issue with the president and Voight.

“I’m happy to work with him and anyone else, including the administration, on real solutions that are tested,” she said. “And that makes sense, because we know that a national film tax credit will level the field with other countries that are luring productions away from Los Angeles and the United States.”

Friedman also said that she would explain to her Congressional colleagues that the industry is “money well spent.”

“I would point out that we have 2.3 million jobs in this industry nationwide, and that the industry accounts for almost \$230 billion in total wages – and that’s direct wages. There are more than 122,000 businesses across the U.S. that have a connection with the film



photo by Rance Collins

High production costs have kept some L.A. studios such as Paramount relatively quiet.

and television industry,” she said. “For the past 100 years – more than 100 years ... we have captured the hearts and minds of so many people around the world, being able to show them what it’s like to be an American – what our values are, what our country is about, and you can’t put a dollar figure on that.”

California Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood) and Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica), both authors of the Film & TV Jobs Act, applauded Newsom’s proposal.

“A federal incentive program would certainly go a long way in retaining domestic production and keep our creative workforce here in the United States,” Allen said. “Many other countries are doing

this, so it would be beneficial for us to compete with these programs. Importantly, tax incentives would help avoid any potential reciprocal tariffs placed on our production exports that could affect our standing in the global marketplace.”

Zbur said, though, the state should remain focused on its own legislation.

“In the meantime, however, California’s film and TV industry faces Depression-era levels of unemployment and business loss,” Zbur said. “That’s why we must keep our eye on the ball and pass the California Film & TV Jobs Act – to modernize and strengthen the program and ensure California remains competitive with other states and countries.”

Saks project hearing continued in Beverly Hills

From page 1

rehabilitation of the 9600 Wilshire Blvd. building will transform it into a 42-room boutique hotel with a private social club and spa open to the public. Immediately to its west, a new residential building will contain one level of ground-floor retail and six levels of apartments.

At the south end of the project, plans include two new apartment buildings on sites currently occupied by parking lots. The “Residential West” building between Bedford and Peck drives will contain 28 apartments and over 7,500 square feet of “small neighborhood shops.” A similar building, “Residential East” between Peck and Camden drives, will also contain 28 apartments and over 7,500 square feet of retail.

The apartment buildings to the south are separated from the retail, office and hotel buildings on Wilshire Boulevard by a pedestrian and car-accessible “via” between Bedford and Peck drives and a

pedestrian-only terrace between Peck and Camden drives.

The project will also include an underground parking structure located beneath the east and west residential buildings, with 744 parking spaces.

According to Adams, developers made several changes to the project after conducting community outreach, which included more than 250 meetings with neighbors. Adams said anticipated traffic was reduced by 9%, with an 18% increase in public open space.

The office space was reduced by 65%, and eight residential units were added. The new project will be 60% residential, as opposed to the original 45.4% residential. Additionally, developers added four valet stations, creating four times the original onsite queueing capacity.

While developers have adjusted the uses of the space, the total scope of the project remains approximately 494,000 square feet.

Existing commercial space makes up approximately 145,000 square feet of the project, Adams said.

The project has received mixed feedback from the community. At the meeting on May 1, many attendees in favor and opposed spoke about the project. Approximately 40 people spoke in public comments at the meeting, with additional written comments read aloud.

Proponents supported the project for revitalizing a “sleepy” section of Wilshire Boulevard, promoting economic growth and boosting public safety through increased foot traffic.

“This project is an incredible opportunity to bring new life and energy into our neighborhood,” said Julie Auerbach, a resident of South Bedford Drive. “By combining condominiums, a hotel, vibrant retail shops, streetscapes, pedestrian and greenspaces, it creates an epicenter of community where people can live, work and gather ...

It brings more economic growth and a stronger sense of community, transforming our neighborhood into a thriving, inclusive destination we can all be proud of.”

The project is supported by the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce and Unite Here Local 11, a labor union representing hospitality workers.

Critics of the project said it is too large, and will have adverse effects on traffic in the surrounding neighborhood. Residents expressed many concerns over the construction impacts of the project. Construction is currently expected to last approximately 50 months.

“Please consider our residential area and the lasting impacts this project will have on our residential quality of life,” said Ken Goldman, president of the Southwest Beverly Hills Homeowners Association. “If approved, it must include definitive conditions to mitigate the traffic and other impacts.”

Some residents said the developers have not done enough to address the concerns of neighbors, even after holding meetings with residents.

