



Sunny, with temps in the mid-80s

# BEVERLY PRESS

## INSIDE

• WeHo approves usage for Sterling Building pg. 3

• BH hosts first 'Les is More' pg. 7

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

June 27, 2024

## Builder's remedy appeal heads to City Council

■ Beverly Hills may face lawsuits if project is denied

BY TABOR BREWSTER

At its formal meeting on Thursday, June 27, the Beverly Hills City Council will vote to determine whether a 19-story project at 125-129 S. Linden Drive can move forward with its application. The project's application was deemed incomplete by city staff, and the City Council will vote to grant or deny the applicant's appeal of the incomplete determination. Staff has recommended that the City Council deny the appeal. The state of California has indicated that a vote by the City Council to deny the appeal may be a violation of state housing laws.

The project just south of Wilshire Boulevard exceeds usual height and density requirements under city code, and relies on a California provision known as the builder's remedy. The builder's remedy provision is a state law that allows private developers to bypass certain code restrictions – including height and



rendering courtesy of Ottinger Architects

The project includes a 19-story mixed-use building with affordable housing units.

density – provided that the building reserves at least 20% of units for low-income housing. The goal of

See **Council** page 21

## Violence at temple ignites calls for security

■ Leaders increase protections for Jewish community

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

After violence erupted on June 23 during a pro-Palestinian protest outside the Adas Torah synagogue in the Pico-Robertson neighborhood, Mayor Karen Bass and interim Los Angeles Police Department Chief Dominic Choi vowed to prevent similar incidents from happening in the future. Los Angeles City Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky introduced a motion to tighten security around temples.

The demonstration occurred around 11 a.m. on June 23 outside the temple at 9040 W. Pico Blvd. Police estimate 150 pro-Palestinian demonstrators converged on the temple, blocking the entrance and confronting temple staff and members. A real estate seminar on opportunities to move to Israel was being held inside the temple. In response to the pro-Palestinian protesters, pro-Israel demonstrators assembled and the two groups clashed, police said.

"The violence that happened in



photo by Edwin Folven

Pro-Israel demonstrators gathered outside the Museum of Tolerance on June 24 in a show of solidarity for the Jewish community.

the Pico-Robertson neighborhood was abhorrent, and blocking access to a place of worship is absolutely unacceptable. What we witnessed was antisemitism in the heart of one of our Jewish communities," Bass said. "This violence was designed to stoke fear, it

was designed to divide. But hear me loud and clear – it will fail. I called on LAPD to immediately provide additional patrols in the Pico-Robinson community, as well as outside houses of worship throughout the city. Since then,

See **Leaders** page 21

## WeHo renews sheriff's department contract

■ City considers ways technology can be used to enhance public safety

BY RANCE COLLINS

The West Hollywood City Council voted unanimously on June 24 to renew its contract with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. While some residents have asked for increased law enforcement presence, authorities

said that the department is unable to provide additional deputies until open positions are filled and additional deputies are trained, which could take years.

Since 2020, the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station has become a focal point of controversy. After the council initially cut deputies in favor of increasing unarmed Block by Block ambassadors, it backtracked its decision on several occasions. Now, the station operates with the same number of deputies

that it did prior to the pandemic – 62.

"I would have liked to have added a few more deputies but apparently, LASD has not yet filled open positions," Councilwoman Lauren Meister said. "If we can't add more deputies right now, then we need to seriously consider more advanced technology so that our sheriff's station has the tools needed to address crime in the city as well as enhance preventative measures."

The council voted to increase technological enhancements for law enforcement in December, including a speed camera pilot program, tasking city staff with returning to the council with research and recommendations. Neighboring Beverly Hills has the Real Time Watch Center, where police officers use cameras to monitor public areas and scan license plates looking for drivers with outstanding warrants. The city also uses drones, in which West Hollywood is planning to invest. The staff recommendations are expected to be included in a July council meeting, according to Mayor John Erickson.

"Public safety is the most important thing that we're doing, and that's why it's a significant portion

See **Contract** page 8



photo by Edwin Folven

The West Hollywood City Council extended its contract with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department at its June 24 meeting.



photo by Edwin Folven

The plan calls for the studio's historic façade to be preserved.

## Appeals challenge size and scope of TV City project

■ Planning Commission considers development on Sept. 12






BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles Department of City Planning received nine appeals to the Television City project criticizing the size and

scope of the plan to revitalize the studio at Beverly Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue.

The appeals were filed after a May 15 hearing in which a planning department zoning administrator considered the project and listened to hours of public comment for and against the plan. Next, the Los Angeles Planning

See **Appeals** page 22



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photo courtesy of the office of Alex Padilla  
Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) spoke in support of women’s reproductive rights at a rally in Downtown Los Angeles on June 24.

# Activists mark two years since Roe v. Wade was overturned

■ Beverly Hills turns over private messages in clinic lawsuit

BY TABOR BREWSTER AND RANCE COLLINS

The Women’s March Foundation hosted a rally in Downtown Los Angeles on June 24, marking two years since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. Since then, restrictive abortion bans have passed in states across the country. At noon on June 24, a national walk

out was staged to protest restrictions to reproductive rights. The rally included comments from activists and officials, including Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra and Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.). “Americans should be united on this issue,” Padilla said. “We should be working together to restore the fundamental right to an abortion and the freedom to make your own health care decisions. Yet in Washington, just last month in the Senate, we tried to do this again legislatively only to see what? Republican obstruction yet again. Extreme Republicans blocking common sense legislation to protect access to contraception, to protect access to IVF.” Ahead of the rally, Women’s March president and founder Emiliana Guereca said the Supreme Court decision proved “how quickly our freedoms can be eroded.” “We stand united and resolute, continuing to demand that every woman has the right to make decisions about her own body. Our fight is far from over, and we will persist until justice and equality prevail for all,” Guereca said. June 24 also marked an important date in a lawsuit involving a women’s reproductive health clinic in Beverly Hills that never opened. DuPont Clinic – which planned to perform all-trimester abortions and other reproductive health procedures – was originally scheduled to open in fall 2023 in a building at 8920 Wilshire Blvd. The company that owns the property, Douglas Emmett, rescinded the lease on June 12, 2023, following anti-abortion protests. In the lawsuit, DuPont Clinic alleged that the city of Beverly Hills colluded with anti-abortion activists to have its lease rescinded to prevent it from opening in 2023. DuPont Clinic filed separate litigation against Douglas Emmett.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Anne Richardson ruled that the city must turn over employees’ personal communications relating to DuPont Clinic, including “personal emails, text messages, messaging applications, social media accounts and any other personal communications responsive to DuPont’s requests.” The city was required to provide the messages to DuPont by June 24. “The city is complying with the discovery request for information,” Beverly Hills City Attorney Laurence Wiener said on June 26.

See Supporters page 8

## ‘Unbroken Blossoms’

East West Players presents “Unbroken Blossoms” by Philip W. Chung from Thursday, June 27, through Sunday, July 21, at the David Henry Hwang Theater. Directed by Jeff Liu, the production tells the story of the silenced voices behind the silent film “Broken Blossoms.” Based on actual events, the world premiere production illuminates a historical conflict behind the silver screen. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Thursday and Friday; 2 and 8 p.m., Saturday; and 5 p.m., Sunday. Tickets start at \$12. 120 Judge John Aiso St., downtown. (213)625-7000, eastwestplayers.org.

## Summer of Bohemia Music Festival

The New Hollywood String Quartet and Da Camera Society are hosting the Summer of Bohemia Music Festival from Thursday, June 27, through Sunday, June 30, at Mount Saint Mary’s University. The festival features the music of Anton Dvořák, Bedrich Smetana, Leos Janacek, Ernst von Dohnanyi, Bohuslav Martinu and Josef Suk. Concerts start at 8 p.m. on June 27-28, and 4 p.m. on June 29-30. Tickets start at \$40. Doheny Mansion, Mount Saint Mary’s University, 10 Chester Place. newhollywood-stringquartet.com.



## Jazz at LACMA

Jazz lovers won’t want to miss a performance by Sharon Marie Cline on Friday, June 28, from 6-8 p.m. on the museum’s Smidt Welcome Plaza. Internationally acclaimed jazz vocalist Cline, also known as “the Divine Ms. Cline,” has become one of Southern California’s most sought-after live performers. Her music blends many styles and influences to create an expression that is exciting, sexy, fun, mesmerizing and uniquely her own. Admission to Jazz at LACMA is free. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. lacma.org.

## Art of Estevan Oriol

Beyond the Streets presents “Estevan Oriol & Teen Angel, Dedicated to You,” an exhibition running Saturday, June 29, through Sunday, Sept. 15. The exhibit brings together two of the most influential forces chronicling and shaping the legacy of Chicano culture. Since his emergence as an artist in the early 1990s, Oriol has been celebrated for his iconic portrayal of Los Angeles, capturing the city’s heart and soul. “Dedicated to You” showcases a carefully selected series of works from Oriol’s career, spotlighting the unique sources of inspiration such as Teen Angel Magazine. A reception will be held on June 29 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. 434 N. La Brea Ave. beyondthestreets.com.

## Heidi Duckler Dance

Los Angeles-based performance company Heidi Duckler Dance will host its last Ebb & Flow community arts festival on Saturday, June 29, at Exposition Park. The free family-friendly festival explores climate change, nature, humanity and health through dance, visual arts, music and technology. Duckler has commissioned six multi-disciplinary artists to showcase their works through movement, music and installations. Performances begin at 11 a.m. (early check-in is recommended). 700 Exposition Park Drive. heididuckler.org/event/ebb-flow-exposition-park.

## CALENDAR

### Argenta Walther

Enjoy a concert with mezzo-soprano Argenta Walther on Saturday, June 29, from 7-8 p.m. at the Craft in America Center. Walther is a dedicated singer of music ranging from the sacred medieval to modern experimental. She is a founder of the contemporary vocal group Accordant Commons, and is a directing member of Ensemble Vocatrix, a group dedicated to the music of Hildegard von Bingen. 8415 W. Third St. Reservations requested by emailing [rsvp@craftinamerica.org](mailto:rsvp@craftinamerica.org).



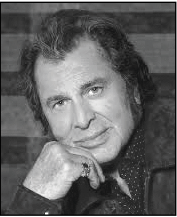
### Author Joyce Maynard

New York Times bestselling author Joyce Maynard will discuss and sign her new book “How the Light Gets In” on Sunday, June 30, at 3 p.m. at Diesel, A Bookstore. The book is a follow-up to her beloved novel “Count the Ways,” a complex story of three generations of a family and its remarkable, resilient and indomitable matriarch Eleanor. The event is free to attend; books are available for purchase. 225 26th St., Ste. 33, Santa Monica. [dieselbookstore.com](http://dieselbookstore.com).



### Engelbert Humperdinck

The legendary Engelbert Humperdinck brings “The Last Waltz Tour” to the Saban Theatre on Saturday, June 29, at 8 p.m. In a career spanning more than 50 years, Humperdinck has generated sales of more than 140 million records, including 64 gold albums and 35 platinum recordings. He has also received four Grammy nominations and a Golden Globe Award, as well as stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, Las Vegas Walk of Fame and Leicester Walk of Fame. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets start at \$58. 8440 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills. [wheremusicmeetsthesoul.com](http://wheremusicmeetsthesoul.com).



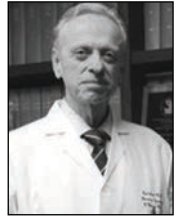
### ‘Rollercoaster’

American Cinematheque and Cinematic Void present a screening of “Rollercoaster” on Monday, July 1, at 7 p.m. at the Los Feliz Theater. After a rollercoaster crash at a California amusement park, safety inspector Harry Calder (George Segal) soon realizes a psychopath is sabotaging rides across to country to blackmail the corporations that own the parks. Calder must figure out which park the mad bomber is targeting on the Fourth of July. Originally presented in Sensurround and part of Universal Pictures’ disaster films, “Rollercoaster” features Timothy Bottoms, Susan Strasberg, Richard Widmark, Henry Fonda and the band Sparks in a live performance at Magic Mountain. General admission is \$13; \$8 for members. 1822 N. Vermont Ave. [americancinematheque.com](http://americancinematheque.com).



