



Volume 34 No. 25

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

INSIDE

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June 20, 2024

Beverly Hills adopts \$651 million budget

■ 2024-25 appropriations pass in a 4-1 vote

BY Tabor Brewster

The Beverly Hills City Council signed a resolution on June 18 that formally adopts the fiscal year 2024-25 budget for the city. The updated budget is approximately \$651 million – a \$25 million

increase from the prior fiscal year – which leaves a \$4 million surplus in city revenue.

“One of the most important takeaways from this is the fact that 52% of our budget is for police and fire,” Mayor Lester Friedman said. “And

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The Beverly Hills City Council passed the fiscal year 2024-25 budget in a 4-1 vote on June 18.

photo by Tabor Brewster

Scooter citations on the rise in WeHo

■ Community raises concerns about pedestrian safety

BY RANCE COLLINS

Electric scooters have been controversial with West Hollywood residents since the city implemented its dockless mobility program in July 2021. In December, a pedestri-

an was struck and seriously injured by a speeding e-scooter in front of MedMen’s Santa Monica Boulevard location. Provisions have been set forth by the City Council in attempts to promote scooter safety, including a 10-mph speed limit and guidelines for cleanup from mobility contracting companies like Lime.

Since then, only two e-scooter or e-bike accidents have been reported



Beverly Press/Park LaBrea News file photo

Aspects of the electric scooter program in West Hollywood have been controversial, including the use of companies like Bird, which declared bankruptcy in December.

LAUSD bans student cell phone use

■ Nick Melvoin leads effort to keep students engaged

BY RANCE COLLINS

Cell phones will no longer be used by students during the school day within the Los Angeles Unified School District. On June 18, LAUSD approved a motion from board member Nick Melvoin to ban student cell phone use across the entire district starting in January.

“The data is compelling that academic results improve for kids, that mental health improves, their physical health improves when they’re moving around more,” Melvoin said. “There’s research now that shows even a vibration on a text message, even if you don’t look at your phone, [it can] take minutes to refocus.”

Over the next several months, the district will craft a comprehensive implementation policy that will take effect in time for the spring 2025 semester.

“I want to give the superintendent and school some discretion within a menu of enforcement,”



photo courtesy of Nick Melvoin

Los Angeles Unified School District board member Nick Melvoin authored the motion that will ban student cell phone use in schools.

Melvoin said.

According to the school board, studies have shown that smartphones impact students’ ability to learn, erode their mental health and inhibit interpersonal social skills.

“Cell phone use in schools has gotten out of control,” board pres-

ident Jackie Goldberg said. “It’s gotten to the point that students don’t talk face to face, but instead text one another when they’re sitting right next to each other.”

“When I visit campuses during lunchtime, my heart breaks to see students sitting alone, isolated on

See Board page 21



photo by Edwin Folven

The Fairfax High School seniors celebrated on June 13 after graduating from the career development program at Cedars-Sinai.

Fairfax students graduate from Cedars-Sinai program

■ Course offers mentorship and career development

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Thirteen Fairfax High School seniors threw their caps in the air on June 13 after graduating from

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center’s Youth Employment and Development program, a two-year initiative that prepares them for careers in the medical field.

During their time in the YED program, students learn from doctors, nurses and professionals in other departments at the hospital.

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photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Just in Case BH includes a variety of programs to ensure people are ready for an emergency.

Beverly Hills fair prepares residents for emergencies

■ Family-friendly event planned at Greystone Mansion and Gardens

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

During a disaster or major emergency like an earthquake or wildfire, first responders will likely be overwhelmed addressing multiple urgent situations and may not be able to get to everyone in a timely manner. As a result, Los Angeles-area residents should undergo training and prepare themselves.

In Beverly Hills, the city is getting residents ready for major emergencies at an emergency preparedness fair on Sunday, June 23, from 3-6 p.m. at Greystone Mansion and

Gardens. The family-oriented event will feature booths with information on services by the Beverly Hills Police Department and Beverly Hills Fire Department, as well as the city's departments of Emergency Management, Public Works and Human Services. The event is part of the Just in Case Beverly Hills program, which empowers residents and trains them to be prepared during emergencies.

"There will be a variety of booths specific to their different areas of expertise. The Beverly Hills Police Department and the Beverly Hills Fire Department will be there, Beverly Hills CPR, Stop the Bleed and the Community Emergency Response Team," BHFD assistant fire chief Trevor Richmond said. "There will also be a variety of events for kids and families. We will have a fire engine there and an emergency vehicle display."

Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman said it marks the first time the city is holding a large comprehensive emergency preparedness fair and the first time such an event is being held at Greystone Mansion.

"In the setting that we're going to have, it's going to be a family fun event that is educational, and I think that's really the most important aspect of an event like that. You want to get everybody involved so that they are given education in an environment that is inviting for them," Friedman said. "There's going to be information booths from the different agencies, you're going to have fire, you're going to have police, you're going to have our canine units, public works is going to be there with tips, so it's really an all-in-one ability to learn about emergency preparedness."

Attendees will receive the Just in Case BH manual with information on emergency response and procedures to be ready before, during and after an emergency or natural disaster.

"People should be prepared," Richmond added. "When the community is prepared, it puts less stress on the fire department."

Parking will be available onsite at Greystone Mansion, 905 Loma Vista Drive. For information, visit beverlyhills.org/438/Just-in-Case-BH.



The fair includes a fire truck and emergency vehicle display.

Native plays

Join the Autry Museum of the American West for an online screening of "Rez Replay/Embers: Young Native Playwright's Festival" from Thursday, June 20, through Tuesday, June 25. The filmed performance from this year's festival will be available to view online. Support the nine Young Native Playwrights and watch their words come to life during staged readings. Viewing is free by visiting theatry.org.

Ruskin Art Club

The Ruskin Art Club is holding "Notes Toward a Sufficient Life," a virtual lecture on Thursday, June 20, from 5-6:30 p.m., via Zoom. Ruskin Art Club executive director Gabriel Meyer will reflect on the practical applications of philosopher and art historian John Ruskin's (1819-1900) ideas in relation to lifestyle choices in the 21st century. At the heart of the discussion is Ruskin's concept of "the sufficient life" stressing artful simplicity, mastery of life crafts, use of imagination and ethically responsible consumption. Admission is free but reservations are required.

us02web.zoom.us/j/3563370764?pwd=aVZXTHUySXFMy9PcHhZK0VDRzJQdz09&omn=88091342777#success

Beverly Hills chamber

Join the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce for its June Networking Breakfast on Friday, June 21, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at Fogo de Chão. Expand opportunities, build lasting relationships, access opportunities and learn about opportunities with the chamber. Admission is \$30 for chamber members, \$55 for nonmembers. 133 N. La Cienega Blvd. members.beverlyhillschamber.com.

Virginia Robinson Gardens

The Virginia Robinson Gardens is holding a "Happiness Class" on Friday, June 21, from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., followed by "Happiness II: Gratitude, Mindfulness & Curiosity" on Thursday, June 27, from 10-11:30 a.m. Join an interactive wellness program with activities in the garden. The mental health workshop explores the idea of happiness using the teachings of Harvard professor Dr. Tal Ben-Shahar. Class leader Karen Sisman will speak about mental well-being to deal with the stresses of daily life. During the second course on June 27, Sisman will explore the importance of mindfulness and lead participants on a meditative walk through the garden. The cost is \$35 per session. 1008 Elden Way. robinsongardens.org.

LACMA art workshop

Join the Los Angeles County Museum of Art for "Pop Up Art Workshop: California Cruising" on Friday, June 21, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. The exhibition-based workshop encourages creative inspiration and coincides with "Vincent Valdez and Ry Cooder: El Chávez Ravine," which explores a tragic moment in history and initiates conversations about discrimination and displacement. Participants will reflect on cultural symbols and historical events that hold significance to them and use a 1964 Chevrolet Impala template to create a piece of art. No prior art-making experience is necessary and all ages are welcome. The workshop repeats on Friday, June 28, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. lacma.org.

CALENDAR

Theatricum Botanicum

Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum has transformed its outdoor amphitheater into the imaginary isle of Neverland for a magical production

of "Wendy's Peter Pan" from Friday, June 21, through Friday, Oct. 4.

Theatricum artistic director Ellen Geer directs a "retelling" of the 1904 play by J.M. Barrie. All the familiar characters are present as now grown-up Wendy (Willow Geer) recounts her marvelous childhood adventure to her own children. Showtimes are at 7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, with select shows at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays, July 26, Aug. 9 and Oct. 4. Adult tickets start at \$32. 1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd. theatricum.com.



Queer Urbanism in WeHo

APA Los Angeles presents "Queer Urbanism in the City of West Hollywood" on Sunday, June 23, from noon-1 p.m. at the West Hollywood Aquatics and Recreation Center. The event features a panel discussion on queer urbanism in West Hollywood, city services and the annual pride weekend. The panel includes Mayor John Erickson; Vice Mayor Chelsea Byers; James Casteleda, of APA CA; Katherine Perez, of USC; and Jared Sampson, of JILA. 8300 Santa Monica Blvd. bit.ly/QueerUrbanisminWeHo.



Henry Mancini tribute

Celebrate Henry Mancini's (1924-1994) centennial during a special tribute on Monday, June 24, at 7:30 p.m. Join his daughter Monica Mancini and members of the Mancini family as well as Dave Koz, Gregg Field and surprise guest artists for a discussion on his legendary career. Mancini composed iconic themes including "Pink Panther," "Moon River," "Days of Wine and Roses" and "Music from Peter Gunn," the first Grammy Album of the Year. The event also includes a musical performance by Koz, Field and Monica Mancini. Tickets are \$30. 800 W. Olympic Blvd. grammy-museum.org.

Wabi Sabi

Open-Door Playhouse presents the short play "Wabi Sabi" in podcast form starting on Tuesday, June 25. During Pride Month, Open-Door Playhouse is focusing on plays with stories highlighting the LGBT+ community. In "Wabi Sabi," friends from the past reconnect in high school in a bittersweet library conversation. It explores what it means to accept ourselves and each other. Listening is free by visiting opendoorplayhouse.org.

THE MUSIC MINUTE
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Engelbert's music has transcended time and his voice continues to reach out to people now - serving to transport and inspire, to embrace and to provoke feelings and emotions...ingredients that are no doubt the essence of his long-lasting success.

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The festival this year will have significant improvements, with an increased budget and new location in Beverly Gardens Park.

Beverly Hills celebrates world cultures at expanded festival

■ Council approves move to Beverly Gardens Park

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Beverly Hills is home to residents from around the world, with over a third of its population born outside of the U.S., according to 2022 U.S. Census data. In July, the second annual Festival Beverly Hills will celebrate world cultures, with a significantly increased budget and new location in Beverly Gardens Park.

"We have this vision of music and dance, and celebrating all the aspects of cultures within and around surrounding neighborhoods ... Because we come together through the arts," said Karla Gordy Bristol, vice chair of the city's Arts and Culture Commission. "Most arts and culture festivals happen in big cities. We are one of the biggest as far as [being] known all over the world. Something celebrating arts and culture in a big way has been something we've been missing."

Gordy Bristol gave an
See Festival page 22

New captain puts more officers on the streets

■ Wilshire Division leader emphasizes proactive policing

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Since Capt. Jeff Hollis took command of the Los Angeles Police Department's Wilshire Division in mid-May, he has spent time getting to know the community and its concerns. Hollis has been proactively working to reduce crime, and has deployed officers on what he termed "missions" where they are out on the streets addressing crime before and as it happens.

"I can honestly say that Wilshire Division, and everybody in Wilshire Division, is very mission focused. We take crime very seriously and we are doing everything we can think of to battle the crime trends in the division," Hollis said. "We're not an administrative division where we have a whole bunch of people hanging around the station. We keep that to a minimum and we have everybody in the field. That's where they belong, and that's where they're going to stay."

Hollis said while violent crime such as homicides and assaults are significantly down in the division, property crimes including robberies, burglaries and thefts are a major concern and are being addressed with additional resources. To combat robberies and burglaries, Hollis has placed specialized marked units that do not respond to regular calls for service



Capt. Jeff Hollis leads the Wilshire Division, along with Capt. Julie Rodriguez, who is in charge of patrol operations.

and undercover units in the community to catch people in the act of committing crimes. Among the top problems are residential break-ins committed by burglary crews, some who come to Los Angeles specifically to commit crimes and others from within the city. The burglars park in neighborhoods, wait in cars and watch as people come and go from houses. When they see residences unoccupied, the burglars strike.

"They are very professional. They go straight to the bedroom closet or the underwear drawer and

empty those out for valuables. If there's a safe in there, they will drag the safe out. They go out the front door to a waiting car," Hollis said. "On top of that, they wear either a face mask or a hoodie so only their eyes are visible. They are gloved, so there's no DNA or prints. And a lot of them will actually carry a Wi-Fi scrambler which will interfere with a home alarm. Because of the elaborate steps that they take to conceal their identity, they are very hard to track."

Hollis said he has deployed spe-

See Police captain page 22

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Jury awards sexual assault victim \$900 million in damages

■ Beverly Hills attorney Gary Dordick represents victim in civil case

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A jury in Los Angeles awarded a victim \$900 million damages on June 17 in a civil trial alleging sexual harassment, assault and rape brought by a woman who formerly worked for businessman Alkiviades David, also known as David Alki.

A July found David liable in the case, which alleged that the sexual assaults occurred while the victim worked as a production manager for David's companies from February 2016 to April 2019. David, a billionaire, is a partial heir to the Coca-Cola fortune. His family owns Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Company, based in Europe, which is the third largest Coca-Cola bottling and distribution company in the world.

David also formerly operated FilmOn TV, which previously had an office on Cañon Drive in Beverly Hills, Hologram USA, Inc., which once operated a theater showing celebrity holograms at 6656 Hollywood Blvd., and SwissX Labs, a cannabis business. David is reportedly currently living in Antigua and he did not appear at the trial.

The plaintiff, who was not named, was represented by Beverly Hills Attorney Gary A. Dordick. He said she was in her late 20s and early 30s at the time of the sexual assaults at David's offices in Beverly Hills and Hollywood.

"The verdict is the first step towards my client obtaining jus-

tice," Dordick said. "But we know we still have a long road ahead of us and I am fully prepared to chase him as long as necessary to make sure my client is fairly compensated."

David was never charged criminally in the case. Dordick said his client did not report the alleged crimes to law enforcement out of fear and humiliation. David has been accused of similar misconduct by six other women who also filed civil lawsuits against him. Different juries previously awarded victims a total of \$80 million in compensation from David, including \$50 million in a single civil case. David was not criminally prosecuted in those cases.

"There was either insufficient evidence to prosecute or in my client's case, she did not go to the police," Dordick added. "She, as is very common in these cases, tried to pretend it didn't happen. They try to convince themselves that it didn't happen. Unfortunately, my client suffered severe psychological damage from it. The diagnosis from the doctors was PTSD and a major depressive disorder."

Dordick said David maintained a workplace environment at his companies in which women were sexually harassed and assaulted. He said some incidents against his client occurred at an office in Hollywood while David was on trial in a similar civil case in 2019.

David was initially represented in the case by the law offices of Glaser



photo courtesy of the Dordick Law Corporation
Gary A. Dordick

Weil Fink Howard Jordan and Shapiro, which withdrew prior to the trial. David was represented at trial by the Sofos Law Firm of Athens, Greece, which Dordick said represents David's family in business proceedings. Dordick added that the Sofos Law Firm attempted to reach a settlement prior to trial but terms were not reached. He did not disclose the amount of the proposed settlement. Inquiries to the Sofos Law Firm were not returned.

Dordick said the \$900 million jury award is among the largest ever by a Los Angeles Superior Court jury in a case alleging sexual assault. Dordick added that it sends a message.

"He is a serial rapist, a serial sexual offender. And as I told the jury, the last punitive damages the jury awarded against him were \$50 million and it didn't affect him at all. It didn't deter his conduct," Dordick said. "Punitive damages are intended to punish and deter. I asked the jury for \$1 billion in punitive damages and they awarded \$800 million in punitive damages and \$100 million in compensatory damages. I think most people would agree ... \$800 million is in order to punish him and try to prevent him from doing this to other women."

BHPD Officer Guzman wins motorcycle competition

The Beverly Hills Police Department announced that Motor Officer Michael Guzman achieved impressive results at the High Sierra Motorcycle Competition held in Reno, Nev., from June 6-8. The competition, which drew 36 of the finest police riders from Nevada, California and Canada, showcased Guzman's exceptional riding skills and dedication.

Competing in the highly competitive BMW metric division A-class, Guzman secured an outstanding third place, demonstrating his abilities and commitment to excellence. Additionally, in a remarkable display of teamwork

and precision, Guzman, alongside San Joaquin Sheriff's Deputy Cody Grant, clinched first place in the two-man tethered ride.