In addition to the Southwest

Beverly Hills Homeowners Association, the project is opposed by Creed LA – the Coalition for Responsible Equitable Economic Development – and local labor unions, including ironworkers, sheet metal workers and plumbers. Union representatives said the developers have not expressed a commitment in hiring skilled workers from the community.

Following extensive public comment, planning commissioners examined many aspects of the project. After the meeting went on for several hours – past 1 a.m. – Commission Chair Terri Kaplan suggested continuing the meeting to a future date.

“The project and the community are better served, in my opinion, if we do this deliberation portion of this with fresh, well-rested minds,” Kaplan said.

Commissioners encouraged the developers to continue working with community members on traffic mitigation measures before returning on June 10.

A spokesperson for the project said Saks Fifth Avenue did not have an additional comment following the meeting.



rendering courtesy of HBC/Streetworks Development

The historic rehabilitation of the 9600 Wilshire Blvd. building will transform it into a 42-room boutique hotel with a private social club and spa open to the public.



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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

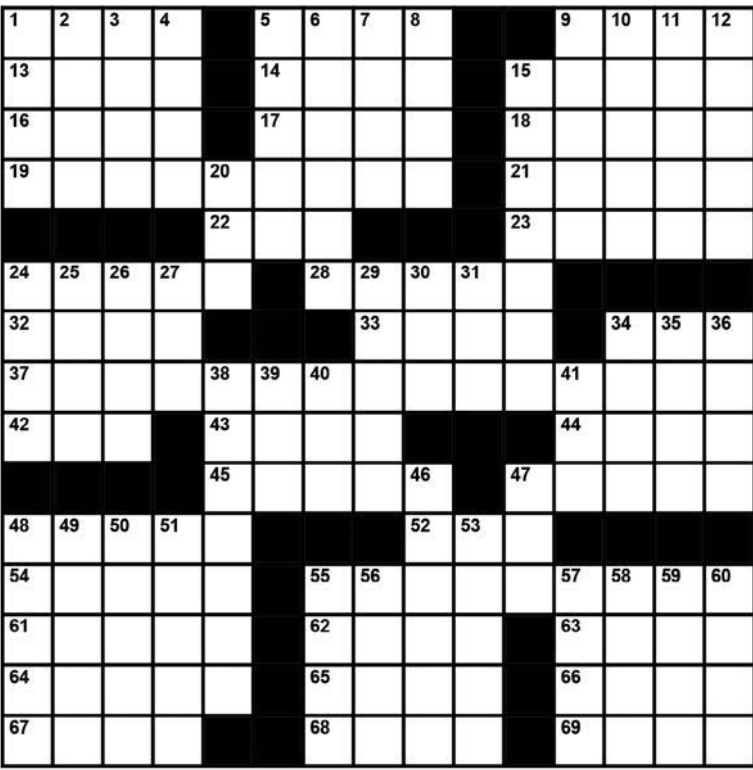
Across

- Job for a dermatologist
- Gulf off Somalia
- Wilander of tennis fame
- Cheers
- Lost fish
- Railroad flare
- Peruvian city
- Sacred bird in ancient Egypt
- Coastal opening
- Kid's story
- Writer of 37 across
- Boat equipment
- Hardly refined
- Poe's bird
- Type of trapshoot
- Sugary drinks
- Cutting part
- Power measurement
- Kids' story
- Charlie Chaplin's brother
- Well-ventilated
- Mysterious character
- Countrified
- Whopper topper
- Butch Cassidy, e.g.
- Order of corn
- Character in 37 across
- What 37 across followed
- De ____
- Shoot again, perhaps
- Between
- Doff headgear
- Flock's response
- Michelle Wie's org.

- Deposits
- Hunger for
- Words to an "old chap"

Down

- Scary creature in a children's story
- "Inter" follower
- Sequential scale notes
- Alexander, for one
- "America" singer in "West Side Story"
- Prohibits
- Painter Nolde
- Face feature
- Canadian storyteller Alice
- Moving
- Standing
- Unsavory
- Boxer
- Hither and ____
- Fan sounds
- "An apple ____"
- Peddle
- Relative of -trix
- Safari country
- Roush of baseball fame
- Chocolate in oval shape
- Needle holder
- Gambling city
- Canyon in Utah
- Stone's throw away
- Watson portrayer on "Elementary"
- Flightboard abbr.



- West ender?
- Netherlands city
- Unrefined rock
- More than bad
- Tropical vine
- Needing to scratch
- Be temporarily
- Make reparations
- Tortilla's cousin
- Chrysler engine
- Neighbor of Java
- Mischievous children
- Baltic capital

answers on page 26

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