### Holocaust survivor talk

Holocaust Museum L.A. is holding a “Virtual Sunday Survivor Talk” with Dr. Raul Artal-Mittelmark on Sunday, June 30, at 3 p.m. Artal-Mittelmark was born in a Nazi concentration camp in Transnistria, a region in Eastern Europe, and spent his early years there. His experience of being born during the Holocaust inspired him to become an OB-GYN. RSVP requested. [holocaust-museumla.org](http://holocaust-museumla.org).



### Beverly Hills chamber

Join the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce for its “Get to Know Your Chamber” event on Tuesday, July 2, from 8:15-10 a.m. at the chamber office. The meeting for prospective and new members will outline benefits and connect them with chamber staff. Learn about marketing opportunities and special events. Admission is free. 9400 S. Santa Monica Blvd., Second Floor. [members.beverlyhillschamber.com](http://members.beverlyhillschamber.com).

### BEVERLY PRESS PARK LABREA NEWS

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### THE MUSIC MINUTE

THE LEGEND CONTINUES...

# ENGELBERT

*Humperdinck*

In a career spanning over 50 years, Engelbert has generated sales in excess of 140 million records, including 64 gold albums and 35 platinum, four Grammy nominations, a Golden Globe, and stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, Las Vegas Walk of Fame, and Leicester Walk of Fame.

He has performed for the Queen four times, several presidents and many heads of state. He has recorded everything from the most romantic ballads to movie theme songs, disco, rock, and even gospel. His unique voice has charmed millions of fans around the globe.

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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# Sterling Building reactivated as business incubator

■ Two-sided billboard will generate significant revenue for WeHo

BY RANCE COLLINS

On June 24, the West Hollywood City Council approved a use for the long-vacant Sterling Building on Sunset Boulevard. Additionally, the council OK'd a two-sided digital rooftop billboard that is expected to bring significant revenue to the city. The previous plan, which was sent back to staff by the City Council last month, recommended that the interior space be used as a public art gallery. Now, the building will instead be used for "free workspace, mentorship and educational programs for approximately three to five local businesses," according to the city staff report.

As part of the motion, site improve-

ments will be made to the interior and exterior of the Sterling Building, which is currently owned by former Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling, and has been vacant for three decades. Located at the top of a steep stretch of La Cienega Boulevard, it neighbors a forthcoming large-scale retail development which, earlier this month, had its own full-motion 3D billboard approved. In each project, the city has entered into agreements with the property owners to earn a percentage of the billboard revenue. "It's a project that will bring in needed revenue for the city to continue ensuring that we're not only fiscally responsible with what we're doing, but that we are also continuing with our historic revenues that are generated as a result of these billboard investments," Mayor John Erickson said. The company managing the building will be Big Outdoor, a media

organization specializing in high-profile assets. "I think the billboard company addressed our concerns and I'm glad that the Sterling Building will finally be activated," Councilwoman Lauren Meister said. "This is a wonderful incubator [for small businesses], and I hope that this becomes a model that is replicated in other cities," Councilwoman Sepi Shyne said. Community members were supportive of the project, with resident Steve Martin noting the City Council's work in shaping the building's use into something that would benefit West Hollywood. "This is a better project," Martin concluded. The entire leadership team from Big Outdoor was present at the meeting, in addition to its consulting firm Seymour Consulting Group. "We all owe you a debt, because



rendering courtesy of the city of West Hollywood

The renovated Sterling Building, including a two-sided digital billboard on its roof, has been approved by the West Hollywood City Council.

we believe this project now is far superior to the project that we brought in May – and we really liked the project in May," consultant Jeffrey Seymour said. Meister warned, though, against the proliferation of similar billboard construction in the future along the

Sunset Strip. "What I don't want to see in the future is a bunch of commercial property owners on Sunset not making an effort to rent their spaces because they think it's easier to just host a billboard on top of their building," Meister said.



photo by Tabor Brewster

Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian hugged a former IDF soldier. City Councilmen Craig Corman, right, and John Mirisch, second from right, also welcomed the wounded service members.

# Beverly Hills council hosts wounded IDF soldiers

Members of the Beverly Hills City Council greeted a delegation of wounded Israel Defense Forces soldiers in City Hall on Tuesday, June 25. The city partnered with Beit Halochem, an organization that provides support and rehabilitation to disabled Israeli veterans. The soldiers recounted their stories of battle since the Oct. 7 Hamas terrorist attack. Many sustained life-threatening injuries while serv-

ing in the Israeli military. They shared insight into their ongoing recoveries and received gifts from the City Council. One soldier, a marathon runner, told the council how Beit Halochem has helped him regain the ability to walk after being shot in the leg. He shared photographs from his time in the IDF and his recovery in the physical therapy process. Former IDF special forces mem-

ber Micha Koubi shared his story of interrogating Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, who is said to have planned the Oct. 7 attack. Koubi thanked the city of Beverly Hills for its strong support of Israel. The City Council also condemned the recent violence outside the Adas Torah Synagogue in the neighboring Pico-Robertson neighborhood, and called on the Jewish community to stand together in solidarity.

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photo by Edwin Folven

LAFD firefighters extinguished a blaze on June 25 at 6842 W. Sunset Blvd., which was the site of at least three previous fires.

## Vacant property demolished in Hollywood after multiple fires

■ Building declared a public nuisance  
BY EDWIN FOLVEN

After a fire damaged a vacant building at 6842 W. Sunset Blvd. in Hollywood on June 25, the city of Los Angeles declared the building a public nuisance and demolished the structure.

The two-story building has been the site of at least three previous fires, Los Angeles Fire Department spokeswoman Lyndsey Lantz said. Authorities believe squatters gained access to the building and started the fires.

Firefighters responded around 6:35 a.m. on June 25 and found flames and smoke emanating from the structure. Forty-five firefighters extinguished the flames in 29 minutes. A 35-year-old woman sustained burns during the blaze and was hospitalized, Lantz added. She did not know the extent of the victim's

injuries or whether the woman was found inside or outside the structure. The exact cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Nick Barnes Batista, a spokesman for Los Angeles City Councilman Hugo Soto-Martinez, 13th District, said staff members addressing homelessness were aware of the vacant building and had been taking steps to address it and provide outreach to unhoused people at and around the property. The building formerly housed a foot care center. It was last sold in October 2023, according to city and county property records. The name of the owner is not listed.

The Department of Building and Safety issued six citations at the site from February to April for having a vacant open building and leaving trash and debris on site, according to city records. Inquiries to the Department of Building and Safety were not returned.



photo by Edwin Folven

Flames damaged the façade and entryway to Molly Malone's Irish Pub on Fairfax Avenue on June 20.

## Fire scorches Molly Malone's, longtime Fairfax District pub

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A fire that erupted around 1:15 p.m. on June 20 at Molly Malone's Irish Pub on Fairfax Avenue damaged the façade and entryway and a portion of a front room, Los Angeles Fire Department authorities said.

The blaze was captured on video by a motorist driving by and was reported to the LAFD via a 911 call. Firefighters arrived to find flames and smoke emanating from the building at 575 S. Fairfax Ave. The flames were extinguished in 19 minutes, LAFD spokeswoman Melissa Kelley

said. The fire was contained to the front of the building and did not spread to other portions of the pub or neighboring businesses, Kelley said. The pub was not open at the time of the fire. No injuries were reported and the cause remains under investigation, Kelley added.

Molly Malone's has been a neighborhood fixture since 1969. Kelley said the building is 95 years old. Firefighters remained at the scene after the flames were extinguished to ensure embers did not flare up, she added. The pub remains temporarily closed. Calls and emails to Molly Malone's management were not returned.

## Five arrested for watch robbery in Beverly Hills

■ WeHo deputies search for men in separate hold-up  
BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Officers from the Beverly Hills Police Department arrested three adult male suspects and two male juveniles on June 20 after they allegedly robbed a victim walking in the 8600 block of Wilshire Boulevard and stole a Rolex watch.

The armed robbery occurred at approximately 5:53 p.m. and was witnessed by a Beverly Hills city employee, who called police. The victim sustained minor scratches in the robbery.

Officers in the BHPD's Real Time Watch Center located the suspects' vehicle and directed officers to its location. The suspects refused to pull over and a pursuit ensued, BHPD Lt. Andrew Myers said.

The suspects drove into Hollywood, and BHPD officers were joined in the pursuit by officers from the Los Angeles Police Department's Hollywood Division and an LAPD helicopter. The suspects pulled over near Afton Place and El Centro Avenue, just east of Vine Street and north of Fountain Avenue, and fled on foot. The five suspects were apprehended a short time later. Myers said officers recovered "evidence" linked to the crime from the suspects' vehicle. No further information on what was recovered was available, pending the ongoing investigation. The suspects



photo by Edwin Folven

Officers with the Beverly Hills Police Department arrested five suspects from Oakland who allegedly robbed a victim on June 20.

were booked for robbery, assault with a firearm and conspiracy.

The five suspects are all from Oakland. The BHPD identified the three adult suspects as Xavier Ford, 18; Nasir Blocker, 18; and Gangster Lawson, 23. Lawson was formally charged on June 25 with robbery, assault with a firearm and conspiracy and is being held without bail. Charges against the other two adults are under consideration by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

Police said one of the juveniles is 17 and the other is 16. Their names were not released. Cases against the juveniles have also been referred to the D.A.'s office for filing, Myers said.

The lieutenant added that the BHPD is aware of suspects traveling to the Los Angeles area specifically to commit crimes, but have not determined whether that is the situation with the five suspects who were arrested, or whether they randomly saw and targeted the victim.

Authorities in West Hollywood are investigating a similar street robbery that occurred shortly before midnight on June 20 in the 9000 block of Sunset Boulevard, one block from the Beverly Hills border. Two male suspects wearing masks allegedly approached a victim and stole a luxury watch before fleeing in a gray vehicle. Anyone with information is urged to call the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station at (310)855-8850.

## D.A. drops felony charges against Edan On

■ Beverly Hills teen may face misdemeanor for alleged attack at UCLA  
BY TABOR BREWSTER

Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón announced on June 21 that his office would not pursue felony assault charges against Edan On, the 18-year-old accused of assaulting a pro-Palestinian protester at UCLA on April 30. According to a CNN investigation, On was a senior at Beverly Hills High School at the time of the alleged attack.

"Our office has completed a thorough review of the incident involving Mr. Edan On who allegedly assaulted another protester," Gascón said in a statement. "We cannot establish beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. On's conduct directly caused the victim's injury. There is no evidence to suggest that Mr. On was working in collaboration with any other individuals, and our investigation found no proof of conspiracy or any organized effort by Mr. On related to the incident."

Gascón added that the matter has been referred to the L.A. City

Attorney's Office, which will consider filing a misdemeanor charge.

"This referral aligns with our commitment to applying the law fairly and ensuring that justice is served based on the available evidence," Gascón said.

A spokesperson for City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto said the matter is currently under review and did not provide further comment.

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

"On the night of Tuesday, April 30, 2024, a group of instigators came to Royce Quad and violently attacked students, faculty and staff members who were engaged in an encampment at that location," a UCLA Police Department statement read. "During that violence, one individual was seen on video assaulting encampment occupants with a wooden pole, causing serious injuries to at least one victim. UCLA Police Department detectives conducted an investigation that included interviewing victims, speaking with witnesses and reviewing security camera footage and videos from members of the public and the media."

The following night, a pro-Palestinian encampment on the campus was cleared and more than 200 people were arrested. The violence on UCLA's campus resulted in criticism of the police department's alleged lack of response and the reassignment of UCLA Police Chief John Thomas. Additionally, on May 5, the school announced the creation of the new Office of Campus Safety, which oversees the school's police department and Office of Emergency Management.

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

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

## Sheriff's department launches innovative program

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is using a new data-oriented approach to curtail crime. The Crime Strategy Unit will use extensive data analysis and strategic assessment to pinpoint where crimes are occurring, identify emerging trends and create strategies to address them.

The CSU will implement initiatives tailored to address crime in targeted areas. Collaborating closely

with local stations and specialized units, the new unit will devise customized strategies to mitigate criminal activity.

Individual sheriff's stations have been utilizing crime data to allocate resources in their areas, which will continue. With the establishment of the CSU, an additional layer is being added to existing crime suppression efforts.