California motor officers swept the BMW metric division A-class, claiming the top three positions. Guzman was notably the only motor officer representing Southern California, making his achievements even more commendable.

The Beverly Hills Police Department congratulates Guzman on his remarkable success and looks forward to his continued contributions to the department and the community.



photo courtesy of BHPD
Officer Michael Guzman was awarded third place in the BMW metric division A-class competition and first place in the two-man tethered ride.



LES IS MORE

an hour with the mayor

Come be part of an insightful conversation with Mayor Friedman and Beverly Hills Fire Chief Greg Barton.

This special event will include highlights from the Fire Department including the unhoused and nurse practitioner program as well as how the community can continue to stay safe and diligent when it comes to protecting themselves, loved ones and their property.

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'The new era is now' at The Wallis

BY Tabor Brewster

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts recently announced its upcoming 2024-25 season of programming, including world-renowned performances in music, dance and theater. The community arts center – located in the heart of Beverly Hills – has become a destination for live entertainment in Southern California since its inception in 2013. The Wallis held a preview event for its 2024-25 season on Wednesday, June 12, at the home of philanthropists and Wallis board members May and Richard Ziman.



The event featured a special performance by classical singer Abi Levis and conductor Scott Dunn.

Wallis donors, community partners and leaders gathered to celebrate the upcoming year of artistic performances in Beverly Hills.

The new season is being hailed as a "new era" for The Wallis, and will be spearheaded by new leadership. The performing arts center announced in May a new chair for the organization's board of directors. Daphna Nazarian became the first woman to assume the role after being executive vice chair since 2023 and a board member since 2016. At the preview event, she thanked previous chair Michael Nemeroff and generated excitement for the new season.

"I want to thank Michael for all the time and effort, the years that he's put in. Especially with the arts going through a major shift during the pandemic and post-pandemic, and to have carried The Wallis through this transitional period and come out of it as strong and vibrant as ever," Nazarian said. "I'm very proud to stand here next to Robert, our new CEO ... We can't wait to see all the wonderful things we have this season, 2024-25."

Wallis Executive Director and CEO Robert van Leer stepped into the role in April 2023 and previously served as the senior vice president of artistic planning at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. At the preview event, he reflected on his time at The Wallis so far, and looked ahead to the new season.

"I've been in L.A. now for 14 months, which is not very long. Kind of longer in California time, but it's still fairly new in that sense. I had the great privilege to work in London, to work in Washington D.C., to work in these wonderful great cities. And I have to say that working here in L.A. has been a revelation. The biggest revelation has been to work with so many of these cultural partners," van Leer said.

The Wallis partners for the 2024-25 season include the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Los Angeles



photo by Hannah Burnett

The event was attended by Wallis CEO Robert van Leer, left, and Alexander Lloyd Blake, founder of vocal ensemble Tonality.

Beastly Ball raises \$1.25 million for L.A. Zoo

The Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association raised \$1.25 million during the annual Beastly Ball fundraiser on June 1 at the Los Angeles Zoo. The funds include a \$60,000 commitment made during the live "Fund-a-Need" paddle-raise led by the actor, comedian and television host Joel McHale to ben-

efit the Gorilla Rehabilitation and Conservation Education Center in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Beastly Ball, hosted under the starlit sky, brought together a diverse audience that included numerous state and city officials. The guests rallied behind the shared mission of saving wildlife, enrich-

ing communities and creating connections to nature.

"This fundraising event is a celebration of the zoo's accomplish-

Ballet and LA Opera, which will showcase their talents in performances this season.

Van Leer likened the creative partnerships to building an inclusive home.

"We build a house, and then we bring people into that house. We make a family, we build things together, we lay down memories, we learn together and celebrate together. Really that's at the center of the idea of a performing arts center in the 21st century," van Leer said.

The event featured a special piano performance by Scott Dunn, associate conductor for the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, and

classical singer Abi Levis. Dunn's orchestra will present two unique shows at The Wallis this season – the first being a showcase of Hollywood film scores and the second a tribute to Henry Mancini.

The season kicks off in September, with comedian Sam Morrison bringing his solo show "Sugar Daddy" to Beverly Hills for a three-week run. The season will continue with Benjamin Millepied's reinterpretation of "Romeo and Juliet" as an innovative dance performance.

For a full lineup of the 2024-25 season and to buy tickets, visit the-wallis.org/season2425.



Beastly Ball guests enjoyed after-hours animal-themed activities and food from top L.A. restaurants at the annual Beastly Ball.

Beverly Hills City Council recognizes business owner

The Beverly Hills City Council recognized Beverly Hills business owner Elisa Nassirzadeh at its June 18 formal meeting. Nassirzadeh owns Monogrammit, a monogramming/personalization store at 251 S. Robertson Blvd.

From left, Councilman Craig Corman, Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian, Mayor Lester Friedman, Nassirzadeh, Councilman John Mirisch and Councilwoman Mary Wells met in City Hall.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

ments in conservation and a tribute to remarkable individuals and organizations committed to conservation and to the zoo's role as an educational hub," GLAZA interim president Dawn Petersen-Amend said. "The money raised goes towards advanc-

ing our shared mission, enabling GLAZA to continue its support of the zoo's efforts in wildlife conservation, community outreach programs and advancements in animal care and veterinary medicine."

For information, visit lazoo.org.



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Actress McKenna Grace visits Cedars-Sinai Guerin Children's patients

The 17-year-old actor, who has starred in movies and TV shows like "Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire," "The Handmaid's Tale" and "Young Sheldon," brought specially designed movie-themed hospital gowns, coloring books and toys for the patients.

"It's fun for me to be able to bring things and just talk to people and talk to kids and teens," Grace said.

Grace teamed up with nonprofit Starlight Children's Foundation, a longtime partner of Cedars-Sinai that distributes hospital wear, games and supplies to make the inpatient experience more positive for children and their families.

"Hospitalization can be a scary

and lonely experience," Starlight spokesperson Richard Jardioli said. "Our goal is to transform hospital experiences so kids can enjoy the best parts of being a kid, no matter what they're going through."

Grace has been through it herself. She had spine surgery performed by Dr. David L. Skaggs, director of Pediatric Orthopedics at Guerin Children's, to fix severe scoliosis. Now, fully recovered and back in action, she is able to bring joy to other patients still on their health-care journey.

"Through visits from celebrities like McKenna, whose sincerity and kindness were apparent throughout her visit, patients and families feel a

personal connection with someone they may never have had the opportunity to meet," said Sandie Sternberg, a certified child life specialist at Guerin Children's.

During her visit, Grace gleefully swapped pet photos with one of the hospitalized teens and connected with another patient over their mutual love of video games.

"My visit today was great. I got to talk to a lot of kids. I got a new Roblox friend, and I also got invited to a senior prom," Grace said. "So – I'd say overall – a very successful day."



photo courtesy of Cedars-Sinai

McKenna Grace teamed up with nonprofit Starlight Children's Foundation to bring special gifts to patients at Cedars-Sinai Guerin Children's.

Beaches takes over Heart WeHo

BY RANCE COLLINS

Beaches WeHo, located at 8928 Santa Monica Blvd., will soon expand across the street, taking over the space currently occupied by Heart WeHo at 8911 Santa Monica Blvd. Prior to 2020, the space had long been occupied by Rage Nightclub, which closed after 37 years during the pandemic.

"Introducing Beaches Tropicana," the company wrote in a press release. "This will be our flagship headquarters, combining a full-service Cuban-American restaurant with an entertainment venue where you can dine, dance and enjoy top-notch performances all in one place."

The original Beaches will "transform" into Beaches Baja "with a fresh new vibe and an exciting new Tex-Mex menu."

Heart WeHo original partners Paul Nicholls and Lance Bass will join the Beaches team. The release said that management was "excited to transform the space into something truly special." Bass is no longer affiliated with Heart.

"It's not uncommon for businesses to be sold. In many instances, people aren't aware that businesses are under new ownership because the experience for customers

remains the same," West Hollywood Councilman John Heilman said. "For instance, over the years, some of our hotels have changed ownership, but they continue to be operated in a similar fashion as prior to the ownership change. Some long-time owners have spent a long time building and promoting their businesses. Some of them want to retire. So, it's natural that they would sell their businesses."

Renderings highlight a new, Mediterranean-inspired look for the venue.

"I'm really happy that our city continues to attract not only new businesses at rates that other cities would love to see, but also I'm really excited that our existing LGBTQ businesses can continue to expand in our own city," Mayor John Erickson said. "The owners of Beaches are great individuals and a great business to work with. And I'm really excited that they chose West Hollywood again to expand their business in an already known piece of commercial property."

Beaches Tropicana is expected to open in fall 2024 following a renovation. For the time being, the club will continue to operate under the Heart WeHo name. More updates are expected to be announced in the coming months.

Notable Quotes

"What I love about Juneteenth is that even in that extended wait, we still find something to celebrate. Even though the story has never been tidy and Black folks have had to march and fight for every inch of our freedom, our story is nonetheless one of progress."

Michelle Obama

Lawyer, writer and former First Lady of the United States

*Source: Unexpected Virtual Tours



BH City Council recognizes departing commissioner

photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

The Beverly Hills City Council recognized departing Arts and Culture Commissioner Liliana Filipovic at its June 18 meeting. From left, Councilman Craig Corman, Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian, Mayor Lester Friedman, Filipovic, Councilman John Mirisch and Councilwoman Mary Wells met at City Hall.

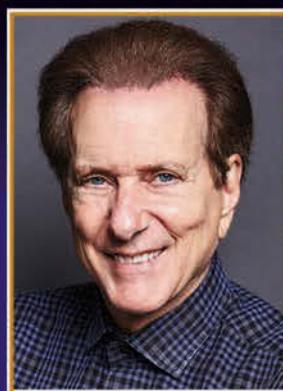
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Yom Kippur
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'Mrs. Doubtfire' serves up family entertainment at Pantages

BY RANCE COLLINS

I was five years old when I saw the iconic 1993 film "Mrs. Doubtfire" in theaters, a fact I will never forget because my mother was mortified. You see, my brother had wanted to see it so badly that he lied to Mom and told her it was PG, not PG-13.

Watching the movie today, I can see why she was so upset, although the adult-tinged humor likely went directly over my head and the whole incident would've been forgotten had she not been so concerned. It apparently could've been even more inappropriate, as star Robin Williams' improvisations were rumored to be so outrageous the movie could've been cut into an R-rated comedy. Regardless, my brother was grounded.

The musical version, performing through June 30 at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre, would most decidedly fall under the PG label. This is family-friendly entertainment – taking a familiar story and focusing on the emotional pathos of divorce in a thoughtful, though always humorous, manner.

Daniel Hillard is an out-of-work

voice actor in San Francisco. His wife Miranda is a fashion designer (changed from an interior designer in the film), and it's clear that she carries the weight of the family's financial responsibilities. Daniel, however, is insensitive to his wife's stresses. After throwing an over-the-top birthday party for their son Christopher, Miranda asks for a divorce, leaving the family – which also includes teenager Lydia and young Natalie – torn apart. When Miranda is granted sole custody, Daniel resorts to his knack for impersonation to become the children's new nanny, a matronly Scottish woman named Mrs. Doubtfire. Of course, hilarity ensues.

Two years ago, I reviewed the stage adaptation of "Tootsie," which enjoyed more Tony love and a longer run on the Broadway stage than "Mrs. Doubtfire." While certain elements might have been tighter in terms of pacing, I felt that "Tootsie" suffered from a dated depiction of drag that, at times, I found borderline offensive. "Mrs. Doubtfire," as presented on its North American tour, mercifully does not suffer from the same prob-

lem. The show proves that you truly don't have to punch down to make something funny.

I feel this is an important note to make during Pride Month 2024. In the last few years, drag and trans people have been politicized as a scare tactic to drudge up votes in red states. Increasing numbers of anti-drag and anti-trans legislation has been introduced, putting communities that already struggle with constant harassment and violence further in harm's way. Humor can help to open hearts and minds, but it can also create or deepen prejudicial viewpoints. There are aspects of the original film that have underlying transphobia, especially one line that suggests that transitioning is a bad thing. Certainly, elements of the movie would change today as society and understanding has evolved.

It is also true that Robin Williams in drag, as well as his obviously gay brother played by openly gay Harvey Firestein, might have also helped some embrace queerness in a new and different way. Addressing this now, though, has to be done with a more enlightened sensitivity – something the musical's book seems to have made a conscious effort to do.

The musical "Mrs. Doubtfire" walks this tightrope ably because the humor is character-based. Mrs. Doubtfire, the creation of our hero Daniel, is funny because Daniel – and his brilliant portrayer Rob McClure – is funny. And the necessary empathy is never lost in McClure's eyes – beaming across the footlights through a (sometimes obvious) prosthetic mask. McClure also played Daniel on Broadway, earning a Tony nomination. It is easy to see why. Following



photo by Joan Marcus

Rob McClure takes over Robin Williams' iconic role of Daniel Hillard/Mrs. Doubtfire.

Williams is no small task, but McClure impresses with his incredible array of voices, ridiculous facial expressions and impressive physicality.

The cast is uniformly excellent. Maggie Lakis takes over brilliantly as Miranda and manages to render a perfect interpretation of my favorite line (originally delivered by Sally Field) from the movie: "The whole time? The whole time?! THE WHOLE TIME?!"

I want to call special attention to the ensemble, which is required to transform from locker room jocks to a nightmare chorus of Mrs. Doubtfire clones to youthful participants in a children's show. The musical's inventive use of its supporting cast allows the show to move along at a brisk pace, and these performers are all too often unsung.

Was a musical version of the movie really necessary? Does transferring it to the stage add much to the story? To be honest, probably

not. The songs are not especially memorable, although all are sung well and some of the staging, including one stomp-infused number, are superlative. Very few deviations are made from the movie, although a tango is employed (instead of the Heimlich maneuver) expertly in the show's climax.

But these quibbles don't take away from the fact that "Mrs. Doubtfire" on the stage is entertaining, brisk and a great outing for the whole family. Maybe you won't be humming the score on your way out the door, but sometimes you just need a great, laugh-filled night at the theater. That is what "Mrs. Doubtfire" provides.

And Mom would not have to ground my brother for having me tag along to this one.

For tickets and information, visit broadwayinhollywood.com/events/detail/mrsdoubtfire. Hollywood Pantages Theatre is located at 6233 Hollywood Blvd.



photo courtesy of theLaBonge family

The late Los Angeles City Councilman Tom LaBonge was an ardent supporter of Griffith Park and a vista has been named in his honor.

Head to Griffith Park for LaBonge Summer Solstice Hike June 21

Carry on the legacy of the late Los Angeles City Councilman Tom LaBonge at the annual LaBonge Summer Solstice Sunset Hike on Friday, June 21.

Hikers will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Charlie Turner Trailhead, 2840 W. Observatory Road., and head to the Tom LaBonge Panorama at Mt. Hollywood. LaBonge's wife Brigid and the LaBonge family invite people to enjoy an evening of "frivolity and friendship" as they welcome the first day of summer. Sunset will be at 8:08 p.m.

"It's definitely a way to carry on

the legacy of something Tom started 40 years ago. It's a good opportunity to be outdoors and enjoy the city, just as Tom intended," Brigid LaBonge said.

LaBonge, who died in January 2021, was a longtime supporter of Griffith Park and led an annual summer solstice hike in the park. Parking is limited near the trailhead, and hikers are encouraged to use ride-hailing services or park at the Greek Theatre and take a DASH bus to the Griffith Observatory. For information, visit tomlabongecivicproject.org.

Chamber hosts Summer Garden Party

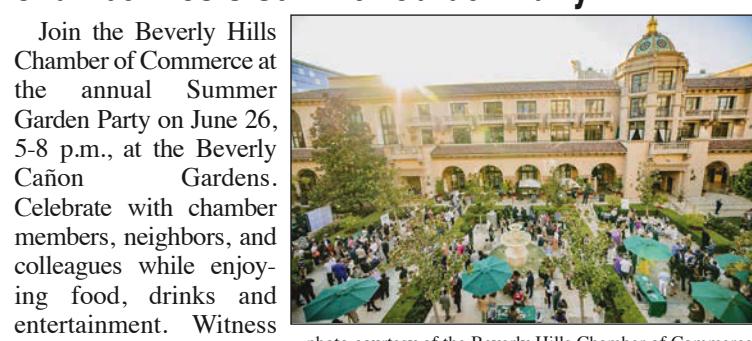


photo courtesy of the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce

Join the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce at the annual Summer Garden Party on June 26, 5-8 p.m., at the Beverly Cañon Gardens. Celebrate with chamber members, neighbors, and colleagues while enjoying food, drinks and entertainment. Witness the formal board installation ceremony, featuring remarks and insights from the incoming and outgoing board chairs. With over 500 guests annually, this is the perfect networking opportunity.

The event is for active members and RSVP is required.

For information, visit members.beverlyhillschamber.com/events/details/summer-garden-party-member-appreciation-board-installation-2024-27604?calendarMonth=2024-06-01&mc_cid=7c1ba8205f&mc_eid=618bd521ed.

Virtual Workshop: Regulating Single-use Plastic and Expanded Polystyrene



On March 18, 2024 the Beverly Hills City Council adopted an ordinance prohibiting the distribution of single-use plastic and expanded polystyrene (e.g., Styrofoam) foodware.

The ordinance will reduce plastic waste by requiring food facilities that provide disposable foodware to use compostable or recyclable items. Most businesses, including restaurants, grocery stores, hotels, and pharmacies, will have until March 18, 2025, to comply.

Join the sustainability team to learn about requirements for compliance and business resources, such as the Early Adopter Program, with time at the end for Q&A.

Monday, June 24 2024 | 10 - 11 am

Questions? Feedback? Contact us at askBH@Beverlyhills.org or (310) 285-1000



Join via Zoom: beverlyhills-org.zoom.us/my/community

Passcode: 90210

Call-in: (310) 288-1020

More information here: beverlyhills.org/plasticandfoam

Zoo educates travelers about impacts of illegal wildlife trade

The Los Angeles Zoo installed a new exhibit at the Tom Bradley International Terminal at Los Angeles International Airport bringing the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' "I Travel for Wildlife" campaign to Los Angeles. The goal is to eliminate the trade of illegal wildlife and wildlife products that fuels the depletion of populations around the world.

Featuring authentic contraband confiscated and donated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the display showcases items commonly available to travelers overseas such as jewelry, accessories, purses and decorative items. Each piece of contraband is a reminder of the toll exacted by the illegal wildlife trade on endangered

species and ecosystems. The campaign's goal is to reduce the demand for illegal wildlife products by engaging and educating travelers.

Through informational signage, the display also highlights the urgent message that the illegal wildlife trade is driving species to extinction. The signs underscore the critical importance of combatting the illegal animal trade and emphasize the role of every individual in preserving global biodiversity.

"As a platinum partner of the Wildlife Trafficking Alliance, the Los Angeles Zoo is committed to combating wildlife trafficking," Los Angeles Zoo CEO and Director Denise M. Verret said. "This project underscores the city of Los Angeles' collaborative effort to combat the illegal wildlife trade. Los Angeles is a major port of entry for illegal wildlife, and we recognize the importance of coordinated action to address this pressing global issue. By partnering with LAX and AZA's WTA, the Los Angeles Zoo is furthering its commitment to wildlife conservation and creating a just and sustainable world where people and wildlife thrive together."

"As a major gateway to the United States, LAX plays a crucial

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

Did the world, endangered wildlife species are for sale as pets and as live animals. Just because something is for sale does not mean it is legal or ethical to purchase.

do not act quickly, wildlife trafficking may wipe out many endangered species in our lifetime.

Take the "I Travel for Wildlife" Pledge today!

Text "LAXForWildlife" to 77889 to sign the "I Travel for Wildlife" Pledge.

Report wildlife trafficking to FWS-TIPS or online at their Tips page.

For more information, visit travelforwildlife.org/lax

photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Zoo

The "I Travel for Wildlife" campaign includes contraband seized from wildlife traffickers.

Alliance, we are committed to taking proactive measures to combat this illicit trade and protect wildlife for future generations."

The L.A. Zoo is engaged in raising public awareness, reducing consumer demand for illegal wildlife and wildlife products, and mobilizing companies to adopt best practices to end wildlife trafficking. For information, visit travelforwildlife.org/lax.

Beverly Hills couple wins tennis tournament after traumatic injury

Beverly Hills residents and owners of the luxury tennis boutique, Love Love Tennis, Robert and Adeline Cook have shown remarkable resilience and sportsmanship by securing a bronze ball at the Level 1 USTA National Husband and Wife Open 100's Indoors Tournament held in Kansas City, Kan.

The victory is particularly poignant as it follows a challenging period for Adeline Cook. On March 9, the Cooks won a gold ball in the Grass Court National Husband and Wife 100's Tournament at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage. Just three days later, Adeline was involved in a severe car accident on Beverly Drive, just north of Sunset Boulevard, which totaled her vehicle and resulted in traumatic brain injury along with tears in her neck and back. The

injuries left her unable to drive or walk without dizziness and nausea for over two months.

Despite the significant challenges, Adeline's determination and the unwavering support of her husband and doubles partner, Robert, led them to this impressive achievement in Kansas City.

"Winning a bronze ball in the state I am currently in is a testament to my husband and doubles partner Robert," Adeline said.

The Cooks have been diligently practicing at the Beverly Hills Tennis Club on Maple Drive, where they prepare alongside former professional tennis player and multiple gold ball winner Anne White and other dedicated tennis enthusiasts from the Beverly Hills community.

Love Love Tennis is located at 9627 Brighton Way.



Robert and Adeline Cook took home a bronze ball at a national tennis tournament in Kansas City, Kan.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health receives national awards

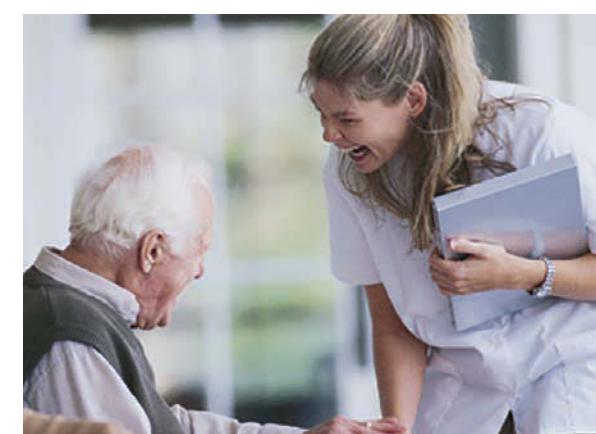
The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health earned 21 achievement awards from the National Association of Counties. Each year, NACo recognizes innovative county government programs that support and enhance services for residents. The department's accomplishments this year are a testament to its commitment to support the health and wellbeing of more than 10 million residents in Los Angeles County.

"Public Health's mission is to ensure that residents have the resources needed to be healthy and thrive. This work is accomplished through partnerships that promote wellbeing and safety through equitable and exceptional services. I want to express my gratitude to the staff and programs at Public Health for their unwavering commitment to innovative, impactful, and inclusive public service," said Director

of Public Health Barbara Ferrer. "We are grateful to the National Association of Counties for this acknowledgment and are privileged to collaborate with our colleagues nationwide who strive to elevate the well-being of all communities, with a particular focus on eliminating disproportionality in health outcomes."

The National Association of Counties (NACo) strengthens America's counties, serving nearly 40,000 county elected officials and 3.6 million county employees. Founded in 1935, NACo unites county officials to advocate county priorities in federal policymaking, promote exemplary county policies and practices, nurture leadership skills and expand knowledge networks, optimize county and taxpayer resources and cost savings, and enrich the public's understanding of county government.

For information, visit naco.org.



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It's time for beer, brats and buttermilk

Back to his favorite pillow, his favorite dog, the boyhood bedroom where he would lie awake and worry/wonder about going away to college. Now, he's nearly done with college. Nobody ever said life goes too slow.

At his age, I was a t-shirt full of angst and bravado, in equal parts, like peanut butter and jelly. My son Smartacus seems more serene. What right does he have? Takes a lot of gall to be serene in such a futzed-up world – some moxie, some nuggets. Perhaps this is what we need, though, a lighter sense of panic, a cowboy mentality, a sweet swagger.

In any case, my son is finally home. Let summer begin.

The solstice is this week, the sun at its most fiery point. I spend most days looking for a cool spot in the yard in which to lie down and die. Then I worry a little about whether the 401k will hold out. So for me, summer is no different from fall.

At 67, I'm still a t-shirt full of angst and bravado. But I know a place where the ocean will lap your toes and the burgers whisper sweet nothings in your ear. I'll be fine, thanks. Pass the salsa and the sunscreen. Are the Dodgers still in town?

Besides, in a few days, we leave this all behind for a trip to the Middle West. There are still drive-in movies back there. I'm hoping to find one showing "Soylent Green," the brilliant futurist takedown of overconsumption.

I remember seeing it in 1973 with a vat of popcorn and a 64-ounce Pepsi in my lap, thinking: "This'll

by
Chris
Erskine



never happen." In my defense, it was hard to imagine famine at a drive-in with a fully stocked snack bar. Or, in the Midwest, where feed corn is like OPEC oil.

At 17, I leaned over to my Becky Thatcher in the front seat and said, "Kiss me. Quick, before the world ends."

There are worse reasons for a long, sweaty summer kiss.

My understanding of the Midwest is much like Martin Scorsese's understanding of epic wealth: "luxurious and carnal ... excremental, sanguinary, emetic, carnivalesque, and violent."

I didn't even know the word "sanguinary" till I read that little riff about Scorsese in *The New Yorker*. Leave it to a New York writer to take a perfectly good middle American word like sanguine (buoyant, hopeful) and mess it up a little.

The Midwest? Bullish, buoyant, built on brats and buttermilk. I've been prepping Smartacus for this wedding trip, how we have to put on our travel mask at LAX and pretend nothing can get to us, not that sea of brake lights as you first enter, not the Starbucks lines. The LAX mask is an emotional lampshade ...

a game face.

But he likes the Midwest, and thinks it worth the trouble. At 21, he's even making noises about moving to Chicago when he graduates. He says there are lots of young people there. Evidently, what I see as a negative, he sees as a positive. I suppose that makes him sanguinary.

I've been prepping Suzanne for this wedding trip as well, which takes us, like Odawa war chiefs, to the upper Midwest, specifically the lake country of Michigan.

At 17, I leaned over to my Becky Thatcher in the front seat and said, "Kiss me. Quick, before the world ends."

I used to hate everything Michigan stood for – union corruption, ore boats, the Lions – but I've mellowed a bit over the years. With the exception of California, Michigan might be our most glorious state. It's now my favorite "outdoor room."

Suzanne is super worried about the cicadas, an insect that is swarming much of the heartland right now. "Can they kill you?" she wonders. "Can they enter your nose and mouth in great numbers while you sleep?"

I assure her that they are actually a misunderstood insect – kind of pretty, like dragon flies – and they won't crawl into your mouth unless you treat the locals poorly or yap about the way people dress up there



photo by Suzanne Boone

A sailboat rests on the sweet water of a Midwestern lake.

(so many Fritts Lager muscle shirts).

And in truth, the cicadas, while filling the doorways of Madison and Galena, haven't found their way to the other side of the lake – to Michigan, where young Amy's glorious summer wedding will soon be held.

"What a beautiful time to visit upper Michigan," I assure my new Becky Thatcher.

See, there's nothing more soothing than a summer by a lake, an old

canoe ka-thunkin' against the side of a dock, a cold brewski on your brow to ward off heatstroke and any emetic vibes.

A Bob Seger song in your heart.

Need a solid summer read? Please consider "Perfect Eloquence," the new tribute to Vin Scully, baseball's Walt Whitman. Or, "What the Bears Know," the life story of Steve Searles, the Thoreau of the mountains. Cheers and thanks.



BEVERLY GARDENS PARK CLOSURE FOR A SPECIAL EVENT

Thursday, June 20, 2024 | 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Roads surrounding Beverly Gardens Park will be impacted, including N. Crescent Drive and Park Way.

Please note there will be meter closures and truck staging on Park Way.



For questions, please contact **askBH** at **310-285-1000**.

Metro rolls out details on subway construction

Metro is cautioning about potential disruptions at multiple locations along the D Line Subway Extension project.

At the eastern end of the project near Wilshire/Western, crews are restoring streets and sidewalks. Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in each direction for the next five months between Oxford Avenue and St. Andrews Place. Left turns will be prohibited from Wilshire Boulevard to Western Avenue and from eastbound Wilshire Boulevard to northbound St. Andrews Place.

Street restoration work also continues through August near the Wilshire/La Brea station. A K-rail work zone remains in place on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard. Two lanes of traffic are maintained in each direction on Wilshire Boulevard between Highland and La Brea avenues. Left turns are prohibited from Wilshire Boulevard to La Brea Avenue, as

well as Sycamore, Mansfield and Citrus avenues, and Orange Drive. Detroit Street is intermittently closed at Wilshire Boulevard from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; and 6 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

Farther west, work is ongoing at the Wilshire/Fairfax station. Northbound Orange Grove Avenue is closed at Wilshire Boulevard through July 1. Southbound traffic from Wilshire Boulevard to Eighth Street is maintained. Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction at La Jolla Avenue.

At the Wilshire/La Cienega station, crews are working underground and at street level. Wilshire Boulevard will be intermittently reduced to a single lane in each direction between La Cienega and San Vicente boulevards through July 7. Work hours are 8 p.m.-7 a.m. on weekdays, and 6 a.m.-10 p.m. on weekends. The work sup-

ports construction on the southwest corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Gale Drive. Access to sidewalks will be maintained on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard. South Gale Drive will be closed at Wilshire Boulevard while the work is ongoing.

Crews are working on Wilshire Boulevard near South Beverly and Cañon drives through the end of June, building underground rooms known as appendages next to the Wilshire/Rodeo station. Deliveries of material, equipment and concrete continue daily to the station site. Intermittent lane closures will be in place on Wilshire Boulevard.

In Century City, crews are building the station near Constellation Boulevard and are working at street level. Metro announced intermittent street closures on South Beverly Glen Boulevard near Eastborne Avenue for ground testing.



photo by Edwin Folven

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

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

Academy elects new trustee members

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures announced June 13 the election of Olivier de Givenchy as chair, Dr. Eric Esrailian as vice chair and Patricia Bellinger Balzer as secretary of its board of trustees. The board has

also re-elected Jim Gianopoulos as treasurer.

As the governing body of the Academy Museum, the board leads the museum toward a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and

financial management policies in addition to securing adequate resources to advance the museum's mission.

"We are thrilled to welcome Olivier de Givenchy, Dr. Eric Esrailian and Patricia Bellinger Balzer to these board officer positions," incoming Academy Museum director and president Amy Homma said. "As dedicated trustees serving on various committees and providing invaluable

guidance and support, this group has played an active role in the museum's success. We are also proud to re-elect Jim Gianopoulos as treasurer. He joined the board in 2017 as a founding trustee and has played a significant role in ensuring the museum's financial stability."

Board of trustees members as of July 1 include Olivier de Givenchy, Dr. Eric Esrailian, Patricia Bellinger Balzer, Jim Gianopoulos, Howard Berger, Arnaud Boetsch, Effie T. Brown (honorary trustee), David Dolby,

Tom Duffield, Sidonie Seydoux Dumas, Sid Ganis (honorary trustee), Julia S. Gouw, Ray Halbritter, Tom Hanks, Amy Homma, Travis Knight, Bill Kramer, Miky Lee, Eva Longoria, Ryan Murphy, Katherine L. Oliver, Alejandro Ramírez Magaña, Shira Ruderman, Ted Sarandos, Regina K. Scully, Kimberly Steward, Janet Yang and Kevin Yeaman.

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



photos courtesy of the Academy Museum

Olivier de Givenchy, Dr. Eric Esrailian, Patricia Bellinger Balzer and Jim Gianopoulos all serve on the Academy Museum's board of trustees.

Letters to the Editor

Thank you for outstanding article on Robin Tyler

Re "Robin Tyler blazes through an 'Outstanding' life," June 13 issue

Thank you for recognizing Robin and bringing her life into the light. She is a true role model for so many.

Veronica Bell
Studio City

Excellent article about a brilliant and courageous woman. I'm proud to know Robin Tyler!

Simone Wallace
Los Angeles

A great big mazel tov to you, Robin. You have led the way and been a great example for us to follow. My admiration has no bounds.

Ellen W. Gerber
Greensboro, North Carolina



SUMMARY NOTICE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS RENEWING ITS MILITARY EQUIPMENT USE ORDINANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 7071

The City has heretofore approved, and subsequently renewed, the Beverly Hills Police Department's (BHPD's) Military Equipment Use Policy (Policy 706) and Military Equipment Inventory (Inventory) pursuant to Government Code section 7071. The Ordinance contains the requisite findings to approve the designated military equipment identified in the Inventory based on BHPD's annual military equipment report. Accordingly, the Ordinance renews the City's military equipment use ordinance and Policy 706, including the Inventory attached therein.

The Beverly Hills Police Department's Policy 706, as well as the attached Inventory, are publicly available on the City's website pursuant to Government Code section 7071.

A certified copy of the entirety of the text of the Ordinance is available for public review in the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, California 90210. The City Council of the City of Beverly Hills will consider adoption of the Ordinance during the regular City Council meeting on July 2, 2024. Further information may be obtained by contacting Beverly Hills Police Department Sergeant Audra Alatorre at 310-288-2610.