"By reducing crime in our com-

munities, we are also strengthening community relationships and public trust," Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said. "We cannot achieve this alone. We rely on the community to trust us with information about crimes and to support proactive measures, such as the Crime Strategy Unit, to enhance public safety."

One of the first initiatives for the CSU is to address vehicle thefts.



Celebrate



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# Film star Donald Sutherland dies at 88

Donald Sutherland was not Hollywood’s definition of a typical movie star when he burst onto the scene, but the mustached actor reshaped what it meant to be a leading man and helped define the 1970s. On June 20, he died at the age of 88.

Born in New Brunswick, Canada, Sutherland got his first taste of the media world as a local radio news correspondent at just 14 years old. After getting bit by the acting bug at Victoria University in Toronto, he abandoned a potential career in engineering to study at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art in 1957.

After several roles in repertory theater, Sutherland got steady work in British film and television – appearing in the Christopher Lee horror film “Castle of the Living Dead” and alongside Tallulah Bankhead in the camp classic “Die! Die! My Darling!” He also guest starred in “The Avengers” and the Roger Moore series “The Saint.”

It was when film producers watched a rough cut of his episode of “The Saint,” looking to cast Moore in a potential project, that he was offered a role in “The Dirty Dozen.” The film, which also starred Lee Marvin, Ernest Borgnine, Charles Bronson and John Cassavetes, was a massive hit and changed the course of Sutherland’s life. He moved to Hollywood and quickly became in demand.

War-themed comedies “MASH” and “Kelly’s Heroes” came next, followed by the Jane Fonda vehicle “Klute,” in which he played the titular character. He began a relationship with Fonda and became entrenched in the anti-Vietnam War effort. Together, they produced the documentary “F.T.A.” (Free the Army) in 1972 – which was shot in the Pacific Rim, featured celebrity performances for the troops and included interviews with active-duty American soldiers voicing their opposition to the war. His activities landed him on the NSA’s watchlist from 1971-73.

Sutherland appeared in several quintessential 1970s films, including the thriller “Don’t Look Now” with Julie Christie – which earned him a BAFTA nomination – and the beloved remake of “Invasion of the Body Snatchers.” He took a supporting role in “National Lampoon’s Animal House,” which became one of the highest grossing comedies up to that point.

In 1980, he played the lead role of a grieving father in Robert Redford’s directorial debut, “Ordinary People.” The film won the Best Picture Academy Award, and Sutherland was controversially the only member of the primary cast – which also included Timothy Hutton and Mary Tyler Moore – to not receive an Oscar nomination. In 2017, the Academy recognized the actor with an honorary award.

Well-established as a serious

actor, as well as a movie star, Sutherland stayed in the spotlight for the rest of his life. Some of his most significant later movies included “Eye of the Needle,” “JFK,” “Six Degrees of Separation,” “Disclosure,” “Space Cowboys,” “The Italian Job,” “Cold Mountain,” “Horrible Bosses” and “The Hunger Games” series. He also was seen frequently on television, including regular roles in “Dirty Sexy Money” and “The Undoing” and an Emmy-winning turn in the HBO television film “Path to War.” He racked up nearly 200 credits over his career.

Sutherland stayed politically active in his adoptive country into his later years, blogging on The Huffington Post in support of Barack Obama during the 2008 U.S. presidential election. He maintained a residence in Quebec, as well, and was honored as a Companion of the Order of Canada.

Sutherland married three times, including to Shirley Douglas, with whom he had twins Rachel and Kiefer. The latter would go on to become an established actor in his own right, becoming a member of the legendary 1980s Brat Pack, appearing in films like “A Few Good Men” and starring on the series “24.” In 1972, the elder Sutherland married Francine Racette, with whom he had three sons.

Sutherland died after a long illness on June 20. He is survived by



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo  
Donald Sutherland received his star on the Walk of Fame on Jan. 26, 2011.

Racette and his five children. For his contributions to motion pictures, Sutherland received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Jan. 26, 2011, adjacent to the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel at 7024 Hollywood Blvd. and next to his son Kiefer’s star. Flowers were placed on his star on the afternoon of June 20 in his memory.

## Beverly Press picks up three honors at SoCal Journalism Awards



photo courtesy of Tabor Brewster  
Beverly Press staff members Tabor Brewster, Edwin Folven, Rance Collins and Karen Villalpando attended the Southern California Journalism Awards on June 23.

At the Los Angeles Press Club’s 66th annual Southern California Journalism Awards on June 23, the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News went three for three, placing in each category for which it was nominated.

Rance Collins won the award for Best Film Commentary/Analysis, while Edwin Folven took second place for Best News Photo and Karen Villalpando placed third for Best

Criticism of Food/Culture. The event was held at the historic Biltmore Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles. Special honorees included Stephen A. Smith, Evan Gershkovich, Amanda Salas, Mickey H. Osterreicher and Jane Seymour.

The newspaper is also up for five honors at the California Journalism Awards, presented by CNPA. The ceremony will be held July 13 at the Sheraton Universal Hotel.

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# Beverly Hills hosts first ‘Les is More’

■ Friedman, BHFD Chief answer questions from community members

BY TABOR BREWSTER

On Monday, June 24, the city of Beverly Hills hosted the first meeting in a series of “Les is More” events, a town-hall style discussion with Mayor Lester Friedman and a guest speaker. At the event on June 24, Beverly Hills Fire Chief Greg Barton was the guest, and he discussed various Beverly Hills Fire Department’s initiatives, such as the city’s unhoused program and nurse practitioner program.

“The city is always trying to be the tip of the spear in everything that it does,” Barton said. “Whether it’s the nurse practitioner program or the unhoused and addressing mental health.”

Friedman and Barton discussed the achievements of the city’s partnership with Step Up On Second and the Beverly Hills Outreach Team in addressing homelessness and providing immediate housing.

“People say ‘how come there’s not more people who are unhoused living in the streets here?’ And we do have a population of unhoused that are living on the streets. But there’s constant contact with those people,” Friedman said. “If they want to have help, it’s available to them. We will always help a person. Some people don’t want the help. Others, it may take 50 contacts, 60 contacts, whatever it is. Almost every unhoused person is known to staff.”

Barton also laid out the department’s expectations for this year’s wildfire season.

“The forecasting models are showing that it’s below normal fire behavior in this area for the next three months, but that doesn’t mean it’s not going to change in the next three months after that,” he said.

He added that the city is actively monitoring potential fire activity through its weather station in Franklin Canyon and also conducting regular brush inspections in areas of high fire risk.

“We’re very aggressive on that. The best way to prevent a wildfire from coming through Beverly Hills

is to be proactive,” he said.

Resident Mark Elliot expressed concern over fire prevention measures in multifamily homes, such as expired smoke detectors and broken fire alarms in older buildings.

“I’m very concerned that fire prevention is overlooked. And that people like me that live in these buildings are at risk of being harmed in these fires,” Elliot said.

In response, Barton said that the BHFD inspects all multifamily dwellings once a year and encouraged residents to contact the department with concerns.

“The issue that we run into a little bit is, we check the common areas. We don’t have the right to go into a person’s private space ... That’s where we rely on the residents. If there’s a fire issue or a fire problem, please reach out and let us know. We’ll definitely send people out to take care of it,” Barton said.

He also encouraged residents to participate in the city’s CERT and Just in Case programs, where they can learn about fire safety.

In addition to discussing public safety issues surrounding fire, Friedman gave an update on a Beverly Hills Police Department initiative that he first announced in his speech at the City Council installation ceremony on April 2. The initiative would be a significant expansion of the department’s Real Time Watch Center, a surveillance program that includes 24-hour monitoring of city cameras, license plate readers and drones. The new initiative would integrate private security systems – such as security cameras at private businesses, and possibly even home security systems like Ring doorbell cameras – into the watch center, allowing the police department 24-hour video surveillance of private businesses and residences in the city.

“We have contacted some businesses initially. That is probably the first place to start with it, to have businesses allow those cameras be viewed by the police department. There are issues that some of those

businesses have in terms of getting their corporate OKs to do that. But that is something that the police department is running,” Friedman said. “In terms of having Ring doorbells, that’s really the second phase. We need to see what happens first with the businesses because they have more high-tech equipment.”

The city will host additional “Les is More” events, with guests and dates to be announced.

For information, visit [beverlyhills.org/1365/les-is-more-an-hour-with-the-mayor](http://beverlyhills.org/1365/les-is-more-an-hour-with-the-mayor).



photo by Tabor Brewster

Mayor Friedman and Beverly Hills Fire Chief Greg Barton answered questions about public safety, the nurse practitioner program and homelessness within the city.



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## Team Beverly Hills applications open

Applications for the popular Team Beverly Hills program are being accepted through Friday, August 9.

Formed in 1996, Team Beverly Hills provides residents with a hands-on look at the operations of local government. The program features a variety of class sessions and includes interactive experiences with many departments. Program participants explore the behind-the-scenes operations of the city including public works, emergency management, information technology, community services and public safety. More than 800 residents have completed Team Beverly Hills and over 70% of all

current elected officials and city commissioners are Team BH alumni.

The Team Beverly Hills program will select 50 residents – 30 appointed by the City Council, 18 selected by a random lottery, and two selected by the Beverly Hills Unified School District – for its upcoming class. Five representatives from the city’s business community – appointed by the City Council – will also be selected for the program, which kicks off later this year.

To learn more about and fill out an application online, visit [beverlyhills.org/teambeverlyhills](http://beverlyhills.org/teambeverlyhills) or by emailing [teambh@beverlyhills.org](mailto:teambh@beverlyhills.org).



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Team Beverly Hills graduates are honored each year at City Hall.



# City Council declares June 20 ‘Beverly Hills Cop’ Day

BY TABOR BREWSTER

In 1984, comedian Eddie Murphy starred as quick-witted Detroit detective Axel Foley in “Beverly Hills Cop,” launching his career into the stratosphere and defining the buddy cop film genre. With banana-in-the-tailpipe gags and one of the most recognizable theme songs of all time, the film was a box office smash and soon turned into a full-blown action-comedy franchise. Forty years later, Murphy reprises his role for the fourth installment, “Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F,” which streams on Netflix July 3.

Murphy – along with his family, castmates and filmmakers of the upcoming movie – celebrated in

Beverly Gardens Park on June 20 as the Beverly Hills City Council declared the date as “Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F” Day.

Mayor Lester Friedman read an official proclamation honoring the film series.

“The city of Beverly Hills proudly acknowledges the cultural impact of the ‘Beverly Hills Cop’ franchise, which has delighted audiences globally since its debut in 1984,” Friedman said. “The ‘Beverly Hills Cop’ movies have significantly contributed to the positive image and global recognition of Beverly Hills, highlighting its beauty, sophistication and vibrant community ... The City Council of the city of Beverly Hills do hereby declare June 20, 2024, as ‘Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F

Day.”

The franchise’s longtime producer Jerry Bruckheimer accepted the proclamation on behalf of the film.

Bruckheimer and Murphy were joined by “Axel F” stars Judge Reinhold and John Ashton, who are reprising their roles as Foley’s old police friends Lt. Billy Rosewood and BHPD Chief John Taggart, respectively. The cast stood alongside director Mark Molloy, who is making his feature film directorial debut. Additionally, Netflix Co-CEO Ted Sarandos attended the event.

The cast and filmmakers met and shook hands with members of the Beverly Hills City Council and real-life Beverly Hills cop, BHPD Chief Mark Stainbrook.

On his way out, Murphy stopped



photo by Tabor Brewster

Legendary comedian Eddie Murphy took a moment to greet fans who had gathered near Beverly Gardens Park on June 20.

by a crowd of fans to sign autographs and pose for pictures.

The film also stars Kevin Bacon and Joseph Gordon-Levitt as BHPD officers. “Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F” will stream exclusively on Netflix beginning July 3. To stream, visit [netflix.com](https://www.netflix.com)

# WeHo event raises awareness about mental health services



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

The event at The Abbey will include wellness activities and information on mental health services, as well as DJs, dancers and drag.

The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health is hosting a Pride Rainbow Resilience event in West Hollywood on Sunday, June 30, from noon-6 p.m. at The Abbey, 665 N. Robertson Blvd.

The event is free and open to the public. It will feature mental health resources, fun activities, giveaways, music and food.