HUMA AHMED
City Clerk



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

RESTAURANT NEWS

Amour brings Paris to WeHo

West Hollywood's Amour is offering live music every Wednesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Diners can enjoy French acoustic music performed by local artists while sitting on the restaurant's stunning patio. If summer in Paris isn't an option, Amour is ready to transport diners to the next best thing. For information, visit amourweho.love or call (424)431-6717. Amour is located at 8715 Beverly Blvd.

BOA is wedding season favorite

Wedding season has arrived, and BOA Steakhouse stands out as the perfect venue for all wedding celebrations. Known for its prime dishes, stylish décor and craft cocktails, BOA offers beautiful event spaces across all three locations in West Hollywood, Santa Monica and Manhattan Beach. The venues are perfect for hosting private events like bridal showers, rehearsal dinners, engagement parties, post-wedding brunches, bridal luncheons and bachelor/bachelorette dinners. BOA offers four different pre-fixe menu options with the ability to add à la carte selections to enhance guests' private dining experiences. Pre-Fixe menu options include the three-course Skyline starting at \$109++, the three-course

Ocean Avenue at \$125++, the three-course Sunset at \$135++ and the four-course Sunset+ at \$150++.

For information, visit boasteak.com. BOA Steakhouse is located at 9200 Sunset Blvd. in West Hollywood, 101 Santa Monica Blvd. in Santa Monica and 3110 N. Sepulveda Blvd. in Manhattan Beach.

Cabra serves Cosmopolitan Pride

Pride Month is still going strong at Cabra Restaurant & Bar with its month-long Cosmopolitan, "It's Giving Mother." The cocktail special is running for the month of June where \$3 from each cocktail sold will be donated to Bienestar, a community-based social services organization serving the greater Los Angeles area, whose focus is on identifying and addressing emerging health issues faced by Latinx and LGBTQ+ population. The cocktail was crafted with Cabra's partners Mommenpop and Grey Goose. For information, visit cabralosangeles.com or call (213)725-5858. Cabra Restaurant & Bar is located at 1060 S. Broadway.

Erewhon debuts 'Girls' smoothie

"The Girls" chocolate smoothie will be available at Erewhon tonic bars for \$21 through July 9.

The smoothie features chocolate almond MALK as the plant-based milk base, which keeps it free of gums, oils and fillers. A portion of proceeds will benefit the Laroi Foundation, and it is produced in collaboration with Kid Laroi. Erewhon is located at 7660 Beverly Blvd. and 339 N. Beverly Drive.

Oysters join martinis for happy hour

Crustacean Beverly Hills has launched a new martini and oyster happy hour. \$10 martinis and \$2 oysters are available at the glamorous Anna May Bar Tuesday-Friday from 4:30-6:30 p.m. all summer long. Crustacean will be putting their signature Asian fusion spin on it, of course. It's shaking and stirring Haku vodka and Roku gin, plus fresh, sustainably sourced Kumamoto oysters paired with Thai basil, citrus and Vietnamese cocktail sauce. For information, visit crustaceanbh.com or call (310)205-8990. Crustacean Beverly Hills is located at 468 Bedford Drive.

STK welcomes Summer Solstice

Get ready to welcome summer in style at STK's Summer Solstice event on Thursday, June 27 from 7-10 p.m. STK Steakhouse will host an unforgettable evening filled with summer-inspired bites, refreshing cocktails and a vacation vibe that will transport you to paradise. Be prepared to see and be seen and mingle with friends, soak-



photo courtesy of Laya

Laya will present Eastern Mediterranean dishes with a California influence.

Laya opening in Hollywood July 2

The City of Angels' newest gastronomy star, Laya, will officially be opening July 2, blending award-worthy cuisine with Hollywood glamour. A recent "Top Chef" winner is behind the new restaurant's menu of Eastern Mediterranean dishes with California influence, setting the table for what is sure to be one of the most anticipated openings in L.A. this year. Renowned design firm Studio Mood has been tapped to bring Laya to life, transporting diners to a sun-drenched open-air market, filling the space with

earthy, natural materials and hand-crafted accents. The restaurant boasts a 6,500 sq. ft. outdoor patio – the largest in Hollywood – and will seat up to 157 people. Laya is the latest concept from Sunset Entertainment Group, pioneers of the Hollywood social scene, responsible for some of L.A.'s most noteworthy nightclubs of the past three decades, including the Sunset Room, Lure, White Lotus, Le Jardin, Green Door and La Mesa Lounge. For information, visit layarestaurant.com. Laya will be located at 1430 N. Cahuenga Blvd.

ing up the summer ambiance. Indulge in a culinary journey featuring our chef's specially crafted summer menu, showcasing the vibrant flavors of the season. Sip on hand-crafted cocktails infused with tropical fruits and exotic ingredients, perfectly complementing the summer atmosphere. Be transported to a beachside oasis with live music setting the mood. For information, visit stksteakhouse.com or call (310)659-3535. STK Steakhouse is located at 930 Hilgard Ave.

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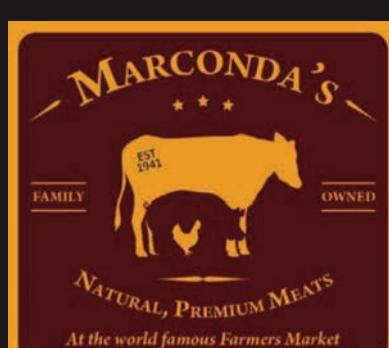


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Madame Tussauds to add rooftop restaurant

Merlin Entertainments' Madame Tussauds Hollywood is set to open the latest addition to its famed attraction – The Hollywood Rooftop Bar and Restaurant. This new Hollywood hideout, opening Aug. 2, is the first-of-its-kind "celebrity" dining experience, offering guests an unparalleled opportunity to dine amongst its famed waxed stars. Perched high above the world-renowned Walk of Fame in Hollywood, it stands out as one of the few rooftop dining destinations in Los Angeles where visi-

tors can enjoy a timeless Hollywood VIP experience and live out their A-list fantasy.

Guests will be whisked to the restaurant in a VIP elevator, where they will get a taste of Old Hollywood glamour with a modern vibe. The restaurant will offer a crowd-pleasing and sustainable menu created by Shirlie Beloso that caters to a wide range of tastes in keeping with the artistry and excitement synonymous with Madame Tussauds. From classic American favorites to international

delights, there's something for everyone to enjoy. The beverage offerings will no doubt bring postable social moments with fun movie references and go-beyond tasty cocktails to also non-alcoholic and kid beverages. Whether one is looking for a casual lunch with Leo, a family dinner with Zendaya, or a fun night out with friends, The Hollywood Rooftop Bar and Restaurant is the place to go.

"When you look at the menu, you'll notice many of the same popular, high-quality ingredients used in different dishes," Beloso said. "This is because our kitchen operates with efficiency and sustainability in mind, aiming to reduce waste by keeping things simple, quick and fresh while adding diverse flavors to our dishes."

Join Madame Tussauds Hollywood for an unforgettable dining experience that combines the magic of the stars with the thrill of rooftop dining. Fans are encouraged to plan their visit to the star-studded Hollywood Rooftop Bar and Restaurant experience at hollywoodrooftopbar.com. Madame Tussauds Hollywood is located at 6933 Hollywood Blvd. For information and the museum, visit madametussauds.com/hollywood.



photo courtesy of Merlin Entertainment

A new kind of restaurant is readying for an Aug. 2 launch on Hollywood Boulevard.

W makes a Pride-ful 'Splash'

W Los Angeles – West Beverly Hills is hosting the Splash of Pride Pool Party on Saturday, June 22 from noon-5 p.m. Hosted by longtime Pride host Billy Francesca, the event will take place at W Los Angeles's WET Deck for a day in the sun complete

with drag performances and a walk-off competition with some of L.A.'s most fabulous queens. Locals and travelers alike are welcome to enjoy live music, spirit tastings and bites.

The best part? The event is in partnership with Out & Equal, a

non-profit dedicated to achieving LGBTQ+ workplace equality, with event proceeds going to help their incredible efforts.

To RSVP for free and for information, visit wllosangeleswest.247activities.com. W Los Angeles – West Beverly Hills is located at 930 Hilgard Ave.



photo by Suzanne Lanza

On June 30 Rib Fest at A.O.C. will serve up slabs of barbecued ribs at the annual summer event.

Rib Fest returns to A.O.C.

A.O.C., Suzanne Goin and Caroline Styne's iconic restaurant on 3rd Street brings their signature Rib Fest back to the public on Sunday, June 30. A.O.C. will be suited up for the rib rodeo and Suzanne's family-style feast of slow-cooked ribs, hot wings and sides which has become a Goin/Styne summer tradition since 2000. A week of preparation goes into the smoking of beef brisket, pork and lamb ribs, spreading the lure of wood smoke throughout both neighborhoods and attracting a growing swell of Rib Fest groupies for this BBQ celebration. Guests are invited to wear their Stetsons, chaps and boots and join the party. The menu features Suzanne's Saint Louis-style pork ribs; braised Westholme beef brisket; spiced lamb spare ribs and too-hot-to-handle chicken

wings. Mouth-watering sides are included: coleslaw and baked beans; long-cooked collard greens; buttered corn-on-the-cob; tomato and watermelon salad; and served with grilled cornbread and Wonder Bread. Finish with a summery dessert of warm peach cobbler with strawberries and buttermilk ice cream. Don't miss some foot-stomping cowboy cocktails to enhance the menu. Rib Fest is priced at \$95 per guest, menu only; advance ticket purchase required. To purchase tickets, contact A.O.C. at (310)859.9859 or book online at opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?rid=7348&restref=7348&experienceId=309199. Rib Fest at A.O.C. is served from 4:30-9:30 p.m. for one night only. A.O.C. is located at 8700 W. Third St.

POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD's Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between June 6 and June 15. 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

June 8

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 400 block of N. Rodeo at 2:30 p.m.

At 3:55 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of N. Cañon.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 400 block of S. Roxbury at 9:30 p.m.

At 10:54 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon.

June 9

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Santa Monica and Bedford at 3:43 a.m.

At 4 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of Cañon.

June 10

At 5:24 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of Carson.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of N. El Camino at 5:40 p.m.

June 11

At 5:04 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 9800 block of Wilshire.

June 12

At 3:57 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 200 block of N. La Cienega.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of Oakhurst at 5 p.m.

June 13

At midnight, an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of Wetherly.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of Wetherly at 5 p.m.

At 9:30 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported near Sunset and Alpine.

June 14

At 11:10 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 400 block of N. Cañon.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of N. Rodeo at 12:32 p.m.

At 6:20 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9600 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Dayton and Cañon at 11:35 p.m.

June 15

At 12:25 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported near Santa

Monica and Camden.

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Olympic and La Peer at 1:45 a.m.

At noon, an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of S. Lasky.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 2:50 p.m.

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

June 9

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 12:30 a.m.

At 12:30 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 1:40 a.m.

At 2:30 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Almont and Rangely.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of N. Robertson at 9:45 a.m.

At 3:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1300 block of N. Ogden.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7500 block of Fountain at 7:50 p.m.

At 9 p.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident near Hilldale and Norma.

June 10

At 12:30 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near Larrabee and Cynthia.

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

At 5:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1200 block of N. Harper.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 5:30 p.m.

June 11

At 3:39 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 800 block of West Knoll.

June 12

At 4 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8500 block of Melrose.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 9:30 a.m.

At 3:15 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1300 block of N. Ogden.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 900 block of San Vicente at 4:37 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 800 block of Sweetzer.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8400 block of De Longpre at 10:05 p.m.

At 10:30 p.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1300 block of Harper.

June 13

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 400 block of N. Westbourne.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1000 block of Curson at 3 a.m.

At 8 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 900 block of N. Palm.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9200 block of Sunset at 9:15 a.m.

At 10:15 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8200 block of Santa Monica.

June 14

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7700 block of Santa Monica at 3:02 a.m.

At 11 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8800 block of Melrose.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 800 block of Hilldale at 11:50 a.m.

At 6:40 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 1200 block of N. Ogden.

June 15

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

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 1:30 a.m.

At 4 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1000 block of N. Edinburgh.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7300 block of Santa Monica at 1:30 p.m.

At 2:20 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1300 block of Laurel.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8600 block of Sunset at 3:34 p.m.

At 10:45 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Greenacre and Santa Monica.

Los Angeles Police Department

June 6

At 1:15 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 5900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 900 block of S. Stanley at 12:20 p.m.

At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Hayworth and Oakwood.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 5500 block of Harold at 2 p.m.

At 3:50 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5200 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of S. Alfred at 4 p.m.

At 4:10 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of N. La Cienega.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 700 block of N. Sycamore at 6 p.m.

At 8:40 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of The Grove.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1600 block of N. El Centro at 10:20 p.m.

June 7

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 6500 block of Selma at 1 a.m.

At 1:09 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of N. Crescent Heights.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6300 block of Orange at 1:14 a.m.

At 8:25 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of S. La Brea.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of S. Cochran at 8 p.m.

June 8

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 1000 block of S. La Cienega.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1600 block of N. El Centro at 9:30 a.m.

At 10:48 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of S. La Brea.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7500 block of Melrose at 10:55 a.m.

At 5:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Third.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 6300 block of Eleanor at 7 p.m.

At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1800 block of N. Cherokee.

June 9

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 17900 block of N. Hudson at 1 a.m.

At 4:30 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of N. Las Palmas.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8500 block of Burton at 1 p.m.

At 1:25 p.m., an unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 6700 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of N. Detroit at 3:03 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. Harper.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of Daniels at 11 p.m.

June 10

At 11:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 6700 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6900 block of Hollywood at 2 p.m.

At 12:45 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Romaine and Wilcox.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of N. Sycamore at 8 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of S. Detroit.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. Las Palmas at 9:45 p.m.

At 9:50 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 5900 block of Wilshire.

At 10:50 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 100 block of S. Vista.

June 11

At 9:30 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1700 block of N. Highland.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Las Palmas and Highland at 3:18 p.m.

June 12

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 900 block of S. Sherbourne.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near Eighth and Mansfield at 9 p.m.

June 13

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6200 block of Colgate.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of S. La Brea at 12:30 p.m.

At 1:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7000 block of Sunset.

At 2:50 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7000 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7000 block of Hollywood at 6:53 p.m.

June 14

At 10 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1700 block of N. Fuller.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 600 block of N. Fairfax at 11 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 100 block of N. La Brea at 11:33 a.m.

Sip and sail through Hollywood history at The Lucky Tiki

BY Tabor Brewster

Buried secretly behind a famous hot dog stand in West Hollywood lies a hidden treasure – a tribute to real-life history and fantasies of a far-away island lifestyle. The Lucky Tiki – L.A.’s newest tiki bar – carries on the long and storied legacy of the escapist tradition in Hollywood.

Although the bar opened this spring, it’s the second iteration of a short-lived tiki bar started by 1933 Group owner Bobby Green 20 years ago. Green and his friends – “tiki freaks,” as he called them – opened up the original Lucky Tiki in the Valley in 2004. However, within a year, the mini mall that housed the bar was bought by a developer who turned the site into a Home Depot.

“I thought, let’s just close it and we’ll find a new location and reopen it,” Green said. “So I took everything out and put it in storage. I just never found the right location ... This stuff sat in storage for 19 years.”

In those 19 years, Green’s 1933 Group focused on restoring L.A. landmarks like Idle Hour and The Formosa Café to their full glory. But when they found a West Hollywood location for Tail O’ the Pup – a historic establishment in its own right – Green noticed that there was an upstairs bar area that came with it. Green reached out to his old friends who helped him start the

original Lucky Tiki, and the result is a speakeasy-style tiki bar fitted with all the hallmarks – bamboo furniture, grass frills, pufferfish lamps and, of course, strong tropical cocktails.

Green said The Lucky Tiki carries on a legacy of tiki bars in Hollywood.

“Because it was Hollywood, and because of the history, it was like, ‘we’ve got to do it.’ There’s no other tiki bar in Hollywood,” Green said.

The genesis of the first ever tiki bar dates back to Hollywood during the Great Depression. A prohibition-era rum runner named Ernest Raymond Gantt had amassed a sizeable collection of island knick-knacks – from Tortuga to Tahiti – and a serious palate for exotic elixirs. After running out of money and landing ashore in Los Angeles like a piece of driftwood in 1931, he befriended movie stars while working odd jobs. His connections would lend his cache of miscellaneous flotsam a new use – props for films set in exotic locations.

When prohibition was repealed in 1933, Gantt saw a new opportunity and nailed his assortment of artifacts to the walls of a small building on McCadden Place in Hollywood, his first bar, Don’s Beachcomber, later known as Don the Beachcomber.

He legally changed his own name to Donn Beach and used his knowledge of Caribbean rum and

the local abundance of citrus to create Tiki classics like the Zombie, and the bar became popular with those hoping for a taste of some distant paradise, especially when few could afford to actually travel. Don the Beachcomber wasn’t an accurate representation of any island culture, but instead a fantastical Polynesian-Caribbean chimera.