The event is an extension of the department’s Take Action for Mental Health L.A. County campaign, which promotes positive mental health and encourages residents to seek help if needed. The goal is to destigmatize mental illness and promote well-being, and to raise awareness about resources available to through the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and its partners. Leadership from the department will participate, including Dr. Lisa H. Wong, LACDMH director; Dr. Curley L. Bonds, chief medical officer; and Theion Perkins, senior deputy director of the Outpatient Care Services Division. Community members can take part in wellness activities. The Rainbow Resilience event will feature DJs, dancers and drag.

For information, visit [dmh.lacounty.gov/event/rainbow-resilience-jun-30-2024](https://dmh.lacounty.gov/event/rainbow-resilience-jun-30-2024).

# ‘Party in the Park’ brings together law enforcement and youth



photo courtesy of Stefani Porrets

Officers and cadets from the LAPD’s Wilshire Division participated in games and fun activities with children at Pan Pacific Park.

The Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks held the second annual “Party in the Park: Cops and Kids” on June 18 at Pan Pacific Park. Children visited with law enforcement officers during the special lunchtime party. Personnel from the Los Angeles Police Department’s Wilshire Division interacted with the young participants, who enjoyed police displays, music, games, food and fun activities.

The event was organized by staff from the Pan Pacific Park Recreation Center and LAPD volunteer liaison specialist Stefani Poretz. The goal was to educate children about law enforcement, provide positive interactions and build trust with local officers.

For information on police youth programs, call the Wilshire Division’s Community Relations Unit at (213)473-0200.

# Supporters continue fight for reproductive rights

From page 2

The next hearing in the lawsuit is scheduled on Sept. 18.

Advocacy group Beverly Hills for Choice has been vocal in its support for reproductive rights since the overturning of Roe V. Wade. It has called for an independent investigation into the City Council as to whether it played a role in the rescission of DuPont’s lease.

“In the two years since the Dobbs decision, our country has seen terrible and often life-threatening setbacks in reproductive freedom and reproductive health,” said Andrea

Grossman, co-founder of Beverly Hills for Choice. “People have had to travel hundreds or thousands of miles to seek help. Even in blue states, even in California, even in Beverly Hills, abortion access is made difficult or impossible by extremists, and a City Council who did not stand up for a clinic that was set to open here. Where was our supposedly pro-choice City Council’s support for reproductive freedom just this past year? What will happen when another clinic tries to open up here?”

# Contract renewed in WeHo

From page 1

of our budget in terms of expenditures, as well as the continued investment in other public safety technologies: cameras along our corridors, the drone conversation [and] the enhanced technology equipment that will be coming back to us,” Erickson said.

“I’m pleased that we renewed the contract with the sheriff’s department,” Councilman John Heilman said. “Our city manager continues to work with city leaders from other communities to improve the responsiveness of the department.”

Heilman added that increasing deputies to the station should

remain a goal, “so we have sufficient resources to keep people safe.”

“That should be our No. 1 priority,” he said.

Erickson said that public safety continues to be a multi-faceted situation.

“As someone who never voted to reduce the deputies to begin with, we need to ensure that community safety is a holistic approach that includes all aspects of the city,” he said.

The West Hollywood Sheriff’s Department did not respond to a request for comment by deadline.

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12:30-2:15pm

INVISIBLE ANIMALS  
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# Celebrities turn out to surge Lead With Love past \$800K

BY RANCE COLLINS

On June 22, Project Angel Food’s annual Lead With Love telethon raised a record \$821,759, surpassing its \$800,000 goal. The organization, which prepares and delivers meals to people impacted by serious illness, launched the telethon in 2020 and has topped previous years’ fundraising with each event. Chief executive officer Richard Ayoub said that Project Angel Food owes the Hollywood community for its success.

“This is an organization that’s been around for 35 years, and we couldn’t make it this far without Hollywood. Hollywood has always been there,” Ayoub said. “The community always steps up to volunteer, and also to donate. So that’s why we’re in the process of expanding because people want us to grow and help more people.”

On May 29, Project Angel Food delivered its 18 millionth meal. The meals are tailored to the specific dietary needs of each recipient. Over the years, the organization has amassed a large contingent of celebrity supporters, many of whom appeared and answered phones at the telethon, which aired on KTLA. The telecast was hosted by Steven Weber, Jessica Holmes, Loni Love and Alec Mapa.

“The heart of Los Angeles is compassion, it’s empathetic,” Weber said. “One of my pet peeves is how certain cities are kind of given very negative narratives, maybe sometimes for political pur-

poses ... Los Angeles is a great city. It is filled with loving people [of] every stripe, and Project Angel Food is part of the true heart of Los Angeles.”

Several celebrity attendees spoke about the responsibility of giving back.

“This is a really tough town,” Jason Alexander said. “And a lot of people struggle in this town. But there are a lot of people very willing to put themselves out to help other people here.”

“I always make sure to give back. I always make sure to try to touch others’ lives,” Vivica A. Fox said. “I feel like my job is to inspire, encourage and enlighten.”

“If you can make people smile ... you make their day,” Charo said.

Jackee Harry discussed how giving “lasts,” remembering the school librarian who introduced her to her first dictionary.

“She’s the first person I looked up to. Look how long that lasts?” Harry said. “[It’s still] clear as a bell.”

Jamie Lee Curtis, Kelly Clarkson, Jewel, Eric McCormack, Jean Smart, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Kristin Chenoweth, John Stamos, Lori Loughlin, Deborah Cox, Thelma Houston and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass joined the telecast in pre-taped segments, in addition to live appearances from Kathy Griffin, Michael McDonald, Jackie Beat, Elayne Boosler, Sarah Potenza and Vincent Rodriguez.

“Knot’s Landing” alums Donna

Mills, Joan Van Ark and Michele Lee also joined the event for a special reunion. Mills joked that when they all get together, “they kind of try to outdo each other.”

“We’re all trying to be funny,” she laughed.

Mills added that without Project Angel Food, many would not be able to get the meals they need to survive.

“People are in great need, and this organization really takes care of them,” she said.

Van Ark said that, after the pandemic and last year’s union strikes, giving back is perhaps more important than it has been in a while.

“This is a time to open up your heart and help one another, and help yourself back to mental and physical health, by giving out and helping and taking care of those who ... need help and are housebound,” Van Ark said.

Lawrence Zarian expressed just how far a small donation can go in someone’s life.

“With \$10, you can feed a man, woman and child struggling with a terminal illness, and give them a warm, nutritious, medically tailored meal,” he said.

Gregory Zarian pointed out that



photo courtesy of Project Angel Food

Numerous celebrities turned out for Project Angel Food’s fifth annual Lead With Love telethon.

if people don’t have money to contribute, giving time to Project Angel Food is just as important.

“When we go out and deliver food ... we’re lucky to meet [the patients]. It becomes a family,” he said.

“I have been very lucky to volunteer now twice at Project Angel Food,” Amanda Kloots said. “The second time I came back, I brought my parents because they were in

town. I brought my son both times. And not only was I making the meals on both those days, but we went out and delivered the food. And I think that’s why it’s so important to our Los Angeles community – to see how these people are just so touched by the delivery and the meals that they get.”

For information on how to volunteer or donate to Project Angel Food, visit [angelfood.org](http://angelfood.org).

# Dordick Trial College raises \$225,000 for cancer research

Hundreds of lawyers and legal professionals from around the country came together in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico from May 16-18 for the fourth Dordick Trial College.

The event raised \$225,000 for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, a Boston-based cancer treatment and research institution. The Trial College is organized annually by Beverly Hills attorney Gary A. Dordick to give law students and young attorneys valuable career insight and knowledge about the legal field. The college offers panels, seminars and workshops on different aspects such as planning for a trial and cross-examination. This year, a special emphasis was placed on women in the legal field. The Dordick Trial College also features networking and fun events such as golf and parties on the beach.

Dordick said it is a way to give back to the legal profession and

help young attorneys while raising money for an important cause. Dordick was treated by the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute for lymphoma, and donating proceeds from the trial college helps support the institute in finding a cure for cancer, he said.

“We were able to raise \$225,000 for Dana Farber cancer research and I was really excited to raise this kind of money,” Dordick said. “Everybody that attended, without exception, told us what a wonderful educational program it was. We are going to do it again, same time next year, and I think we should easily be able to reach at least \$300,000.”

The Dordick Law Corporation has offices at 509 S. Beverly Drive in Beverly Hills and 1122 Wilshire Blvd. in downtown Los Angeles. For information, call (310)551-0949, or visit [dordicklaw.com](http://dordicklaw.com).



photo courtesy of the Dordick Law Corporation

Beverly Hills attorney Gary A. Dordick was joined at the Trial College by his daughter Taylor, left, and wife Nava.



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# Erskine’s amusing musings: Baseball and other summer treasures

Random thoughts on a summer day in Los Angeles, with brats on the grill and the Beach Boys on the hi-fi:

- What’s better than baseball? More baseball.
- FYI, I wear mustard the way Cary Grant wore suits.
- Serious question: Could the Guardian Angels beat the Anaheim Angels?
- True story: Descanso Gardens was once considered a site for Disneyland.
- Can you imagine?
- Wait till you see the model train railways coming to Descanso in July.

“If he could cook, I’d marry him.” (Manager Leo Durocher on the late Willie Mays)

- You know, sometimes life is just one damn thing after another.
- And overnight success usually takes about 30 years.
- Honestly, Trader Joe’s is the only market where I don’t feel ripped off.
- I wish Ricola made tea.
- I wish Bruno Mars made more music.
- I wish Sinatra could do one more encore.

“Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.” (Pablo Picasso)



- Trivia time: What is the most-recorded song in history?
- When I return a shopping cart, I flip it over and dump it in the middle of the parking lot.
- Is that wrong? Because sometimes I feel unsafe.
- Things I miss: comedy albums.
- And irreverence.

“Anger is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die.” (Nelson Mandela or Carrie Fisher, no one really knows which)

- Can’t wait till they mic-up the players in the Little League World Series.
- I say bring back the Guardian Angels.
- Because this abandoned shopping cart stuff is really getting out of hand.
- Nothing like a good Greek gyro. Any tips?
- June birthdays: Lionel Messi, 37; Blake Shelton, 48; Heidi Klum, 51; Elon Musk, 53; Meryl Streep, 75.

- Trivia answer: According to Guinness, “Summertime,” by George Gershwin, is the most-recorded song of all time.
- Runners-up: “Amazing Grace” and “Yesterday.”
- Best restaurant name in town? “Burger She Wrote,” serving up first-rate smash burgers at two spots, on Beverly and Hollywood Boulevard.
- Burgers are my love language.
- Baseball is my dopamine.
- So are books.
- Maybe readers should purchase Vroman’s Bookstore, the way Green Bay fans own the Packers?
- “The earth is mostly just a bone-yard. But pretty in the sunlight.” (Larry McMurtry)
- At my age, a half marathon is a full marathon.
- That Kansas City kicker is about as smart as a bowl of soup. But he’s entitled to his views, which are not hateful, just musty.

“Speak your mind, even if your voice shakes.” (Maggie Smith)

- Smiling is contagious.
- So is not smiling.
- So is sitting home doing nothing’.
- How about a Happy Hour Hike?
- And don’t forget those free Thursday morning rehearsals at Hollywood Bowl. To confirm, call (323) 850-2000, ext. 2, then ext. 6.
- A nice lap around Lake Hollywood is refreshing too. And free.
- Yep, Hollywood has a lake.
- Of course, it’s a fake lake.
- FYI, seven different channels/platforms will now carry NFL games.



A day game at Dodger Stadium, where baseball is my dopamine.

- Oddly, TV was better with four channels, all free.
- Sadly, greed is contagious too.

“It was thanks to [Hitchcock] that I understood that murder scenes should be shot like love scenes and love scenes like murder scenes.” (Grace Kelly)

- She also was pretty in the sunlight.
- But not free.
- Prediction: Oregon wins the Big Ten in its first year, doing the PAC-12 proud.
- But this whole thing still makes me hurt.
- OK, can you blame Dan Hurley for bagging on the Lakers? Who could afford L.A. on \$12 mil a year?
- But, honestly, he’s kind of a coward.
- Don’t forget, you can bring

your own food into Dodger Stadium.

“The best moments in reading are when you come across something – a thought, a feeling, a way of looking at things – which you had thought special and particular to you. And now, here it is, set down by someone else....” (Alan Bennett)

- Another Hollywood Bowl tip: Park at Hollywood United Methodist Church (northwest corner of Highland and Franklin). No stacking, and all proceeds go to the church.
- Weather update: MacArthur Park is still melting in the dark.
- Just think, all that sweet green icing ... flowing down.
- And it’s free!

For more posts, please go to [ChrisErskineLA.com](http://ChrisErskineLA.com).



A burger, medium rare, is my love language.

## Notable Quotes

“Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after.”

Henry David Thoreau  
The American author Henry David Thoreau is best known for his magnum opus “Walden.” (1854)  
1817-1862

The publishers have gone fishin’.

\*Source: Southern Living

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JULY 1, 2024



# Work crews press ahead on D Line subway project

Crews are working at many location between Wilshire/Western and Westwood on the D Line subway project. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is cautioning about impacts along the tunnel alignment under Wilshire Boulevard.

For approximately five months, Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in each direction between Oxford Avenue and St. Andrews Place for street restoration work near the Wilshire/Western construction yard. Left turns will be prohibited from Wilshire Boulevard to Western Avenue and from eastbound Wilshire Boulevard to northbound St. Andrews Place.

Farther west at the Wilshire/La Brea station, street restoration work also continues through August. Two lanes of traffic are maintained in each direction on Wilshire Boulevard between Highland and La Brea avenue. A K-rail work zone remains in place on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard. 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.

Near the Wilshire/Fairfax station, work is ongoing in the construction staging yard at Wilshire Boulevard and Ogdan Drive. Northbound Orange Grove Avenue will be closed at Wilshire Boulevard through July 1 to support construction of the station entrance.

Through September, Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in each direction at La Jolla Avenue. A K-rail enclosure is in place on the west side of the Wilshire/La Jolla intersection, creating a work area for completion of an underground tunnel cross passage.

Work is ongoing at the Wilshire/La Cienega station. 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 supports 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 also completing strut removal and instrumentation near the Wilshire/La Cienega station. Utility work and street restoration is ongoing near the staging yards.

Subway station construction and street restoration work is ongoing in Beverly Hills near the Wilshire/Rodeo station. Through the end of June, crews are working on Wilshire Boulevard near South Beverly and Cañon drives. Motorists are cautioned to expect delays due to intermittent lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard.

Work is occurring 24 hours on the Century City/Constellation station. Crews are relocating sewers and storm drains in the area and building the station. Partial traffic lane closures are in place on Constellation Boulevard to facilitate station excavation, hauling and material deliveries. Eastbound and westbound vehicle access on Constellation Boulevard is being maintained between Century Park West and Century Park East.



photo by Edwin Folven

Crews are working on Wilshire Boulevard near South Beverly and Cañon drives, causing intermittent lane closures.

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

## Blood donations critically needed

As the busy Fourth of July holiday week gets closer, the American Red Cross asks donors to be a powerful force for good by giving blood or platelets now and in the weeks to come. All blood types are needed, especially donors giving type O blood and those giving platelets.

Help keep lifesaving blood products stocked on hospital shelves and book a time to give blood or platelets by visiting [redcross-blood.org](http://redcross-blood.org), calling 1(800)RED-CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

The Red Cross has teamed up with Universal Pictures for the theatrical release of “Twisters” to help avoid a summer blood shortage. All who give blood or platelets July 1-31 will get a Fandango movie ticket by email. Plus, those who give July 1-14 will also receive a one-of-a-kind “Twisters” and Red Cross umbrella, while supplies last. Those who give blood in July will also automatically be entered for a chance to win a 2025 Ram 1500 Big Horn. See [redcrossblood.org/twisters](http://redcrossblood.org/twisters) for full details.

In just the first five months of the year, the Red Cross has responded to 20 tornado related disasters across 13 states. Unfortunately, meteorologists expect more powerful and destructive storms to continue in the months to come as the effects of the climate crisis continue.

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

## Letters to the Editor

### Suspend scooters in WeHo until infrastructure is ready

Re “Scooter citations on the rise in WeHo,” June 20 issue

So, if according to Mayor Erickson’s logic, the scooter problem can be solved by changing the infrastructure, why not suspend all scooter operations

until the infrastructure has changed!

Because right now, there has been no change to the infrastructure and yet scooters are still being ridden illegally on sidewalks, creating a danger for pedestrians. I’m sorry, but his statement made absolutely no sense to me.

*Mikie Friedman  
West Hollywood*



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**HEARING DATE:** Thursday, July 11, 2024

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

**LOCATION:** Commission Meeting Room 280A  
Beverly Hills City Hall  
455 North Rexford Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at a **REGULAR** meeting on **Thursday, July 11, 2024** will hold a public hearing beginning at **1:30 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider:

### A DRAFT ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING SHORT TERM RENTAL REGULATIONS (TRANSIENT USES) FOR SINGLE FAMILY AND MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL ZONES, AND MAKING A DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

The Planning Commission will be discussing potential changes to the short term rental regulations applicable to single-family and multifamily residential zones, which are referred to as single-family and multifamily transient uses in the current Beverly Hills Municipal Code. Staff is requesting direction from the Planning Commission on the proposed changes to short term rental regulations, which include but are not limited to: prohibition of all short term rentals in single-family and multifamily residential zones, and creation of a penalty fee structure applicable to violations of the proposed short term rental prohibition. No new regulations will be adopted at this study session. If the Planning Commission wishes to move forward with the proposed changes to short term rental regulations, staff will recommend that this item be continued to a specified future Commission meeting, at which time a draft ordinance will be presented with a resolution for recommendation of the draft ordinance to the City Council for adoption.

#### Environmental Review

This project has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City. Since the project does not authorize construction, and actually imposes greater use restrictions on certain properties to protect the public health, safety and general welfare, there is no possibility that it may have a significant effect on the environment. In addition, the project reflects minor changes in land use limitations, and do not result in changes to land use or density. Accordingly, staff anticipates that the Planning Commission would consider a recommendation to find the project categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15305 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

uant to Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15305 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

#### How to Participate

In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing, members of the public can participate in, watch or listen to the commission meetings through the following methods:

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

It is recommended that written public comments be submitted to the Planning Commission Recording Secretary by 11:30 AM on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the Planning Commission. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item number or topic in the subject line of the email. In order to be read at the meeting, written comments will be allowed with a maximum of 350 words, which corresponds to approximately three (3) minutes of speaking time.

If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record. Any written comments received by end of the day on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, will be attached to the agenda report regarding this item. Any comments received after Tuesday, July 2, 2024, but prior the public hearing, will be distributed to the Commission under separate cover. According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the City’s action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing. Please note that any comments received prior to or during the public hearing will be considered as part of the public record.

If there are any questions regarding this notice or if you would like to be added to the interested parties list for this topic, please contact **Chloe Chen, Senior Planner** in the Planning Division at (310) 285-1194, or by email at [cchen@beverlyhills.org](mailto:cchen@beverlyhills.org). Copies of the project materials are on file in the Community Development Department, and can be reviewed by any interested person at 455 North Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

Sincerely,  
  
Chloe Chen, Senior Planner



Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please contact (310) 285-1126 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY) prior to the meeting for assistance. 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

Celebrate Independence Day at the Andaz

Andaz West Hollywood, known as the historical hangout spot for rock-and-roll legends, is throwing a 4th of July pool party on its rooftop overlooking Los Angeles. Starting at noon, this celebration will include a day of delicious summer barbeque and refreshing cocktails, with one of the best seats in town for when the fireworks begin. Day passes can be reserved for \$25 at [hyattexperiences.com/andaz/laxss?icamp=property\\_page\\_menu\\_book\\_experiences#!event/ff555be2-b3ca-4a46-ad2c-59e0d6a7f873/tickets/2024-07-04](https://hyattexperiences.com/andaz/laxss?icamp=property_page_menu_book_experiences#!event/ff555be2-b3ca-4a46-ad2c-59e0d6a7f873/tickets/2024-07-04). Andaz West Hollywood is located at 8401 Sunset Blvd. For information, call (323)656-1234.

Starbird welcomes the 4th

Spice up the 4th of July barbecue with a catering package from California's super-premium fast-food brand, Starbird. The crispy chicken brand has the ultimate offerings for an Independence Day celebration you won't forget. The small package serves 4-5 and costs \$54.97, including 20 wings (boneless or bone in), 10 tenders, 2 super

slaws and 2 6-ounce sauces. The large package, which serves 8-10, costs \$94.97 and includes 40 wings (boneless or bone in), 20 tenders, 4 super slaws and 4 6-ounce sauces. Starbird Chicken is located at 7150 Beverly Blvd. For information, visit [starbirdchicken.com](https://starbirdchicken.com) or call (323)200-9443.

Marina Garden rings in the holiday

Marina del Rey Hotel is partnering with JAJA Tequila for 4th of July with drink specials for adults and a snow cone machine for kids. Outdoor BBQ bites include the Sailor Dog, all American cheeseburger and Seamans assorted fruits. The event starts at 5 p.m., with live music starting at 6 p.m. A fireworks show will begin at 9 p.m. For information and to reserve a spot, visit [eventbrite.com/e/marina-garden-4th-of-july-bbq-bash-tickets-921826697467](https://eventbrite.com/e/marina-garden-4th-of-july-bbq-bash-tickets-921826697467). The Marina del Rey Hotel is located at 13534 Bali Way, Marina del Rey.

Jamaica Bay Inn sparkles for 4th

The Jamaica Bay Inn is celebrating the 4th with a fireworks show, live music and a menu that includes burgers, hot dogs,

tajin watermelon, elote and chips. The fun starts at 5 p.m., with the fireworks setting off at 9 p.m. For information and to reserve a spot, visit [eventbrite.com/e/4th-of-july-bbq-party-tickets-923173074517](https://eventbrite.com/e/4th-of-july-bbq-party-tickets-923173074517). The Jamaica Bay Inn is located at 4175 Admiralty Way, Marina del Ray.

Dine LA menu launches at asterid

Going out to eat can be overwhelming at times, with so many choices and the fear of choosing incorrectly. With asterid's Dine LA menu, the selection has already been made and each course has one designated offering. Start with the restaurant's avocado toast, topped with Dungeness crab and trout roe, continue with the shrimp tostada and Mary's chicken, and conclude the meal with a tres leches cake, a beloved dessert from Chef Ray Garcia's acclaimed restaurants, BS Taqueria and Broken Spanish. The four-course menu is \$75 asterid is located at 141 S. Grand Ave. inside Walt Disney Concert Hall. For information, visit [asteridla.com](https://asteridla.com) or call (213)972-3535.

La La Land debuts fresh coffee creamers

La La Land Kind Café's Santa Monica location is debuting the



Finish a three-course meal at Amour with traditional mille-feuille. photo courtesy of 111 Agency

Amour offers three-course meal

One of the most recent additions to the Michelin guide, Amour, is offering an \$85 three-course menu featuring some of its most popular dishes, including the New Caledonia blue prawn carpaccio and steak au poivre. For those looking to level up their meal, there's a supplemental course of their signature

Chawanmushi plus caviar and A5 Kobe additions. Finish off the night with a Basque cheesecake or their traditional mille-feuille. Diners have the option to add a \$40 wine pairing selected by wine director Thibaud Duccini. Amour is located at 8715 Beverly Blvd. For information, visit [amourweho.love](https://amourweho.love) or call (424)431-6717.