According to tiki bartender and historian Martin Cate, the establishment would also be the inspiration for a peg-legged business mogul named Victor Bergeron, who took the tiki bar beyond the boundaries of Southern California with his own bar, Trader Vic’s.

Both Donn Beach and Victor Bergeron were foundational to the tiki movement, and they maintained a friendly rivalry throughout their careers – evident in the fact that they both claimed to invent perhaps the most famous tiki drink, the Mai Tai.

“The Mai Tai is kind of an ‘every tiki bar’ staple,” Green said. He said that while creating the menu for The Lucky Tiki, the 1933 Group’s beverage director David Ray took a “deep dive” into the history of the drink to replicate what it may have tasted like during the 1940s. After stumbling across a story about rum being found in a barrel that was sitting on a dock, Ray concocted a new method of quick-aging rum in a barrel while infusing a small amount of saline solution to give it a sea-soaked kick.

“That’s a whole new flavor profile for a Mai Tai that may not have been tasted since the ‘40s. Who knows?” Green said.

After World War II, the tiki bar exploded in popularity, thanks in part to veterans returning from service in the South Pacific with memories of island culture, and in part to the post-war economic boom. By the mid-1960s, tiki had taken over. There was a tiki room in Disneyland, a Trader Vic’s in the Beverly Hilton, and of course, there was Elvis.

“Elvis and tiki for some reason always have been bosom buddies in a weird way,” Green said.

The king of rock n’ roll surfed the tiki wave with his films like “Blue Hawaii” and “Paradise, Hawaiian Style.” Visitors to The Lucky Tiki have the opportunity to drink like

the king with the bar’s unique creation, Elvis in Hawaii.

“I really wanted to pay homage to Elvis in some way,” Green said. “David kept racking his brain. And of course, Elvis’ famous favorite thing to eat was a peanut butter and jelly with bananas toasted sandwich.”

The result is a combination of peanut butter whiskey and crème de banane liqueur – topped with a cabernet float and torched banana slices for garnish. The cocktail is served on a glowing platter alongside a bust of Elvis.

“It sounds really weird but it ends up being absolutely delicious,” Green added.

In the mid-1970s, the tiki craze subsided, and many tiki-themed bars and restaurants shuttered permanently. Tiki décor became seen as tacky and faded into obscurity. Many original cocktail recipes were lost too. However, Green said tiki enthusiasts in the 1990s – himself included – began to resurrect the movement with backyard parties and home tiki bars. He said The Lucky Tiki was largely a result of this home-grown enthusiasm.

“It was kind of a weird subculture niche. Like being a goth,” Green said, recounting his initial tiki obsession in the 1990s.

Green said the tiki revival that started in the ‘90s has been growing to this day. Thanks in part to the modern obsession with craft cocktails and all things retro, camp and

kitsch, tiki is perhaps bigger than ever, and The Lucky Tiki is fully booked every night that it’s open.

“Twenty years ago, I almost didn’t want to do it because I didn’t think there was enough interest. And now, 20 years later, before deciding on this space, I almost didn’t want to do it because there was too much interest,” Green said. “It’s hugely satisfying. It’s like going back and visiting high school again, going back to your roots and getting to revive it.”

Another thing that’s hugely satisfying? The drinks at The Lucky Tiki. The menu is an assortment of fresh takes on tiki classics, accompanied by extravagant garnishes like flaming rosemary stems and edible sand. And if you’re a tiki purist looking for a taste of a Donn Beach or Trader Vic’s original, the bartenders are happy to take you back in time upon request. But be warned – one too many Zombies and you’ll endure the wrath of the tiki gods the next morning.

In order to preserve the personally curated tiki experience, The Lucky Tiki is open Wednesday-Saturday from 5 p.m.-midnight with reservations only. Walk-ins are welcome on Sundays from 2-7 p.m.

To make a reservation, visit resy.com/cities/los-angeles-ca/venues/lucky-tiki.

The Lucky Tiki is located behind Tail O’ the Pup at 8512 Santa Monica Blvd.



photo by Tabor Brewster

The décor at The Lucky Tiki is a fitting homage to the many tiki bars that came before.

Pride celebration brings community together at All Saints’ Beverly Hills

All Saints’ Episcopal Church of Beverly Hills is hosting a Pride Service on Thursday, June 20, at 7 p.m.

The special service will feature prayers and readings focused on inclusion and acceptance, as well as uplifting praise music and a sermon by special guest Rev. Lorenzo Lebrija, executive director of TryTank Research Institute.



photo courtesy of All Saints' Beverly Hills

The special event includes prayers, music and a reception highlighting diversity.

Lebrija brings a wealth of experience and profound insight to the service. Before launching TryTank, he served as pastor at St. John’s Episcopal Church in San Bernardino, and as priest associate at St. Athanasius Episcopal Church at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul in Los Angeles. He holds a master of divinity degree from the General Theological Seminary in New York

City and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Virginia Theological Seminary.

The Pride Service will feature inclusive musical selections by composer Mark Miller, including celebratory and reflective pieces. The music will be led by members of the All Saints’ Choir and a contemporary band under the direction of Dr. Collin Boothby, assistant organist and choir director.

“We are excited to offer this special service as part of our commitment to celebrating diversity and promoting inclusion within our community,” said the Rev. Canon Andrea McMillin, of All Saints’ Beverly Hills. “This service is a powerful reminder of God’s unconditional love for everyone, and we welcome all to join us in this celebration.”

All Saints’ Episcopal Church is located at 504 N. Camden Drive. The special Pride Service is open to the public and will be followed by a reception. Join an evening of worship, reflection and celebration in honor of diversity and acceptance.

For information, visit allsaints-bh.org.



photo by Tabor Brewster

The bartenders at The Lucky Tiki have mastered the art of exotic cocktail mixology. Some of the drinks come with flamboyant garnishes, like a burning rosemary shrub.

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To make a reservation, visit resy.com/cities/los-angeles-ca/venues/lucky-tiki.

The Lucky Tiki is located behind Tail O’ the Pup at 8512 Santa Monica Blvd.

SaMo celebrates Pride on Third

Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. will host Pride on the Promenade, part of the city-wide SaMo Pride celebration, on Saturday, June 22 from 2-8 p.m.

The lively free block party will transform Third Street Promenade into a colorful celebration featuring a concert experience presented by OUTLOUD and produced by JJLA, with musical performances headlined by Jessica Wild of “RuPaul’s Drag Race” and “RuPaul’s Drag Race All Stars.” Attendees can also catch performances by LGBTQ+ artists Tori Kay, RYLO, Mariachi Arcoiris de Los Angeles, the world’s first and only LGBTQ+ Mariachi band,



photo courtesy of Downtown Santa Monica, Inc.

Pride on the Promenade will return on June 22.

Beverly Hills celebrates 29th annual Rodeo Drive Concours d'Elegance

Fathers, families and car lovers filled the world's most iconic street at the 29th Rodeo Drive Concours d'Elegance, sponsored by O'Gara Coach, on Sunday, June 16. Nearly 50,000 people turned out to enjoy the popular free Father's Day event in Beverly Hills.

"Celebrating dads and families with a free, world-class car show is what makes this day so special," Concours d'Elegance founder Bruce Meyer said. "We raised the bar with extraordinary cars and fun for everyone thanks to the car owners and our amazing sponsors. It's a joy to watch our community enjoy the show."

"Having a car show of this caliber on Beverly Hills' famed Rodeo Drive is unlike anything else in Southern California. Nothing beats the cars and the scenery, and I love that it brings the community together to celebrate Father's Day," Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman said.

Event attendees enjoyed an up-close look at some of the world's most unique and iconic vehicles, ranging from a 1914 Mercer Type 35-J Raceabout to a 1961 Chevrolet

Impala lowrider to a 2023 Hennessey Venom F5 Coupe.

Legendary comedian and renowned car collector Jay Leno, who arrived in his McLaren P1, joined Meyer, Friedman and Rodeo Drive Committee President Kay Monica Rose for the on-stage awards presentation. Phillip Sarofim was awarded "Best in Show" for his No. 79 Interscope Racing 1979 Porsche 935, while Aaron Weiss' 1931 Cadillac Sport Phaeton won the "Mayor's Award: Most Elegant." A 1967 Bizzarrini 5300 Strada owned by Michael Kerns took home the "Beverly Hills Blockbuster Award: Most Eye Appeal." A complete list of award winners can be found below.

"I'm around cars every day, so seeing this magical street lined with jaw-dropping supercars brings a smile to my face," Monica Rose said. "I'm already looking forward to next year."

The day featured a chance to see 13 new luxury models in the O'Gara Beverly Hills display, including a first look at the new Aston Martin Vantage and McLaren Artura Spider. In addition,

the upcoming Netflix Film "Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F," streaming July 3, hosted an interactive display that offered a chance to "cop the look," become Axel Foley and take home a custom photo with the iconic blue 1970 Chevy Nova in a singing Father's Day card, while the Formula 1 Las Vegas Grand Prix display boasted two 2024 F1 show cars alongside race-themed props for fan photo opportunities.

Auto Vault Storage, Lucid Motors, Ferrari of Beverly Hills, RM Sotheby's and Mercedes-Benz of Beverly Hills also hosted displays, while longtime event sponsors GEARYS and Two Rodeo offered nearby shopping opportunities.

Proceeds from the event directly benefit the community, as Meyer and Friedman presented \$7,500 checks to the Beverly Hills Police Officers Association and Beverly Hills Firefighters' Association, non-profit charities raising funds for first responders and their families.

Award winners:

"Best of Show" – Phillip Sarofim, 1979 Porsche 935/No. 79 Interscope Racing.

"Chairman's Award" – Mel Matsurra, 1955 Ferrari 750 Monza.

"Mayor's Award: Most Elegant" – Aaron Weiss, 1931 Cadillac Sport Phaeton.

"Icon Award: Timeless Classic" –



photo courtesy of Kahn Media

Comedian Jay Leno and event founder Bruce Meyer presented two \$7,500 checks to the Beverly Hills Firefighters' Association and Beverly Hills Police Officers' Association.

Matt Guirguis, 1938 Bugatti Type 57 Roadster.

"Beverly Hills Blockbuster: Most Eye Appeal" – Michael Kerns, 1967 Bizzarrini 5300 Strada.

"Rodeo Drive Award: Most Stylish" – John D'Agostino, 1941 Cadillac "Gable II."

"Police Chief's Award: Life in the Fast Lane" – Matt Katz, 2008 Koenigsegg CCXR.

"Fire Chief's Award: 'Smokin' Haute Classic'" – Logan McJilton, Hypersociety, 2019 McLaren Senna GTR.

"Rodeo Drive Award: Most Fashionable" – Richard Davis, 1957 Cadillac Eldorado Biarritz.

"Carroll Shelby Award: Most Sporting" – Cole Hennessey, 2023 Hennessey Venom F5 Coupe

"Steve McQueen Award: Classic Sports Car" – Bryant Kreadon, 1967 Ferrari 275 GTB/4

"Most Passionate Enthusiast" – Andrew Labi.

For information, visit rodeo-drive-bh.com/events/concours-d-elegance-2024.

Dance DTLA kicks off June 21

The Music Center's Dance DTLA series returns this summer for an unforgettable 20th season of dancing under the stars on Jerry Moss Plaza at The Music Center. Join the thousands who love to learn new dance styles with free, easy-to-follow beginner dance lessons by top Los Angeles dance artists and instructors. Then hit the dance floor to practice new moves, keep the vibe going and dance the night away to live DJ sets – absolutely no dance experience necessary.

Celebrating its milestone year, The Music Center's Dance DTLA will turn up the volume on eight Friday nights, June 21-Aug. 16 from 7-11 p.m., with Angelenos' most favorite dance genres from the program's two decades: Bollywood, Colombian cumbia, disco, hip-hop, line dance, reggaeton, salsa and samba. Each Friday night party finishes with a surprise

dance genre lesson – a finale "extra-dance-za."

Food and beverages will be available for purchase onsite. No outside alcohol is permitted. The season of free Dance DTLA performances will be capped off by a special ticketed party to celebrate both the 20th year of The Music Center's hallmark summer program and the organization's 60th year. This fundraising event, The Music Center's Dance DTLA Birthday Bash, will take place on Saturday, Aug. 24, on Jerry Moss Plaza at The Music Center and will feature three hours of some of the most popular music and dance genres of The Music Center's Dance DTLA over the past two decades along with special surprises. More details about the event will be announced soon.

Jerry Moss Plaza is located at 135 N. Grand Ave. For information, visit musiccenter.org/dancedtla.



Starting June 21, dance lessons and fun will be available every Friday night at The Music Center.

Andaz flows into Yoga Day

On June 21, Equinox will celebrate World Yoga Day in partnership with Andaz West Hollywood, hosting a morning yoga session on the hotel's stunning sundeck, amidst panoramic city views. The revitalizing experience will be held from 8-8:45 a.m., followed by refreshing juices and fresh smoothies.

For Angelenos looking to start their day off with balance, sunlight and gorgeous views, this event is the perfect kickoff. The yoga series

will consist of guided stretching and breathwork from an expert Equinox instructor and will be open to the public for a \$20 admission fee – a discounted rate compared to typical Equinox fitness offerings.

The class will be complimentary for hotel guests. For information and to book, visit hyatexperiences.com/andaz/laxss?camp=property_page_menu_book_experiences. Andaz West Hollywood is located at 8401 Sunset Blvd.

New art display comes with its own 'Entourage'

The MAK Center's "Entourage" will present the work of contemporary architects who confront and expand the ways bodies serve as units of measure for architecture. The exhibition, opening June 22 at

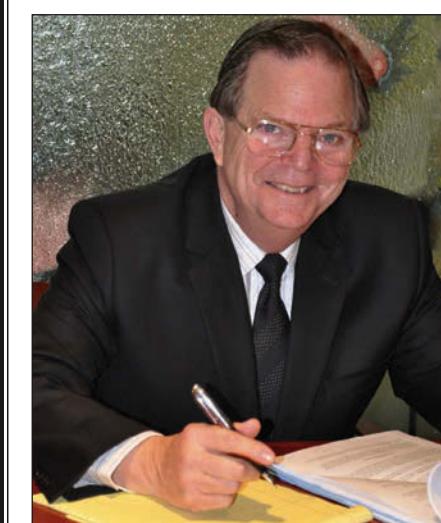


A new contemporary architect exhibition opens at Schindler House on June 22.

Schindler House, centers research-based practices and projects across multiple sites: in people drawn by architects, within the political space of restrooms and through the commercial fixtures of our daily

lives. Curated by MAK Center Director Jia Yi Gu, the exhibition presents works by MOS (Michael Meredith and Hilary Sample), Your Restroom is a Battleground (Matilde Cassani, Ignacio G. Galán, Iván L. Munuera and Joel Sanders) and Strat Coffman in the Schindler House, an early modernist experiment that married the body to the natural environment. By centering new definitions in bodily rights, experiences and forms, the exhibition brings contemporary practices working on the architectural governance of the body into conversation with early modernist ideas at the Schindler House.

For information about the exhibition, visit makcenter.org/exhibitions/entourage. "Entourage" will be on display through Sept. 15. Schindler House is located at 835 N. Kings Road.



10 Reasons Why I Don't Want An Estate Plan

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

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

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'Inside Out 2' matches the original

"Inside Out" is a truly special film that transforms a common life into an extraordinary adventure. The entire premise bursts with creativity as a young girl's emotions take over, resulting in some bad choices. "Inside Out 2" expands upon those inner workings of a developing mind, proving these films can and probably should keep going. So much of everyday life deserves such beautiful representation.

High school is just around the corner for Riley (Kensington Tallman). She just won a hockey championship and prepares for a special sports camp weekend. Not a problem for Joy (Amy Poehler), who has things under control. She acknowledges the importance of all

emotions, including Sadness (Phyllis Smith). Along with Anger (Lewis Black), Disgust (Liza Lapira) and Fear (Tony Hale), Riley's mind is balanced.

Slight problem: Puberty is here. And with it comes new emotions like Envy (Ayo Edebiri), Embarrassment (Paul Walter Hauser) and boredom, or Ennui (Adèle Exarchopoulos), as she prefers. But the most dominant newcomer is Anxiety (Maya Hawke), who immediately clashes with Joy.

"Inside Out" already established that no emotion is the enemy. Joy and sadness are inescapable, and as everyone grows, other seemingly unsavory emotions arise, never to leave once they take root. But at



photo courtesy of Pixar

Emotions Joy, left, Sadness, Disgust, Envy, Anxiety and Embarrassment come together with riveting results in "Inside Out 2."