Cleaner Creamer Collection in collaboration with favorite plant-based milk brand, MALK Organics. The collection will be available exclusively at the Santa Monica café between June 28-30, and customers will be able to select one of MALK's brand new creamers – vanilla, caramel almond or

lightly sweetened oat – to accompany their Americanos. Staying true to MALK's mission to offer the cleanest products possible, the MALK Americano is made with simple, high-quality and certified organic ingredients. For information, visit [lalalandkindcafe.com](https://lalalandkindcafe.com). La See page 15



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# Grove to get new restaurant

This fall, popular Venice Beach steakhouse American Beauty will debut a new location at The Grove. Located at 189 The Grove Drive in the former Wood Ranch BBQ & Grill space, the restaurant will build upon the foundation established in Venice, underscoring American Beauty's evolution since its open-

ing. Partners Paul Hibler and Jeff Goodman of American Gonzo Food Corp and Bruce Horwitz of The Tasting Kitchen introduced the restaurant in 2019 with a vision to reimagine the classic American steakhouse as a high-low experience for a new audience. Over the



photo courtesy of American Beauty

American Beauty will expand to The Grove this fall.

years, it's become a fixture in the community, renowned for both its impeccable steaks including prime and dry-aged cuts from Santa Carota, Creekstone Farms and Flannery Beef, and comprehensive selection of vegetable-forward plates and pristine seafood. Chefs Elisha Ben-Haim and Evan Hickey's menu is an expression of locale with dishes that showcase their reverence for regionally-sourced produce and ingredients.

American Beauty's restaurant within a restaurant, The Win~Dow, has played an equally important role in the steakhouse's trajectory. Initially introduced as a lunchtime staple for quintessential smashburgers and fries, The Win~Dow is now beloved as a standalone concept with four restaurants and more on the horizon.

For American Beauty at The Grove, the team expands the culinary program with plans to introduce weekday lunch and weekend brunch, in addition to new and special offerings specific to the Mid-City restaurant. A full bar program will include a substantial wine list with new additions to American Beauty Venice's existing 200-bottle portfolio.

American Gonzo collaborated with the award-winning and internationally-renowned Frederick Fisher and Partners for the design of the 6,500 square-foot restaurant and adjacent 2,000-square foot wrap-around patio. The 2024 recipient of the AIA California Firm Award, the Los Angeles-based company is committed to helping people, communities and organizations around the world achieve their goals and amplify their passions. FF&P finds inspiration in a

wide range of historical and cultural references, context and community, rigorous research, functionality and sustainability. They are renowned for cultivating and enriching cultural, learning, living and working spaces at all scales, including their celebrated work for the Natural History Museum of LA County's 2024 expansion that will open to the public soon.

The bones of the existing structure, located on the far west side of The Grove, were reimaged to reveal American Beauty's evolution, as well as its origin story.

Like the Venice Beach restaurant, a horseshoe bar will be a focal point within the space which will also include options for private and semi-private parties. The south side of the restaurant will feature American Beauty's companion, The Win~Dow, which will operate continuously throughout lunch and dinner services, 7 days a week.

American Beauty at The Grove is anticipated to open in late fall 2024 in advance of the holiday shopping season. For information, visit americanbeauty.la.

## Panera opens Beverly Hills location



photo by Tabor Brewster

Bakery-café chain known for its bread bowls, sandwiches and salads, Panera Bread, opened a location at 8400 Wilshire Blvd. in Beverly Hills on Friday, June 21. Staff members gathered for

a photo after a busy opening lunch rush. The cafe is open 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 7 a.m.-9 p.m. on Sundays for dine-in, takeout and delivery.

### Thrill of the Grill!



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- ★ Dry Aged Beef
- ★ New York Steaks - Bone-in or boneless

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# Police Blotter

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between June 16 and June 22. 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 16

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 9:15 a.m.

At 5:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9700 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of S. Peck at 6:11 p.m.

### June 17

At 12:50 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 500 block of Walden.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9800 block of Santa Monica at 3:30 p.m.

At 4:03 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9400 block of Sunset.

A vandalism incident was reported in the 9400 block of Olympic at 4:41 p.m.

At 10:35 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9600 block of Wilshire.

### June 18

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 5:17 a.m.

At 3:53 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of N. Rodeo.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Wilshire and La Peer at 9:17 p.m.

### June 19

At midnight, a vandalism incident was reported in the 300 block of S. Swall.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Camden at 8:58 a.m.

At 10 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1800 block of Angelo.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of N. Cañon at 10:06 a.m.

At 12:10 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Wallace Ridge and Loma Vista.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of N. Crescent at 2:43 p.m.

At 10:33 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of N. Cañon.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of N. Cañon at 11:45 p.m.

### June 20

At 12:20 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported near Brighton and Rodeo.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of S. Almont at 12:30 p.m.

At 4:53 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near Wilshire and Willaman.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of S. Beverly at 7:49 p.m.

### June 21

At 8 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of S. Roxbury.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 11 p.m.

### June 22

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Santa Monica and Rexford at 6:48 a.m.

At 10:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of S. Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9700 block of Wilshire at 4:30 p.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 600 block of N. Hillcrest.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 700 block of N. Palm at 7 p.m.

## West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

### June 16

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

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at 1:39 a.m.

At 12:50 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Santa Monica and Huntley.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 500 block of West Knoll at 9 p.m.

At 9:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1200 block of N. Havenhurst.

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 7700 block of Santa Monica at 11:45 p.m.

### June 17

At midnight, 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 1:40 a.m.

At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 7200 block of Santa Monica.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in

the 7900 block of Norton at 4:30 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

### June 18

At 7:05 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1100 block of N. La Brea.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 7800 block of Santa Monica at 11:24 a.m.

At 2:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Cynthia.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1200 block of N. Spaulding at 4 p.m.

At 5:50 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7300 block of Santa Monica.

### June 19

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 12:37 p.m.

At 2:55 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8500 block of Melrose.

A vehicle theft was reported in the 7500 block of Lexington at 3:10 p.m.

At 3:54 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a bicycle in the 500 block of N. La Cienega.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 8700 block of Holloway at 6 p.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

### June 20

At 8:20 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8500 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of N. Robertson at 10:40 p.m.

At 11:45 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 9000 block of Sunset.

### June 21

At midnight, an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8400 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 600 block of West Knoll at 6 p.m.

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

### June 22

At 12:30 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1000 block of N. Laurel.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at 2:32 a.m.

At 8:12 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1000 block of N. Vista.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7200 block of Santa Monica at 9 p.m.

At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

## Los Angeles Police Department

### June 16

An unknown suspect pickpocketed

a victim in the 6500 block of Sunset at 1:35 a.m.

At 3:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of S. Orange.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Beverly at 11:15 a.m.

At 1 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6200 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1600 block of N. Orange at 2:15 p.m.

At 3 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 6800 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1300 block of N. Highland at 4:40 p.m.

At 4:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of The Grove.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 400 block of N. Crescent Heights at 5 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 900 block of N. Croft.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 1600 block of N. Vine at 9:30 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 2000 block of N. Ivar.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1400 block of N. McCadden at 11:15 p.m.

### June 17

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1600 block of N. Vine at 1:20 p.m.

At 3 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 6400 block of San Vicente.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of N. La Cienega at 5:05 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 5500 block of Edgewood.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 1100 block of S. Cloverdale at 11:30 p.m.

### June 18

At 4 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft near Sunset and Ivar.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of S. La Brea at 8:43 a.m.

At 8:45 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 4200 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of N. La Cienega at 5:25 p.m.

At 7:49 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of The Grove.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1700 block of N. Cahuenga at 9:10 p.m.

At 10:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1600 block of N. Las Palmas.

### June 19

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6600 block of Santa Monica at 12:27 a.m.

At 3 a.m., an unknown suspect

committed a petty theft in the 6800 block of N. Citrus.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6600 block of Santa Monica at 4:05 a.m.

At 4:10 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8500 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 8300 block of Blackburn at 4:20 a.m.

At 6:07 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5200 block of Wilshire.

A petty theft was reported in the 400 block of S. La Brea at 9:31 a.m.

At 1 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6100 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 6800 block of Hollywood at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 7100 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 6800 block of Hollywood at 7:56 p.m.

At 11:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near Sunset and Gower.

### June 20

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5200 block of Wilshire at 1:51 a.m.

At 12:55 p.m., an attempted robbery was reported in the 5500 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of The Grove at 2:22 p.m.

At 2:55 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of The Grove.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 6800 block of Hollywood at 4:15 p.m.

At 8:45 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 600 block of S. Cloverdale.

An vehicle burglary occurred in the 8000 block of Selma at 10 p.m..

### June 21

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 6800 block of Hollywood at 10 a.m.

At 11:30 p.m., an unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 1600 block of N. Las Palmas.

### June 22

At 12:01 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 1400 block of N. Ivar.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6100 block of Afton at 7 a.m.

At 7:15 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6300 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Beverly at 8:27 a.m.

At 10:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5200 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of The Grove at 1:55 p.m.

At 2:25 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of N. Larchmont.



# Teleferic brings Spain to Brentwood

BY RANCE COLLINS

I was raised in a tiny town in central Texas. We had great Tex-Mex and great beef, but the international food offerings were limited. What existed in culinary diversity was of the fast-food variety, and even then you had to drive an hour or so to find. Thank God for Los Angeles, and its cross-section of offerings. Here, I'm finally learning what this whole food thing is all about. Part of my journey through these reviews is something of a manifesto to expand my palate.

All of this is to say that I was not particularly familiar with Spanish cuisine prior to going to Teleferic Barcelona, which I knew had to be the most authentic place in L.A. to immerse myself in Spain's food culture – after all, it has a sister restaurant located in Barcelona.

As always, I took along Boyfriend, who is far more traveled than I. Had he not been there, though, our waitress Marta could've easily held my inexperienced hand through the menu, which is divided into tapas, platos, greens, authentic paellas and desserts. If you've been reading my column, you know that the greens section never stood a chance, although there was a hearty choice of various salads if that's your thing.

We started with ham croquetas. Now, this is where I'm going to warn you, dear reader, that I'm going to make a lot of Southern fixin' comparisons throughout – it's what I know. You can take the boy out of Texas ... and all that jazz.

On to the food.  
The ham croquetas were one of

my favorite things I've ever eaten. They reminded me of hush puppies. Now hush puppies are made from cornmeal batter, but the vibe was the same: crispy on the outside, soft on the inside. The croquetas were like biting into the best mashed potatoes you've ever had, with a crispy exterior to make it interesting. They were topped with just the slightest bit of ham and aioli. Delicious.

We ordered a few mocktails, each of which had a corresponding cocktail on the menu. The Barceloneta sangria delighted my fruity sensibilities with lemonade, prickly pear, honey, rosemary, orange and mixed berries. For a more minty option, the Gothic Mojito had a tang to it, complementing its fruit purée ingredients. Later, we tasted similarly mint tinged The Tourist, which also had lychee juice, raspberries, honey and lime. My personal favorite the Enebro and Tonic was wonderfully refreshing (yet kicky) with spiced juniper distillate, fever-tree tonic and grapefruit.

Moving on to the platos, I let Boyfriend take over ordering. While we were both tempted by the Catalan Tomahawk 40-ounce prime ribeye steak, which rushed by us elegantly plated on its way to another table, we decided we had to save enough room for additional dishes and ordered the prime Wellington. When it arrived, the server injected it (literally) with a sweet sauce that oozed out its crisp shell. The beef was perfectly cooked and wonderfully juicy, again reminding me of another Southern delicacy: the pot pie. So, if you're like me and only knew the term Wellington from its frequent references in media, that's your analogy and you will not be disappointed.

When we got to the authentic paellas, what we considered our main course, it was time to really taste what Spanish cuisine is all about. We chose the Ibérico pork paella. The corn-fed pork chop, pork belly and chicken were presented at the center of a large, round dish, atop crispy, sticky rice and mushrooms. This was Boyfriend's favorite dish, and I could tell he was having a tough time allowing me to have my fair half of the course. Luckily, the paellas serve two, and the serving size is large enough it could really feed three or four, depending on how hungry you are.

We were very, very hungry, and that's clearly why we decided to go whole hog on our dessert: the trio selection. As you might have guessed, this is a sampling of three different Teleferic Barcelona desserts: churros, torrija and arroz tres leches. I honestly don't even know where to begin, because each was its own kind of delectable.

The churros were bite-sized and fried to perfection. They were also uniquely Spanish, filled with a "just right" helping of chocolate. The churros were Boyfriend's choice for dessert winner, and he is a churro snob – and by that I mean he will eat any churro any time, but he will also critique it mercilessly. The torrija is described as French toast on the menu, but it reminded me more of a sponge cake in consistency. Served with Catalan cream and vanilla ice cream, it was the kind of dessert that fits right in after the last meal of the day and as a special treat for the first meal of the day. The arroz tres leches was a rice pudding with Crema catalana



photo by Rance Collins

The trio selection dessert plate included a delicious helping of churros, torrija and arroz tres leches.

foam and jelly. The sweet concoction had a delightful infusion of caramel, and as a caramel stan, this was enough for it to be my personal winner in the dessert category.