El Capitan turns 'Inside Out'

Make room for new emotions with Disney and Pixar's new feature, "Inside Out 2" at the El Capitan Theatre through July 21. Tickets are on sale now including two fan event screenings. Guests can join the all-new dueling DJs preshow live at headquarters. Plus, feel all the feels at the Joy and Anxiety statue photo op.

Daily showtimes for "Inside Out 2" are 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:55 p.m. Dolby Vision 3D showtimes are available Saturday-Thursday at 4 p.m. and Friday at 7 p.m. Dates and showtimes are subject to change.

Sensory Inclusive Screenings

(shown in 2D) are available June 29 at 1 p.m. and July 2 at 7 p.m. Open Caption screenings (shown in 2D) are available June 27 at 7 p.m. and June 20 at 1 p.m. Spanish Dubbed screenings (shown in 3D) are available June 26 at 7 p.m. and July 6 at 1 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now at elcapitantheatre.com and fandango.com/el-capitan-theatre-acon/theater-page. All seats are reserved. Tickets for 2D showtimes are \$24 for adults and \$21 for children and seniors. Tickets for 3D showtimes are \$26 for adults and \$23 for children and seniors.

The El Capitan Theatre is located at 6838 Hollywood Blvd.

Rodeo Drive Committee drops new season of 'Rodeo Drive – The Podcast' with Lyn Winter

The Rodeo Drive Committee announced on June 12 the launch of "Join Cameron Silver and The Caftan Caucus!," the first episode in season five of "Rodeo Drive – The Podcast."

As summer heats up on Rodeo Drive, there's no better to stay cool and chic than in the most versatile,

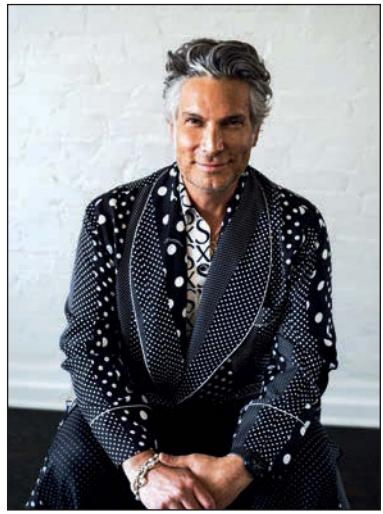


photo by David Christopher Lee

In the first episode of the new season, fashion expert Cameron Silver will tell listeners about his love for the caftan.

enduring and fluid garment of all time – the Caftan – according to the man with more than thirty of them, Cameron Silver. Silver is the author of the new book "Caftans: From Classical to Camp."

Silver talks with "Rodeo Drive – The Podcast" host Lyn Winter about the history, design and appeal of the caftan, which he said is the most universal and ancient garment in the world.

"It is this wonderful garment of comfort that's size inclusive, that's gender fluid, that can be modest or sexy. It can be voluminous or follow the lines of the body, it can be luxurious, or very accessible," Silver said.

He pointed out that the caftan, essentially a square of fabric with holes for the head and arms, kept plain or highly ornamental, has been worn by figures such as Jesus, Moses, Muhammad and Buddha.

"It is this cultural garment of incredible reverence in Morocco," Silver said.

He added that it was worn with high camp by the singer Demis Roussos and extraordinary grace by Elizabeth Taylor, Grace Kelly and

numerous other celebrities. It has been styled by the likes of Fortuny, Yves Saint Laurent, Valentino, Marc Bohan for Dior, Karl Lagerfeld, Emilio Pucci, Rudi Gernreich and Oscar de la Renta.

Silver, who conducted the interview wearing a lightweight, hooded, 100% cotton caftan designed by Trina Turk, has taken his book on the road from Texas to Mykonos.

He noted that wherever he goes he finds an enthusiastic "caftan caucus" of people wearing and talking about caftans, which he says is the quintessential athleisure garment, counterintuitively more glamorous than body hugging clothes.

Even though Silver wears his caftans in all seasons, he said the floaty garment that can be worn from day into evening is especially appealing in the summer.

Season 5 of "Rodeo Drive – The Podcast" is presented by the Rodeo Drive Committee with the support of The Hayman Family, Two Rodeo Drive, Beverly Wilshire, A Four Seasons Hotel, and the Beverly Hills Conference & Visitors Bureau.

To listen to the podcast, visit rodeodrive-bh.com/podcast.

ON SCREEN

WITH
TIM POSADA

13 (that seems too young for entering high school, but whatever), Riley suddenly feels these new emotions more than the ones that made her a more amiable friend and daughter.

Let's say it again: These films could continue for a lifetime. Isn't that the point? With each stage of human development, we unlock more complex feelings. The mind is quite the mystery, and Pixar's clever, sometimes hilarious analogy is the most creative visualization of that matrix.

This time around, the premise might feel a dash more familiar – as sequels fare – but it never devolves into repetition or a tedious formula. We experience a few winks to the first film, from brief flashes to that stinkin' gum jingle, but this is mostly new territory. Don't expect another Bing Bong to sacrifice himself. But that doesn't mean you won't cry.

First, you'll likely wince. Riley undergoes one of the most awkward



photo courtesy of Pixar

Joy (Amy Poehler) and Anxiety (Maya Hawke) share some special moments in "Inside Out 2."

times in life, and she doesn't handle it with grace. You'll probably cringe, then relive some personal trauma from those wildly mortifying years.

As usual, what Riley learns is directly related to Joy's journey (any specifics would spoil the whole thing), though Disgust, Fear and Anger tag along, enjoying direct involvement in the adventure. Sadness is around too, but she must venture off on her own. Frankly, she doesn't have much to do this time around, which is slightly disappointing considering her paramount role in the inaugural outing.

Regardless, "Inside Out 2" is nearly as perfect as the first flick. It still sports plenty of feels, though nothing rips out your soul quite like an imaginary friend saying, "Take

her to the moon for me," before vanishing. Still, a new moment comes close when Joy ponders how much happiness life affords as more emotions pop up. Any spectator with a mostly developed frontal lobe might tear up.

Like its predecessor, "Inside Out 2" invites conversation. It's an opportunity to reflect on a past long ago for adults and yet to come for many a young viewer. The littles will likely enjoy the on-screen shenanigans as Joy leads her fellow emotions on a journey into the back of Riley's mind.

But adults will catch all the clever references – vaulted memories of guilty pleasures, actual brain storms, chasms created by sarcasm. And of course, those young minds will wonder why a bunch of fully-grown adults keep weeping.

Concert series kicks off in MacArthur Park

Levitt Pavilion Los Angeles is celebrating its 17th annual concert series by presenting 10 world-class performances that are all free and open to everyone. The concerts will be held outdoors, under the stars, with the stunning backdrop of L.A.'s skyline at MacArthur Park, starting June 22 through Aug. 31.

For 17 years, Levitt LA has been creating a sense of community through music. This summer, it will once again showcase the diverse cultural landscape of Los Angeles with a fantastic lineup of artists, transforming MacArthur Park into a vibrant and energized urban sonic oasis.

On June 22, Vilma Díaz y La Sonora will kick off the series. The Colombian singer is a tropical

music legend and former lead vocalist for La Sonora Dinamita (1988-2023). With her brilliant voice, the international star has received several international awards and recognitions.

Also appearing on the opening night is La Diabla, which has emerged as a vibrant force in the dynamic transborder region straddling Tijuana and San Diego ushering a cumbia revolution since the dawn of the millennia. Their compositions are a rebellion of emotions within the cumbia genre.

The Cumbia Fever, an all-Cumbia DJ dance party that takes place every Thursday in Downtown Los Angeles, and it'll be at

MacArthur Park on June 22, too. It is produced by Ricky Garay and Mucho Music. The Cumbia Fever DJs are a musical collective of composers, remixers and curators.

Rounding out the opening night lineup is Classical Around Town. These hour-long concerts feature a string quartet of leading BIPOC musicians performing family-friendly music, with a Q&A to follow each concert.

It all starts at 5 p.m. at MacArthur Park, located at 2230 W. Sixth St. All programs are free and open to the public. Guests are allowed to bring their own picnics, blankets and lawn chairs. For information and to RSVP, visit levittlosangeles.org.

Cinespia screens 'D.E.B.S.' for Pride

Party with eyes of diamonds on June 22 at Cinespia's annual LA Pride event. It's a sapphic spectacle when romance blossoms between a secret spy and her mark in the feature film "D.E.B.S." Lez be honest: what follows is a queer masterpiece and a marvel of green-screen-ography. Super spies can celebrate with a picnic, a DJ

dance party, free photobooth, beer and wine bar, and food for every craving.

Tickets are available ticketweb.com/event/debs-cinespia-at-hollywood-forever-cemetery-tickets/13427384. For information, visit cinespia.org. Hollywood Forever Cemetery is located at 6000 Santa Monica Blvd.



photo courtesy of Cinespia

The 2004 film "D.E.B.S." will be the focal point of a Pride celebration at Hollywood Forever Cemetery on June 22.

Children receive free lunches at city parks this summer

Children and teens have access to free nutritious lunches provided by the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks now through Aug. 2 at more than 90 city parks.

Children up to 18 years old can enjoy a meal on site during park lunch hours. The lunches are being offered at the Pan Pacific Park



Children and teens can enjoy free lunches at the Pan Pacific, Hollywood and Poinsettia Park recreation centers.

Recreation Center, 7600 Beverly Blvd.; Hollywood Recreation Center, 1122 Cole Ave.; and Poinsettia Recreation Center, 7341 Willoughby Ave.

"Together with LAUSD, we are providing children and teens free nutritious lunches during summer," said Jimmy Kim, general manager

of the Department of Recreation and Parks. "Whether you're in our camp program or enjoying a summer day with family and friends, we invite all youth and teens to join us for lunch in a safe, welcoming and inclusive space at our parks."

Through the Summer Food Service Program, participating children are guaranteed to receive at least one wholesome meal during the summer school break. The menu includes a serving of fresh fruit or vegetables, milk and nutritious options such as salads or deli sandwiches. The lunches meet all the USDA nutrition standards as well as the city's Good Food Purchasing Policy.

The lunch program is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and administered by the California Department of Education.

To find participating park locations and lunch times, call (818)346-2700, or visit laparks.org/foodprogram.

photo courtesy of the USDA

photo courtesy of Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services

BHUSD announces new Horace Mann Principal

The Beverly Hills Unified School District certified Ontrece Ellerbe as the new principal of Horace Mann Elementary School on Tuesday, June 19.

"I am pleased to announce that Ms. Ontrece Ellerbe has been appointed as the new principal of Horace Mann Elementary School following the Board of Education's unanimous 4-0 vote of approval. Ms. Ellerbe brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to educational excellence, making her an ideal leader for our community," BHUSD Superintendent Michael Bregy said in an email to the BHUSD community.

"Words cannot express how excited I am to be selected as the

new principal of Horace Mann Elementary. As a former student of Horace Mann, it will be an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to pour into a school that once gave so much to me. I look forward to getting to know all of the students, staff and parents of this great community and to all of the amazing things that we will accomplish together," Ellerbe said.

Ellerbe previously served as executive director of the Global Education Academy in Los Angeles since 2020. She has also served as principal of Tibby K-8 School and George Washington Elementary School. Ellerbe's term as principal of Horace Mann Elementary will begin on July 1.



Ontrece Ellerbe will head the school after serving as executive director of the Global Education Academy since 2020.

ment careers.

Television City staff held a special effects demonstration and led the students on a visit to the costume department and sound stage control room. At every stop, students learned about different jobs at the iconic studio at Beverly Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue.

"We emphasize the everyday studio jobs on our youth tours to introduce students to career tracks in entertainment that move beyond familiar positions like actor or director," said Adeena Bleich, vice president of community relations for Television City. "Working with younger students, we're helping them to dream of their future career possibilities and, in time, connect them to our trainings and local hire programs."

For more information about Television City, visit tvcstudios.com.

Melrose Elementary third graders learn about entertainment careers

Third-grade students from Melrose Elementary School visited

Television City on May 23 for a tour and introduction to entertain-



photo courtesy of Television City

Students visited different departments at the studio and learned about career opportunities in the television industry.

World premiere takes the stage at MOCA

MOCA and The Industry are presenting the world premiere of "The Comet / Poppea," for performances through June 23. Conceived by director Yuval Sharon, composed by George Lewis, and with a libretto by poet Douglas Kearney, "The Comet / Poppea" features a virtuosic cast with countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo and bass-baritone Davóne Tines.

"The Comet / Poppea" brings together seemingly disparate worlds connected by stories of cultural transformation. It juxtaposes Claudio Monteverdi's "L'incorona-

zione di Poppea (The Coronation of Poppea)," an Italian opera from 1643 unfolding among the social divisions of ancient Rome; and the world premiere of "The Comet," based on the 1920 science-fiction short story by sociologist and Pan-Africanist civil rights activist W.E.B. Du Bois. Set in 1920s New York City, "The Comet" depicts a Black man and white woman as the only survivors after a comet hits Earth.

Presented on a turntable divided in two halves, these worlds unfold simultaneously, with the stage's rotation creating a visual and sonic spiral for audi-

ences – inviting associations, dissociations, collisions and confluences.

Developed over six years, "The Comet / Poppea" is realized through a landmark partnership among organizations across the United States, produced by Costanzo and Cath Brittan, The Industry, American Modern Opera Company Curtis Institute of Music and Yale Schwarzman Center.

For tickets and information, visit moca.ticketapp.org/portal/product/237/events. The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA is located at 152 N. Central Ave.

Didi Hirsch offers support for LGBTQI+ youth



photo courtesy of Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services

Our Third Place, a drop-in center for youth, offers special online programs for LGBTQI+ individuals.

Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services is celebrating Pride Month in June by raising awareness about mental health and wellness services.

"We at Didi Hirsch believe that having pride in who you are is a key component of one's mental health," chief operating officer Kristine Santoro said. "We celebrate the LGBTQI+ community and are here to support individuals wherever they are in their journey with the resources they need to thrive."

According to the Trevor Project's U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Young People, 39% of LGBTQ+ young people seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, including 46% of transgender and nonbinary young people. More than 1 in 10 (12%) LGBTQ+ young people attempted suicide in the past year. Didi Hirsch offers affirming services and resources to LGBTQI+ individuals. The Teen Line is a national hotline staffed by teens and supervised by adult mental health professionals who provide support, resources and hope for those struggling with mental health challenges. Teen counselors respond to calls, texts and emails from other teens in need of support. Youth can contact Teen Line's hotline by calling (800)852-8336, texting TEEN to 839863 or emailing teenline.org@email-us.

Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services also operates the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, a free, confidential 24-hour hotline for individuals experiencing emotional distress or considering suicide, and anyone concerned about a loved one. Call 988 or text PRIDE to 988. Callers to 988 can connect to affirming counselors with a specialization in LGBTQI+ care by selecting option 3. Individuals can also connect with 988 via online chat at 988lifeline.org and selecting LGBTQI+ in the pre-chat survey.

Our Third Place, a new drop-in center operated by Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services at 1540 E. Colorado St. in Glendale, offers help for young people ages 15-25. Designed as a safe, nurturing environment that encourages creative expression, Our Third Place offers a digital recording studio, art studio, community kitchen, relaxation nook, showers and laundry facilities, as well as private spaces for mental health therapy, substance use counseling, classes and workshops on life skills. Our Third Place hosts new online support groups for LGBTQI+ individuals, including a peer support group on Fridays from 1-2 p.m., and T-Time, a support group for trans, nonbinary and gender nonconforming individuals, on Fridays from 2-3 p.m. For information, call (818)244-7257 or email ourthirdplace@didihirsch.org.

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All Saints' Beverly Hills welcomes Christ Church Choir

The world-renowned Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, will perform a special concert on Sunday, June 23, at 5 p.m. at All Saints' Beverly Hills.

Known for its exceptional musical heritage and performances, the historic choir brings a legacy spanning 500 years to Southern California in a rare and much-anticipated appearance. It marks the choir's first North American tour in nearly six years and the first appearance in California in a decade. Attendees will experience a bespoke program of sacred music closely connected with Christ Church, featuring works by composers associated with the choral foundation across nearly five centuries. It includes pieces by John Taverner from the 16th century, William Walton from the 20th century and contemporary works by Howard Goodall from the 21st century.

"We are delighted to bring the rich musical tradition of Christ Church Cathedral to Beverly Hills," said Dr. Craig Phillips, music director of All Saints' Beverly Hills.



photo courtesy of All Saints' Beverly Hills
The Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford will perform music from the 16th-20 centuries.

"This concert offers a unique opportunity to experience the beauty and depth of sacred choral music performed by one of the world's leading cathedral choirs."

The performance will take place at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 504 N. Camden Drive. The church pro-

vides a beautiful and acoustically rich environment for an exceptional concert. Music lovers and history enthusiasts are invited to attend an evening of choral excellence. Tickets will be available at the door.

For information, visit allsaints-bh.org.

California Legislature restores 75% of previously cut funding to arts nonprofits



photo by Cassy Sottile

"Bauhaus" director Martha Demson, top left, applauded the legislature's restoration of arts funding. She is pictured with the cast of "The Bauhaus Project" and "Crevasse." The two plays will open in July as a collaboration between three theater companies.

California State Assembly speaker Robert Rivas and Senate President pro tempore Senator Mike McGuire announced last week that an agreement has been reached on a legislative budget that restores approximately 75% of state funding for the arts that had been cut earlier last month by Governor Newsom in his May revised budget. Restored funds include \$12.5 million to the Performing Arts Equitable Payroll Fund and \$5 million to the California Arts Council, which provides grants to small arts nonprofits.

The turnaround followed an aggressive campaign from arts advocates, employers and unions, who sent more than 9,000 letters to the Legislature, held over 30 meetings and organized a press conference outside the capitol. More than

400 organizations signed a letter opposing the cuts, led by CA Arts Advocates, Actors' Equity Association and the Theatre Producers of Southern California.

"I recognize that the state faces a challenging budget deficit, and we have to make some adjustments," said state Sen. Anthony Portantino (D-Burbank), author of legislation that enacted SB 1116, the Equitable Payroll Fund, in 2023. "We made significant progress in the last several years to support the nonprofit arts community and cuts to critical arts programming would be devastating. However, I am encouraged that our legislative leaders have agreed to restore \$12.5 million in funding for SB 1116 and \$5 million to the California Arts Council, which provides grants to small arts nonprofits."

The turnaround followed an aggressive campaign from arts advocates, employers and unions, who sent more than 9,000 letters to the Legislature, held over 30 meetings and organized a press conference outside the capitol. More than

industry thriving, as it drives much of our creative economy."

"This agreement by the legislature to restore full funding to the Equitable Payroll Fund and add funding to the California Arts Council is a recognition that when people go to see live arts events, they generate economic activity and that investing in the arts is a positive return on investment for the state," Actors' Equity Association executive director Al Vincent Jr. said. "I want to thank Senator Portantino and Assemblymember Mike Gipson for their leadership in fighting to restore these cuts, and I look forward to working with the governor and Legislature on sustaining this funding so that California can stand by its arts workers."

"We are grateful that the California Legislature has moved to restore 75% of the proposed funding cuts to the arts," said Martha Demson, president of the Theatre Producers of Southern California. "We particularly appreciate the Legislature's recognition that arts jobs are real jobs, with their move to restore \$12.5 million for the Performing Arts Equitable Payroll Fund program implementation. We want to thank Senator Portantino for his steadfast leadership over the past three years, and for his work together with Assemblymember Gipson, to restore these cuts that would otherwise have had a devastating impact on a vulnerable sector."

For information, visit caartsadvocates.org.

City Council honors teen leaders



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

The Beverly Hills City Council recognized the Teen Advisory Committee graduating class during its June 18 formal meeting.

LAUSD outlines upcoming budget

Los Angeles Unified School District will soon delineate its upcoming budget after months of planning, conversations and preparation. The budget presentation will take place at the Board of Education meeting on June 18, with the vote and adoption of the budget taking place at the Board of Education meeting on June 25.

"A world-class education requires an exceptional set of investments to ensure all students in Los Angeles Unified graduate ready for the world," Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho said. "Increasing intervention and student-centered academic supports, allocating \$30 million of additional funds for art teachers and expanding social-emotional resources is central to student achievement and reflects our ongoing commitment to equity even during challenging economic conditions."

"We have a responsibility to bring forth a budget that not only addresses the current economic reality, but also provides a sustainable future for the next generation of students," Board President Jackie Goldberg said. "I am proud of the work we've done to address the many challenges confronting Los Angeles Unified, and I look forward to more planning and conversations around our budget."

The District is confronting a confluence of challenges that districts in California and across the nation are grappling with – the sunsetting of federal pandemic relief funding, declining enrollment, challenging and growing economic conditions worsened by a significant state deficit and declining investments in public

education. Through diligent and prudent fiscal choices, LAUSD has staved off worst-case-scenarios and layoffs to this point and is optimistic about its financial stability – as was recently reaffirmed by improved ratings from Moody's, Fitch Ratings and KBRA. LAUSD is working tirelessly to ensure students receive a world-class education, sustain the recruitment and retention of top-tier educators and support personnel and have the financial flexibility to make decisions in the best interest of school communities.

While other districts have been forced to lay off employees, LAUSD has invested in staff with historic compensation increases, maintained health and welfare costs and continue to offer an incomparable benefits package. The district is also setting aside \$87.5 million over the next three years in a School Staff Stabilization Fund to address any reduction in hours for there school-based classified employees. LAUSD is also establishing a Workforce Protection Fund, allocating dollars equivalent to a 1.07% compensation increase for employees with pending labor agreements in 2024-25.

"As we navigate these fiscal challenges guided by our strategic plan, we are confident in our ability to rise to the occasion and uphold our commitment to educational excellence," Carvalho said. "Investing in education isn't just a financial obligation but a moral imperative – one that pays dividends in the form of empowered individuals, vibrant communities and a brighter future for all."

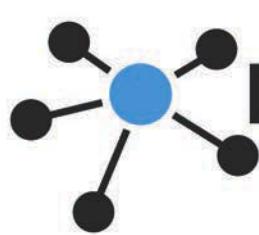
For information, visit lausd.org.

CCA honors LGBTQ+ creatives

The Critics Choice Association presented the inaugural Celebration of LGBTQ+ Cinema & Television, hosted by Sherry Cola, during Pride Month on Friday, June 7 at the Fairmont Century Plaza. The show will stream on June 21 on HereTV, the first and largest LGBTQ+ TV and streaming service in the USA. The celebration honored the finest achievements from the LGBTQ+ entertainment community, both in front of and behind the camera, as well as showcased emerging and established talent. Honorees included Michaela Jaé Rodriguez (pictured, Vanguard Award), Nathan Lane (Career Achievement Award), Chris Perfetti (Breakthrough Performance Award for Television – Series) and Nava Mau (Breakthrough Performance Award – Limited Series). The Fairmont Century Plaza is located at 2025 Avenue of the Stars.



photo by Emma McIntyre/Getty Images for CCA



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Supervisor Solis declares Arts and Health Week

On June 4, in a motion authored by Supervisor Hilda Solis, 1st District, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously declared the week of June 10 as Arts and Health Week. There is growing research that demonstrates the arts have a positive impact across physical, mental and public health. Recognizing that the benefits of the arts are many, and that everyone deserves to have equal access to them, the motion highlights the collaborative efforts of LA Opera, the L.A. County Department of Arts and Culture and county health departments already underway and encourages continued growth of the work and the county's strategies and services at the intersection of arts and health.

The motion asserts the importance that the arts, when implemented through cross-sector collaboration, are integral to equity and healthy communities across all

aspects of civic life – including education, youth development, justice reform and prevention, health, infrastructure and aging. It also highlights that the arts can have a positive influence across social determinants of health, which are the conditions in the environment where people live, work and play, to promote health equity for all. The five social determinants to health include economic stability, education access and quality, health care access and quality, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community context.

The recognition of the role of the arts in health continues to grow, yet there is still more work to do to capitalize on the momentum and further integrate arts and culture into health and civic and community infrastructure. The cross-sector efforts also actualize the goals of the Countywide Cultural Policy, which was adopted by the board of super-

visors in 2020 and directs county departments to integrate arts and culture into their strategies and services.

For the third year, LA Opera hosted the Arts and Health Week Summit on June 14. Its goal is to encourage greater understanding of the connection between arts, health and wellbeing, and to build collaborative practices. The event is advised by renowned soprano and arts and health advocate Renée Fleming, in collaboration with Solis, the Department of Arts and Culture, and Healing Arts – an initiative of the Jameel Arts & Health Lab, and the World Health Organization.

"Art has the power to transform bodies and minds, transcend cultures and economic and demographic boundaries and unify individuals of every age and ethnicity to promote deeper understanding and appreciation of one another in a way that no other single medium can," Solis said. "Everyone, no



photo courtesy of Samuel Cruz

Kristin Sakoda, left, director of the L.A. County Department of Arts and Culture, Supervisor Hilda Solis, 1st District, and soprano and health advocate Renée Fleming are advocates for Arts and Health Week.

matter their geographic, economic or cultural background, should have equal access to art's universal unifying and healing power, and this motion is about increasing equity and access – empowering the coun-

ty to better integrate arts and culture into the daily lives of every community and reach people where they live, work and play."

For information, visit lacount-yarts.org.

South L.A. CicLAvia to be held June 23

Come experience car-free open streets at CicLAvia's 53rd event on Sunday, June 23, between 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The public is invited to enjoy five miles of car-free open streets along Western Avenue, from Exposition Boulevard to the north and Century Boulevard to the south. The neighborhoods along the route include Vermont Square, Harvard Park, Chesterfield Square, Exposition Park and King Estates,

for the public to jog, walk, skate, scooter and bike along the open space. All people-powered modes are invited to this unique temporary pop-up park for the day which will feature activities, street games, local businesses and art and cultural activations for all ages. Always free, CicLAvia participants just show up anywhere along the route at any time to enjoy the open streets and to take the time to explore South L.A.



photo courtesy of CicLAvia

CicLAvia's June 23 event will explore the Western Avenue corridor.

along the Western Avenue corridor. CicLAvia – South LA includes four Hubs filled with plenty of activities and programs along the route. Hubs are walking zones (mandatory bike dismounts) and meeting points along the route with the Exposition Hub; Western Hub, which features activations highlighting The South Los Angeles Eco-Lab focused on "Economic Development through Climate Action," Florence Hub and the Century Hub. Hubs offer family-friendly activities, restrooms, free water refilling stations, free basic

bike repair, bike parking and first aid. Free pedicab rides are available at each information booth. Use the CicLAvia digital map to plan which businesses, local gems, activities along the route and hubs to check out during the event.

"South LA is always one of the highlights of CicLAvia's schedule,"

said CicLAvia executive director

Romel Pascual. "On Western Ave,

L.A.'s dynamic culture can be seen

in the local businesses and restaurants,

cultural institutions, and public art that are on the route."

Only people-powered vehicles

are allowed. No electric scooters, electric skateboards, hoverboards, electric unicycles, motorcycles and other non-people-powered vehicles are allowed at CicLAvia. Class 1 e-bike pedal-assist allowed. Class 2 e-bikes are allowed when the throttle is powered off. Class 3 e-bikes are allowed when pedal-assist is powered off. Motorized wheelchairs are allowed. Learn more here.

Participants assume all known and unknown risks of participation in CicLAvia. More information regarding participants' rights can be found at ciclavia.org/ciclavia-safety.

Participants can register now for early access to tee times prior to the launch of reservations to the public. Tee times are limited and are expected to sell out quickly. For information and to join the early access list, visit dodgers.com/stadi-umlinks.

For the event, Stadiumlinks will debut its "Pro Package," giving upgraded customers access to an expanded par-39 stadium golf course. For information, visit dodgers365.com.

It's 'Tee Time' at Dodger Stadium

The Los Angeles Dodgers announced that Stadiumlinks, a one-of-a-kind participatory golf event merging golf with an iconic ballpark, will come to Dodger Stadium from July 12-14.

Fans can sign up to the early interest list to access tee times to play a round of golf throughout Dodger Stadium, swinging from different levels of the stadium toward custom greens on the field

below. The experience comes with enhanced access to a clubhouse lounge to enjoy food and beverages, watch the Dodgers on the road and join in multiple golfing challenges.

Tee times for Stadiumlinks at Dodger Stadium will run from as early as 7 a.m. to as late as 9 p.m. each day. Each timeslot will be offered in two-player increments, with a maximum of 12 per group.

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California AIDS Ride raises funds for services



Cyclists in the California AIDS Ride crossed the finish line in this photograph in the June 14, 2001, issue of the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News. The annual ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles raised funds for services provided by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and Los Angeles LGBT Center. The organizations still hold the ride each June and it is now called AIDS LifeCycle. This year's ride took place from June 2-8 and raised more than \$10.9 million.

Students learn about careers in health care

From page 1

tal, exposing them to a variety of different jobs. Many YED program graduates seek employment in fields they were exposed to in the program after college, said Daniela Villegas, program manager for NextGen Healthcare Pathways at Cedars-Sinai.

"They are with us when they start their junior year. They come to the medical center [two to] three times a week for two or three hours. They have mentors and supervisors in the departments that help them with their day to day activities. For some students, this is their first job, because it is a paid program. They get school credit and they get paid," Villegas said.

The graduating students are Annalise Buonya, Autumn Cho, Emily Choi, Monica Contreras, Amadou Diop, Josephine Gomez, Vladimir Gonzalez, Mia Hall, Jacqueline Hernandez, Arlene Herrera, Katherine Lacayo, Emily Portillo and Andrea Ramirez. Cedars-Sinai administrators announced at the ceremony that five of the students – Choi, Gomez, Hall, Hernandez and Herrera – have been accepted into the EMERGE (Educational Mentorship for Empowering Resilient Growth and Excellence in Healthcare) pilot program in which

they will continue their paid part-time work at the hospital while they are in college and will have an opportunity for employment after they graduate.

"We want we want to make sure that they are with us and once they graduate college, to then get them a full time job," Villegas said. "We want to see the full circle."

Choi said the program was very rewarding. She will be attending California State University Los Angeles and plans to become a nurse practitioner.

"We were recruited, like student interns, during the last few days of our sophomore year. I've worked at ... the Anesthesia Free Evaluation Center," Choi added. "Basically, they deal with patients before their surgery to make sure they're optimized for the best operation, they're not allergic to any medication, they won't have any complications with anesthesia or anything like that. I feel like a lot of people might think that the YED program is specifically for people who are interested in health care, but you don't have to be set on the medical field in order to join the program. I feel like this program really helps you gain work experience and gain that professional stance that you need in the work environment."

Buonya said she is matriculating to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and has not yet decided what career path she wants to follow. She added that the YED program at Cedars-Sinai provided valuable knowledge and guidance as she moves into the next phase of her life.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my two years here," Buonya said. "I've been working in the Oncology Department for inpatient and they've kept me busy this entire time, from working with patients bedside to doing secretary work like filing and printing. I've learned a lot of technical skills just to be successful in general in the workplace. I also learned a lot of interpersonal skills."

Diop, who plans to attend Santa Monica College and pursue a career in engineering, said the staff members at Cedars-Sinai are inspiring.

"I enjoyed the program. It gave me a lot of insight and I think it's been interesting learning to pursue careers in health care. Also, it helped me become more professional. I found it very beneficial because it will help me in applying for jobs."

The YED program was started in 1993 as a partnership between the hospital and Fairfax High School. Villegas said it is open to all stu-



photo by Edwin Folven

The students and their families were treated to a celebratory luncheon after the graduation ceremony at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

dents at the school, not only those with high grade point averages. The medical center hopes to expand the program to other high schools in the future.

"We are not looking for 4.0 students. We really like to give opportunities to those that might have a 3.0 or 2.9 [GPA] because we feel that they also need that opportunity," said Villegas, who is also a graduate of the YED program and now runs it. "Maybe this program will change their lives and open more doors for them."

"We are so proud of the entire 2024 YED class," added Nicole

Mitchell, chief diversity and inclusion officer at Cedars-Sinai. "Some students will attend college out of state, some in state, but all are heading to college with insights and exposure to health care opportunities. For our inaugural EMERGE cohort, we are honored to continue to support them through their college journey and watch them grow."

For information on Cedars-Sinai's Youth Employment and Development program, visit cedars-sinai.org/diversity-and-inclusion/community/nextgen-healthcare-pathways.html.

Board bans cell phone use on campus

From page 1

their phones instead of engaging and learning with their peers," board member Tanya Ortiz Franklin said.

"The research is clear. It's addictive and isolating ... they just sit around not talking to each other all isolated on their devices," LAUSD parent Lyra Kilston said.

Similar public comments supporting the item came from other parents, teachers and learning development experts during the June 18 school board meeting.

Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho spoke to the dangers of social media for young people.

"It is time to formulate a legal

strategy that contemplates, but is not restricted to, litigation against social media entities that use algorithms designed to directly appeal and eventually develop, an unhealthy addiction with mental and physical deleterious consequences for our youth," Carvalho said. "When coupled with social media, phones are a harmful vehicle that negatively impacts young people."

Since much of adult life is centered around smartphones, Melvoin said that students will still get plenty of training in being good "digital citizens," as "the district gives every student a device of some sort."

However, he added that he does not think students should be using social media and the internet during school hours.

"This is not requiring students not to be on social media," he said. "This is not telling parents what to do. I hope that through this resolution, parents will start to talk with their kids and families [about] some of the deleterious impacts both of smartphones and social media. But this [resolution] is only saying that for the six hours of school, we're gonna have you focus on human interaction."

Melvoin said that his intention is

to give the individual schools some "discretion" in how the policy is enforced, whether the phones are checked in lockers or magnetically locked.