Now filled up for our next two or three meals, we finished with coffee as we enjoyed the chill vibe of the shaded outdoor patio. Properly shielded from San Vicente's neighboring buzz, the enthusiastic chatter of the neighboring tables made for a relaxing experience. The indoor space, too, invokes a similarly relaxed, but slightly more upscale

Mid-Century modern feel. Either is inviting for genuine bonding, be it a date, brunch with friends or a family gathering.

With Teleferic Barcelona under my belt, I've now experienced another from Los Angeles' stellar food portfolio, and whether you're a Spanish cuisine novice or expert, I think you'll find more than enough to love at this lovely Brentwood establishment.

For information, visit telefericbarcelona.com/los-angeles or call (424)832-7595. Teleferic Barcelona is located at 11930 San Vicente

From page 12

La Land Kind Café is located at 1426 Montana Ave, No. 1, Santa Monica.

## Highlight Room underlines spectacular rooftop meals

For Dine LA, Highlight Room at Dream Hollywood will be offering a two-course lunch menu for \$35 per person and a three-course dinner menu for \$65 per person. The spectacular hotel rooftop restaurant and grill is the perfect spot to snag lunch or dinner with 360-degree views of Los Angeles. Enjoy a selection of their most popular dishes of California fare from starters like the tuna poke wonton tacos and lollipop chicken wings, to main courses such as the spicy tomato rigatoni and angry Maria. The lunch menu is available from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and the dinner menu is available from 5 p.m.-close. For information, visit taogroup.com/venues/the-highlight-room-los-angeles or call (323)366-8007. The Highlight Room is located at 6417 Selma Ave.

## BOA's new chef brings out new dishes

BOA, the place to see and be seen, recently welcomed chef Brendan Collins, where he

revamped the menu with dishes like the king crab ceviche made with passion fruit leche de tigre, paired with shellfish crackers and topped with pickled chile. The perfect balance between tangy and savory, this ceviche is sure to transport you to a tropical vacation in the South. Collins will also team up with guest chef Ricardo Zarate for a one-night-only collaboration menu on Saturday, June 29, where guests can enjoy an array of dishes ranging from fresh yellowtail and juicy wagyu, either á la carte or as a full tasting menu at \$145. Reservations can be made through OpenTable at opentable.com/r/boa-steakhouse-sunset-west-hollywood. BOA Steakhouse's West Hollywood location is located at 9200 Sunset Blvd. For information, visit boasteak.com or call (310)278-2050.

## Acoustic sessions rock out the Mondrian

Skybar at Mondrian Los Angeles and BMI have partnered to kick off BMI Acoustic Sunset Sessions at Skybar Los Angeles featuring live artist performances from rising R&B artists. The monthly live music series will kick off on Thursday, June 27 with special performances from singer/songwriters Bren Joy, Lekan, 2-time Grammy award-winning singer/songwriter

Elijah Blake, Annie Tracy, and hosted by singer/songwriter and social influencer, LaBritney. Upcoming lineups will feature new BMI songwriters each month. From 7-10 p.m., guests will be treated to special live musical performances and cocktail specials while overlooking the city skyline. The event will be RSVP only and will be 21+ to attend. To RSVP, email rsvplosangeles@bmi.com. For information, visit book.ennismore/nightlife/skybar/los-angeles or call (323)848-6030. Skybar is located at the Mondrian Los Angeles at 8440 Sunset Blvd.

## Summer is here at Pret A Manger

Pret A Manger's new summer menu has debuted at both brand-new Southern California locations in Westwood and Studio City. Featuring guest-favorites and new seasonal dishes, Pret's summer menu boasts seasonal, fresh ingredients from salads and new iced teas to pastries and cottage cheese pots. Dishes include pesto chicken, strawberry and burrata salad; summer berries pot; falafel and hummus wrap; chicken, elote corn and avocado salad; dragon fruit mango iced teas and lemonades; everything cream cheese swirl; and chili crunch veggie cottage cheese pot. For information, visit pret.com/en-us. Pret a Manger is located at 10906 Le Conte Ave. in Brentwood and 12184 Venture Blvd. in Studio City.

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# Chicano Batman flies into Kia Forum

BY TABOR BREWSTER

What’s the best way to describe L.A. band Chicano Batman? Their newest album might be a good starting point. An eclectic mix of soul, psychedelic, indie rock, funk and Latin alternative, “Notebook Fantasy” blurs genre lines and draws upon a wide variety of influences.

“I liken this album to a film,” the band’s guitarist Carlos Arevalo said. “It’s not made for the Spotify era in the sense of, you listen to one track and that’s going to encapsulate what the album is like – no, not at all. You’ve got to put it on the LP player and flip the vinyl and listen to it from beginning to end.”

The album was written by Arevalo alongside singer/key-boardist Bardo Martinez and bassist Eduardo Arenas. Arevalo described the songwriting process as the band members “supporting each other” in their ideas, a new approach that allowed them to each bring in distinct creative inspirations.

The result is a 12-track, 45 minute record that transcends the musical borders of their previous work. The title track, “Notebook

Fantasy,” blends pulsing electronic instrumentation with soaring vocals reminiscent of their psychedelic peer, Tame Impala. One of three songs in Spanish, “Lei Lá,” is a rhythmic climax that toes the line between order and chaos, while “Tears Away” is a heartfelt ballad with a Beatles-esque string arrangement and background harmonies. The lead single, “Fly,” might be their most “pop” song to date. With a funky ’70s dance beat, infectious guitar hook and suggestive lyrics – somewhere between the raunchiness of Marvin Gaye and Prince – the song feels like a party on a hot summer day in Los Angeles.

“It was about tapping into some Prince energy, obviously,” Arevalo said. “We were tracking right next to the studio [booth] where he made his first two records ... That magic was in the air. We were like ‘hey, let’s pay tribute to the master.’”

The song was recorded at the historic Sunset Sound, a studio on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood that has shaped albums by iconic artists from The Beach Boys to Led Zeppelin.

The diverse sound of the album also reflects the band’s career journey, which began in 2008 in Los Angeles. Arevalo said that when he joined the band in 2011, they struggled to find a place in the music scene due to their unusual sound – different from other Chicano bands at the time, but also from the many indie rock bands of Southern California.

“We always did our own thing. We were always not really part of any scene ... At the beginning, it was hard to get gigs at the most popular places because we were just so different and we weren’t ‘in’ with the ‘in people,’” Arevalo said. “But I think that’s been a strength of ours, that we didn’t get grouped into a certain genre, [a] style that existed for like a five-year span. Because we were always doing our own thing, we just developed a real, organic cult following, and those people are still with us today. And new people have caught on, and we’re grateful for it.”

The band has steadily grown its fanbase worldwide, played at festivals like Coachella and opened for artists including Jack White. In



photo courtesy of Josue Rivas

From left, Chicano Batman is comprised of guitarist Carlos Arevalo, singer/keyboardist Bardo Martinez and bassist Eduardo Arenas.

April, the band began the “Notebook Fantasy” tour, a showcase of their music – new and old – across 32 different cities. This Saturday, June 29, the band will take the tour home with a 7 p.m. show at the Kia Forum.

“We’ve seen so many shows there ... It’s pretty amazing to be part of such a historical piece of L.A. culture. This is the biggest

show we’ve ever done,” Arevalo said. “It’s going to be really fun playing songs that we played at dive bars at the Forum 15 years later.”

For tickets, visit [ticketmaster.com/chicano-batman-ingewood-california-06-29-2024/event/09006031EA373AA0](https://www.ticketmaster.com/chicano-batman-ingewood-california-06-29-2024/event/09006031EA373AA0).

The Kia Forum is located at 3900 W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood.

# Voters choose name for NHM’s green dinosaur

The 75-foot-long green dinosaur skeleton that will serve as a focal point of NHM Commons – the museum’s new wing scheduled to open this fall – officially has a name following an online vote. With more than 36% of approximately 8,100 votes, Gnatalie (pronounced

nat-uh-lee) prevailed over Esme, Sage, Verdi and Olive, making it the winning selection for the Jurassic newcomer.

The name was inspired by the gnats that pestered scientists and volunteers while excavating the fossils in Utah. Gnatalie’s unusual

bone coloring is due to infilling by the green mineral celadonite during the fossilization process.

After being excavated from a 150-million-year-old riverbed, the long-neck dinosaur’s green bones were painstakingly prepared, packed in multiple crates and

trucked to Ontario, Canada, for armature and mount fabrication. The colossal skeleton is technically a composite of several specimens belonging to a new diplodocus-like species from the late-Jurassic period that will be scientifically named in the future. When NHM Commons opens this fall, Gnatalie the Green Dino will be the first green dinosaur skeleton to be

mounted for public display.

“We are delighted to see how many people voted and how much they loved our name for this unusual dinosaur,” said Lori Bettison-Varga, president and director of the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County.”

The Natural History Museum is located at 900 Exposition Blvd. For information, visit [nhm.org/gnatalie](https://nhm.org/gnatalie).



photo courtesy of NHMLAC

Doug Goodreau, senior preparator of the Dinosaur Institute, is working on the Gnatalie skeleton in preparation for its display in NHM Commons.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS TO PLACE  
2024-25 SEWER, SOLID WASTE,  
AND DELINQUENT SOLID WASTE SERVICE CHARGES ON  
THE PROPERTY TAX ROLL IN WEST HOLLYWOOD

The City of West Hollywood annually collects sewer, solid waste, and delinquent solid waste service charges on the tax roll, at the same time as the general taxes of the City.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** the City Council of the City of West Hollywood has caused written reports to be prepared and filed with the City Clerk regarding the City’s sewer, solid waste, and delinquent solid waste service charges for fiscal year 2024-2025. Such reports contain a description of each parcel of real property receiving sewer and solid waste services furnished by the City and the amount of the charges for each parcel for fiscal year 2023-2024.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN** that on July 15, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. the West Hollywood City Council will conduct public hearings on the above described reports and the placement of the sewer, solid waste and delinquent solid waste charges on the property tax roll. At the public hearings, the City Council will hear and consider all objections or protests to the reports and the placement of the charges on the property tax roll. The hearings will be located at the Council Chambers, at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069. The public may also attend remotely at the teleconference location posted in the agenda materials posted 72 hours before the July 15, 2024 City Council meeting. The reports are on file in the office of the City Clerk and an electronic copy is available on the City’s Direct Benefits Assessments webpage at <https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/finance-and-technology-services/taxes/direct-benefit-assessments> or upon request.

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



# ‘Thelma’ stands apart with an unlikely hero

The summer’s sleeper hit has arrived. Meet “Thelma,” a revenge story focusing on a sweet senior citizen who refuses to be scammed. It’s easily one of the easiest viewing experiences best enjoyed with family of all ages.

“Thelma’s” marketing crowns it “a clever spin on movies like ‘Mission: Impossible,’ shining the spotlight on an elderly grandmother as an unlikely action hero.” That’s partly true, though invoking “action hero” establishes an inaccurate expectation. Don’t expect shootouts, hand-to-hand combat or car chases. It’s far more subtle.

Thelma (June Squibb) has trouble with computers. Luckily, Daniel (Fred Hechinger) doesn’t mind helping his 93-year-old grandmoth-

er with tech support and some chauffeuring. They enjoy a special bond. Then Thelma receives a frantic call from Daniel about a terrible car accident, followed by a demand for money.

She complies before she can reach her daughter Gail (Parker Posey) or son-in-law Alan (Clark Gregg). If only she had. Thelma falls prey to a scam – a common one levied against elderly folks. This will not stand. Armed with a plan and a borrowed motorized wheelchair, she seeks out those who made a fool out of her.

Don’t expect high-octane action. The thrilling sequences all play for laughs often paced quite slowly. Thelma’s initial attempt to commandeering a battery-powered wheel-

## ON SCREEN WITH TIM POSADA

chair places her at odds with its owner, Ben (Richard Roundtree in his final role, having passing last year). Call this one a chase scene.