West Hollywood Mayor John Erickson raised a potential concern with the new policy. West Hollywood Elementary School is operated by LAUSD.

"I [do] think cellphones hinder the ability for people to learn and stay focused in schools," he said. "However, I want to ensure that teachers and administrators get the support that they need. And what we need to really focus on, and what I'm worried about and what I hear from parents, is that we have an epidemic of gun violence in this country. And I know a lot of parents are sending their kids to schools with

cell phones not so they can be on TikTok or Instagram, but in case something happened in one of their schools, they can know if their kids are alive."

Melvoin said, however, that there is exemption required by California state law for emergency use.

"If a student for some reason needs it in an emergency ... that they could get it," he said, although the details of how the phones would be accessed has not yet been determined. Details are expected to be determined before the implementation of the resolution in January.

A California Assembly bill, supported by Gov. Gavin Newsom, is also working its way through the legislature that would require school districts to implement a similar ban on cell phone use.

Council approves 2024-25 budget in Beverly Hills

From page 1

it's worth every penny. Our community expects it and gets it. When we have response times in the three minutes and under range from both police and fire, that's because of the investment we as a council have made."

The budget passed in a 4-1 vote, with Councilman John Mirisch voting against it, citing concerns over excessive charges.

"We do continue to provide extraordinary services for our residents and I think our residents deserve it, but in many cases I feel we are charging [them for it]. Sometimes I still do get the feeling that we treat our residents like ATMs," Mirisch said. "With all of that said, I appreciate very much the work done by staff. As has been the case in the past few years, I won't be supporting this but that doesn't mean I don't appreciate your hard work."

Although the fiscal year 2024-25 budget forecasts a surplus in revenue, future budget predictions for the coming years estimate a worsening deficit. City Council members agreed that the anticipated deficit is something the city must start addressing now.

"One of the largest components of our budget is private security, and often times we've piecemealed it ... It's really important for us to start looking at our contracts and ways that we can be more efficient and not piecemealing it, because that will always end up costing us more," Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian said. "Especially with the projected deficit that we foresee and forecast. Whatever we can do to start looking at being more fiscally responsible, I want to encourage and support."

LuskinOIC raises support for kids at gala

The Luskin Orthopaedic Institute for Children held the Stand for Kids Gala on June 8 at SoFi Stadium, supporting its mission to advance health equity for every child in Los Angeles and ensuring no child is turned away for lack of insurance.

The event was held on the 50-yard line of the state-of-the-art facility and was attended by more than 1,000 guests, including 100 volunteers. Guests included Chris and Anel Lopez Gorham, AnnaLynne McCord and Danny Cipriani, J. August Richards and Joshua Gbor and Miss India Pooja Batra.

"LuskinOIC is the largest pediatric orthopaedic program in L.A. County. What makes LuskinOIC unique is their focus on caring for underserved kids, 85% of their children are underinsured and 75% are children of color," Lopez said. "With UCLA doctors at the helm, LuskinOIC levels the playing field so all kids have access to quality health care."

Football legend and CBS sports-caster Jim Hill accepted the



Michael Sullivan, left, vice president of LuskinOIC, joined supporters Meyer and Renee Luskin, LuskinOIC president and CEO Dr. Anthony A. Scaduto and LuskinOIC Board chair Craig Ehrlich at the event.

Community Inspiration Award on behalf of the Los Angeles Chargers, presented by UCLA Health President Johnese Spisso and Dr. Nick Bernthal, chair of UCLA Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. Gabriela Arvizu, president of Students Runs L.A., accepted the 2024 Power of Partnership Award on behalf of the youth

empowerment organization. LuskinOIC vice president Michael Sullivan and surprise guest, ring announcer Michael Buffer announced a \$50 million dollar estate gift from long-time benefactors and philanthropists Meyer and Renee Luskin.

For information, visit standforkidsgala.org and luskinoic.org.

Festival moves to Beverly Gardens Park

From page 3

overview of the event to the Beverly Hills City Council in a study session on June 18. The festival began last year as a way for the city to honor the many cultures that can be found in Beverly Hills and surrounding areas. The inaugural festival took place on March 12, 2023, at the Beverly Hills Farmers' Market on Civic Center Drive. However, this year, the Arts and Culture Commission is hoping to greatly expand and improve the festival, which will now take place during the summer at one of the city's prime tourist destinations.

"Doing it at the farmers' market was not the vision. It was actually very upsetting to all the commissioners when we were put down to that area. But we were very happy that [the City Council] approved it," Gordy Bristol said.

The 2023 festival cost approximately \$16,000, according to a city staff report. This year, the budget will increase to an expected \$65,000.

While all of the City Council

members supported the upgraded festival in the meeting on June 18, Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian cited concerns over the focus of the festival and increased cost.

"I feel like we've lost track of the vision," Nazarian said. She added that she believed the festival was originally started as a Nowruz – Persian New Year – celebration, and that the new date in summer did not coincide with Nowruz, which takes place in March.

"I would like for us ... to be able to celebrate the vernal equinox, to celebrate Nowruz, which is important to residents who live in this city and have continuously asked for it. We have a very large Persian community. For 44 years they've been living here and there is very little respect that is given to that community," Nazarian said.

However, Gordy Bristol clarified that the festival was not originally intended as a Nowruz celebration, but the commission worked the holiday into the event programming in

2023 when the date coincided with Nowruz.

"I was there when we visioned what this was going to be. This is the first I've ever heard of that. It was never a Nowruz festival, but I support and I think that's something that our department should definitely look at," Gordy Bristol said.

Members of the City Council agreed that the city should host a different event dedicated to Nowruz in recognition of the significant Iranian and Persian community, and that the focus of Festival Beverly Hills should be a multicultural celebration.

"These are separate events ... let's just have a straightforward Nowruz event that only celebrates Nowruz, Persian New Year, for all of us. Whether it be at the Saban Theater, we can figure out what that might be," Councilman John Mirisch said.

He added that the Festival Beverly Hills, however, should be an entirely separate event.

"The fact that we are a very cosmopolitan city, we have residents



photo by Tabor Brewster

Arts and Cultural Commission members hope the festival's new location in Beverly Gardens Park will attract more tourists and visitors.

that speak 175 languages ... Let's see how it develops. This is the first time ... We're giving it the best chance to be successful by having it at the best location."

According to the staff report, the festival will include two performance stages featuring music, dance, DJ, poetry and puppeteering perfor-

mances. Additionally, the event will host a record and book fair pop-up and food trucks with dining and picnic areas.

Ultimately, the City Council supported the expanded festival, which will take place on July 21 in Beverly Gardens Park, located at 9439 Santa Monica Blvd.

Police captain fights crime with new tactics

From page 3

cialized units to residential areas such as Melrose and Hancock Park. At a Hancock Park Homeowners Association crime meeting on June 18, he said two of the specialized units are deployed to that area.

Hollis recommended that residents use doorbell cameras, which he said frequently capture video of suspects and help investigators determine what vehicles they are driving. He also cautioned against keeping valuables in closets and drawers – the first place burglars look.

"Don't keep your valuables in your bedroom, keep them some-

where else. Consider having a large, bolted safe in your garage. A doorbell camera video can be extremely helpful because there is a perimeter and you may catch a suspect description, you might catch a license plate," Hollis added. "The other thing I would suggest, if it's possible to do, is have somebody stay in the house. They don't want to [commit] burglaries while anybody is home. Minimize your exposure by not having everyone leave at the same time. It leaves the home vulnerable."

Hollis also said there has been a resurgence in suspects looking for people wearing expensive jewelry,

and cautioned people to be aware of their surroundings at all times.

"[Don't] go out with your high-value watch. Rolexes are being targeted right now," Hollis added. "Robberies and burglaries are really my two biggest concerns. We have dedicated missions for our patrol units and our specialized units to battle that and we're making progress in that area, but it is an ongoing concern. It's something that needs to be dealt with on an ongoing basis."

Hollis also said police are addressing crimes committed by people who are unhoused, and stressed that it is a complex effort

involving many different government agencies. The city and county of Los Angeles are addressing homeless encampments with resources and outreach before placing people into temporary housing. The police department assists city and county agencies and addresses crime problems around encampments. Officers have identified and arrested repeat offenders. However, Hollis added that homelessness is not a crime and many unhoused people are not criminals.

"It is very much a work in progress," Hollis said. "Our [senior lead officers] are out there. Our officers, even regular patrol officers, offer [homeless] people resources if they will take them. It's a challenge. We are doing what we can."

Hollis, who has been with the department for 29 years, most recently as captain of the Foothill Division, said he wants to assure residents that the LAPD is working hard to improve quality of life in their neighborhoods. He said he will continue to devote police resources to addressing crime trends and encouraged people to get involved with the department, report crime immediately and join neighborhood watch groups. Hollis reiterated that residents will see a larger police presence in their neighborhoods, which is a main part of his proactive approach to policing.

"They should be seeing quite a number of us already," he added. "We are a busy division, we have a lot of resources in the field and that's where they're going to stay."

Cedars-Sinai endocrinologist receives honors

Dr. Shlomo Melmed, executive vice president of Medicine and Health Sciences and dean of the medical faculty at Cedars-Sinai, has received the Pituitary Society's top honor for his four decades of pioneering achievements and leadership in the field of endocrinology.

Melmed received the inaugural Outstanding Pituitary Society Leadership Award on June 2 during the Pituitary Society Biennial Membership Forum, which took place concurrently with the Endocrine Society 2024 medical conference in Boston. A groundbreaking investigator and leader in the pituitary field for more than 40 years, Melmed has been a leader in research and education for the Pituitary Society, and he founded its flagship journal, Pituitary.

"Dr. Melmed, through his passion and intellect, has been a leader in developing novel therapeutics, innovative research fields, and educational paradigms for endocrinologists and neurosurgeons internationally," said Dr. Larry Katznelson, vice dean of medical education at Cedars-Sinai and current president of The Pituitary Society. "He has mentored scores of researchers and clinicians who are leaders in neuroendocrinology internationally,



photo courtesy of Cedars-Sinai

Dr. Shlomo Melmed has been a leader in the pituitary field for more than 40 years.

and we are honored to highlight his many research and education achievements with this first-ever award."

Melmed, a distinguished professor of medicine, has led the discovery and application of novel treatments for endocrine tumors through his National Institutes of Health-funded laboratory. He has led pivotal global clinical trials and been involved in more than 400 research studies.

Melmed has been a faculty leader at Cedars-Sinai for more than 40 years and has been the

health system's chief academic leader since 1998.

"I was truly humbled and surprised to receive this honor from my peers worldwide and was most proud that so many of my former trainees were present at the ceremony," Melmed said. "None of our achievements are derived in a vacuum, and I am grateful to my family, fellows, professional colleagues and Cedars-Sinai for decades of inspiring support."

For information, visit cedars-sinai.org.

Scooters raise more concerns

From page 1

the majority of scooter riders are tourists and kids, I have very little hope that finally after two years of no enforcement, [now] ticketing what [amounts to] one scooter [user] a day is going to ... [eliminate] the danger to pedestrians."

In January, Mayor John Erickson pointed to the safety of scooters and bicycles versus cars.

"While attention [has been given to] this horrific accident, we also then should look at how cars continue to hit bikes and pedestrians, as well," he said.

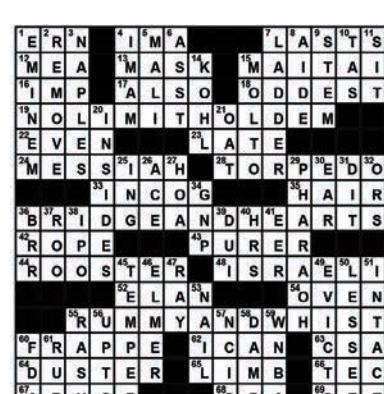
"I wouldn't be so anti-rental scooter if the people riding them weren't so immature, inconsiderate and selfish. West Hollywood brags that it is 'the most walkable city.' So, for that to be true, sidewalks should be safe for pedestrians, particularly for people living with disabilities and older adults ... but really for everyone," Friedman said. "With scooters, e-bikes, delivery robots and outzones [outdoor dining areas] all taking up sidewalk space, it makes it very, very dangerous just to take a walk nowadays. Add to that the recent rise in crime and the actions of the mentally ill unhoused population, and it becomes understandable why people like me have become homebodies and rarely venture out."

Last year, the West Hollywood City Council extended its contacts with Lime and Bird, although Bird declared bankruptcy soon after.

In a June 18 interview with the Beverly Press, Erickson suggested that the issues brought forth by the community should be addressed through infrastructure improvements.

"We need to continue to build infrastructure so scooters, bikes and pedestrians can all safely be together on our sidewalks and streets," he said. "So, people don't feel the need to ride a scooter on the sidewalk when driving or riding along busy streets like Santa Monica Boulevard or Fountain Avenue."

Answers From Page 23



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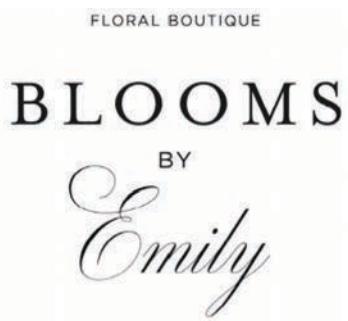
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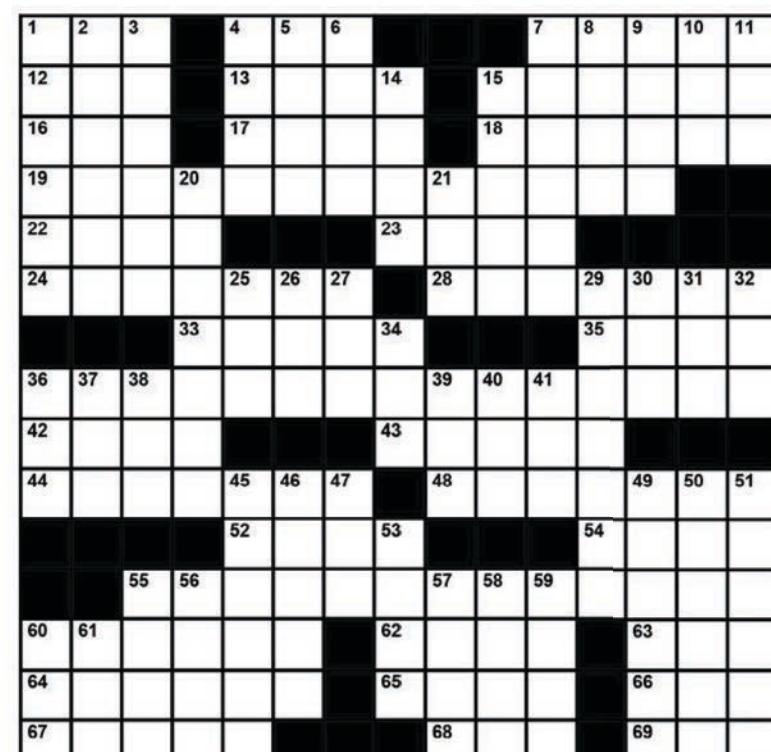
Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

1. Suffix with west
4. Personal statement intro
7. Goes on
12. ___ culpa
13. Popular 2020 wear
15. Cocktail
16. Jackanape
17. As well
18. Most curious
19. Card game
22. Unbroken
23. Show time
24. Expected liberator
28. Ruin, as plans
33. Anon.
35. It may be put in a bun
36. Card games
42. It may be skipped
43. More refined
44. Natural alarm clock
48. Jerusalem native
52. Distinctive and stylish elegance
54. Hot spot
55. Card games
60. Foamy iced coffee
62. Words of confidence
63. Davis was its pres.
64. Housekeeper's aid
65. Arm or leg
66. Kojak, e.g.
67. Loathe
68. Exercise center
69. Batch

Down

1. "8 Mile" Rapper
2. Red pencil
3. City near Vesuvius
4. Prayer leader
5. French Sudan, today
6. Aide, abbr.
7. Fire-truck gear
8. White House worker
9. Come from
10. Brit's thank yous
11. Canine command
14. Asian mascara
15. Very, to Verdi
20. Guts
21. Bit in a horse's mouth
25. Gerund letters
26. Standout pilot
27. Gp. in charge of condominiums, perhaps
29. Old-time tyrant
30. Aural device
31. Morse Code click
32. Surgery ctrs.
34. Nation's economic stat
36. "It's cold!"
37. Pal of Piglet
38. Company going public has it
39. Road offense, for short
40. Store sign abbr.
41. Ballad's end?
45. Mitigate
46. Fudd of cartoons
47. Sci-fi gun
49. Gives the heave-ho
50. Approved tenant
51. All together
53. Finger tip
55. Precipitate
56. As far as
57. Naval investigation show
58. Wettish
59. Female hoops gp.
60. Org. that may request a recall
61. Cause friction



answers on page 22

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