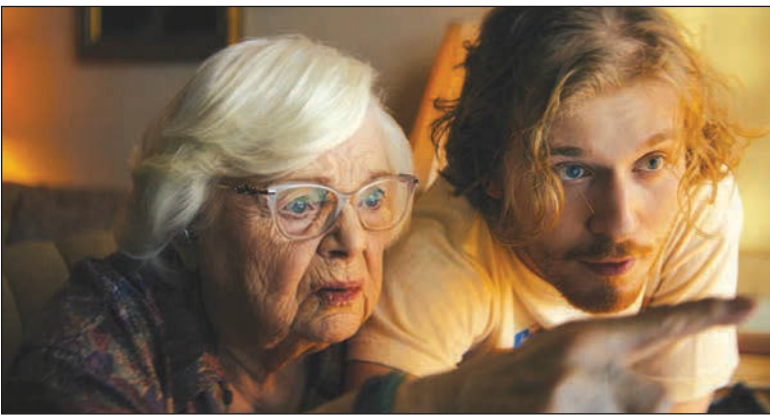
Later, she needs to acquire a gun from another friend around the same age. That’s the heist sequence. Thank the playful music by Nick Chuba for helping set the hilarious tone here. It all leads to a thrilling climax with this film’s own version of a ticking-time-bomb scenario.

“Thelma” is honest. It doesn’t overdo the action. In fact, any attempt to label it an action film at all plays fast and loose with that genre’s parameters. This is comedy, the indie kind you expect to premiere at Sundance. But hey, if the Desertscape International Film Festival wants to crown it “best action movie,” then more power to this charming flick.

But honestly, it’s not an action film. It toys with those conventions without need for grandiose stunts or big explosions (though one does occur). And that element is not all



“Thelma” features June Squibb and the legendary Richard Roundtree in his final on screen role.



June Squibb as Thelma and Fred Hechinger as Danny share a wonderful bond in the new Magnolia Pictures release.

that drives the film. As she seeks her goal, Thelma must confront her present circumstances as she interacts with Ben. Should she move into a senior center? Meanwhile, her grandson can’t help but worry about her, while she wonders if he can cope with her eventual passing.

Fun and, frankly, shocking fact: After 70 years in the industry, this is June Squibb’s first lead role. “Well, it’s very exciting because I think it excites everybody else,” Squibb, 94, told the Academy regarding that tidbit. That delightful response matches how lovely she is on screen here. Squibb handles both the lighthearted and emotional moments like the veteran she is.

Squibb’s performance works so

well thanks to writer-director Josh Margolin in his first film. He based the film on when his own grandmother Thelma, widow of Ted Post (director of “Hang ‘Em High,” “Magnum Force”), was almost scammed. The events here are entirely fabricated, though one sequence involving all of Thelma’s medical procedures seems to have been lifted from real life.

Margolin is a promising director, and his film will likely do well come awards season (especially in the Golden Globes’ comedy categories). Until then, this is a splendid way to beat the heat, perhaps take your grandparents or grandkids to enjoy all the thoughtful shenanigans on screen. It’s a perfectly enjoyable film that stands apart.

# GMCLA rounds out soulful season this summer

Gay Men’s Chorus of Los Angeles will present the final concert of its 45th season, “Solid Gold: Aretha, Dionne and Whitney” at 3 p.m. on June 30 at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. The musical tribute will celebrate 25 songs from these three indelible and influential voices performed by GMCLA’s 200-member Chorus, superstar Queens Priyanka and Latrice Royale, and the “Solid Gold Trio” Summer Nicole Greer, Jenelle Lynn Randall and Amber Wright. Immediately following the concert, GMCLA will hold its annual gala dinner and dance party in the historic Pasadena Convention Center. The annual fundraiser benefits GMCLA’s Alive Music Project in the schools and free concert performances in the community.

“This concert is going to be epic – the chorus gets to sing the soundtrack of our lives, celebrate three of the most iconic artists of all

time, and mix it up on stage with two of today’s top drag superstars! What could be better?” said GMCLA’s executive director and producer Lou Spisto. “Honoring HBO’s ‘We’re Here’ with our annual voice award, at a time when the drag community has come under fire in so many places, is something we’re especially proud to do. Having the queens with us for the concert and the after-concert dinner-dance party is going to bring the proceedings to a whole new level of fun and fabulousness.”

“Solid Gold: Aretha, Dionne and Whitney” promises to be one of GMCLA’s most soulful, joyous and moving shows ever as it celebrates three of the most legendary and iconic artists in music history. The 200-member Chorus will perform 25 timeless hits by the Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin, music legend and HIV/AIDS activist Dionne

Warwick and the undisputed voice of a generation Whitney Houston, with songs like “Respect,” “Freeway of Love,” “Chain of Fools,” “I Say a Little Prayer for You,” “I Will Always Love You,” “The Greatest Love of All” and “I Wanna Dance with Somebody.” The show will also feature six dance production numbers and an unforgettable three-song medley with Priyanka and Latrice Royale stars of Drag Race and HBO’s groundbreaking series “We’re Here.”

The Chorus will also be joined by the “Solid Gold Trio” for several numbers. The trio includes Summer Nicole Greer, Jenelle Lynn Randall and Amber Wright.

The celebration will be conducted by GMCLA’s music director and conductor Ernest H. Harrison and feature choreography by Tovariss Wilson.

The Pasadena Civic Auditorium



Priyanka and Latrice Royale will headline GMCLA's June concert.

is located 300 E Green St, Pasadena. Single tickets range from \$45-\$125 and are now available

online at gmcla.org/solidgold or by phone at the Pasadena Civic box office at (626)449-7360.

# Summer movies bring fireworks to Cinespia

Cinespia, Los Angeles’ favorite cinematic experience presented by Amazon MGM Studios, has announced their films for the month of July. July brings the works: fireworks, that is – joy flies sky high with a movie and a party every weekend, not to mention a triple-night spectacle on July 4, 5 and 6. Screening lineup includes “Rocky” on July 4, “Charlie’s Angels” July 5, “Shrek 2: on July 6, “Midsommar” on July 13, “Empire Records” on July 20 and “La Bamba” on July 27. Additionally June will round out with “What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?” on June 29.

“As we gear up for another exciting month of cinematic magic under the stars, we’re thrilled to bring back the beloved tradition of celebrating Independence Day with a bang – quite literally,” Cinespia founder John Wyatt said. “This July, Cinespia is proud to present an electrifying lineup that promises



Hollywood Forever Cemetery will serve as the setting for a host of screenings throughout July.

something for everyone, from the timeless classics like ‘Rocky’ to the beloved favorites such as ‘Charlie’s Angels’ and ‘Shrek 2.’”

All events will be held at Hollywood Forever Cemetery, located at 6000 Santa Monica Blvd. For information, visit cinespia.org.



### UPCOMING K-CULTURE ACTIVITIES

EXHIBITION	MOVIE	CONCERT
<b>HWAJODO</b> Exhibition at the Descanso Gardens ✓ June 28 - September 29 ✓ Sturt Haaga Gallery, Descanso Gardens ✓ WALK-IN with fee Drawing from centuries-old traditions, HWAJODO: Flowers and Birds in Korean American Art explores the enduring themes of nature, particularly flowers and birds.	<b>K-Film</b> The Host Free Screening ✓ July 10, 7 pm ✓ KCCLA Ari Hall(3F) ✓ KCCLA Website RSVP Movie night continues with the Korean film <The Host> directed by the Oscar-winning director, Bong Joon-ho. * This film is PG-13.	<b>Novus Quartet</b> Concert Free Screening ✓ July 18, 7 pm ✓ KCCLA Ari Hall(3F) ✓ KCCLA Website RSVP The concert screening of the K-Classic Artists, "Novus Quartet" showcasing the next generation of Korean classical music excellence.

5505 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90036 (323) 936-7141



# Television Academy links students with entertainment industry internships

Gardena Senior High School alumna Le’Anne Norfleet has been selected for the prestigious Television Academy Foundation Internship Program.

Norfleet is one of 40 students chosen by Television Academy members from across the country for the 2024 summer internship program. The foundation offers paid internships at top Hollywood studios and production companies annually to college students nationwide.

Norfleet will be a senior this fall at UCLA majoring in communications. This summer, she will be a public relations-publicity intern at Warner Bros. Television

Group in Burbank, as part of the foundation’s program. Norfleet attended Gardena Senior High School.

“It’s truly amazing to know that the same people who vote on the Emmys, chose me to be a participant in this internship,” Norfleet said. “I am very excited to have an opportunity to participate in such a prestigious program. What excites me the most about this internship is the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the entertainment industry. I am looking forward to participating in the internship to learn and network with industry leaders. This will be an invaluable experience to help me prepare for a

career within the entertainment industry.”

The Television Academy Foundation engages and educates the next generation of television professionals, providing essential resources that help them discover their voices, refine their skills and forge rewarding careers in every sector of the television industry. The internship program provides over 50 students from across the nation with hands-on work experience, mentorships and opportunities for accelerated career development in more than 30 disciplines.

The Television Academy Foundation Internship Program

also provides professional development sessions with leaders in the television industry and customized seminars covering personal brand-building and navigating the job market for participating students. Foundation alumni include prominent writers, producers, documentarians, creative executives and network presidents. Interns also automatically become members of the foundation’s alumni family, giving them access to year-round events and networking opportunities as they build their careers in the industry.

Established in 1959 as the charitable arm of the Television Academy, the Television Academy Foundation is dedicated to preserving the legacy of television while educating and inspiring those who will shape its future. For information, visit [televisionacademy.com/foundation](https://televisionacademy.com/foundation).



photo courtesy of the Television Academy Foundation

Le’Anne Norfleet will intern with Warner Bros. Television Group this summer as part of the program.

# L.A. County Library encourages reading in summer book challenge



Photo courtesy of L.A. County Library

Participants can sign up in-person at any L.A. County Library location or online.

L.A. County Library’s annual Summer Discovery Program is in full swing until Aug. 11. This summer, readers of all ages are already diving into a celebration of reading and exploration. Participants are logging books, completing fun activities, earning badges and getting a chance to win exciting prizes.

So far, over 13,500 books have been logged, bringing the library closer to its community goal of 50,000 books this summer. Whether registered as an individual or a family, participants are finding the process simple and fun.

Participants can register for L.A. County Library’s Summer Discovery Program online or in-person at any L.A. County Library

location.

Read books and complete activities to complete the challenge and earn a chance to win prizes.

“We are seeing incredible enthusiasm for this year’s Summer Discovery Program,” L.A. County Library Director Skye Patrick said. “It’s a wonderful opportunity for everyone to come together, celebrate the joy of reading and engage in fun, educational activities throughout the summer. We want everyone to know that it’s not too late to join the fun.”

This year, L.A. County Library is offering some fantastic prizes, including tickets to Raging Waters water park in San Dimas. Readers of any age who complete the challenge early, by July 20,

will have the chance to win a four-pack of tickets to be used during the summer season. Other prize opportunities include circus tickets to Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey, Target gift cards, and Kindle Fire tablets. Plus, kids and teens get a free book just for completing the program.

In addition to the reading challenge, most of L.A. County Library’s 85 locations are putting on special programs for all ages throughout the summer months. More information on programs is available at the library’s event calendar, which can be filtered by age or location.

To join the Summer Discovery Program, visit [lacountylibrary.org/summer-discovery](https://lacountylibrary.org/summer-discovery).

# LAUSD approves budget transparency tool

The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education unanimously approved the “Modern Budget Transparency for Student Achievement” resolution, authored by board member Tanya Ortiz Franklin and co-sponsored by board member Nick Melvoin. The resolution will create a public budget tool for the community that is customizable, clear, comprehensive, language

accessible, powered by Artificial Intelligence and aims to connect investments to student outcomes. The tool will feature an FAQ section along with ongoing training and support to assist user navigation in preparation for the 2025-26 budget cycle.

LAUSD is dedicated to providing the highest-quality instructional experience, which requires utilizing resources equitably, efficiently and

strategically. The resolution highlights the importance of timely, easy-to-understand budget information to make better decisions that result in improved student outcomes. The community will play a crucial role in designing and refining the budget tool, ensuring it meets the needs of all stakeholders.

The budget tool will have the ability to customize data and compare planned budgets and actual expenditures across years, programs and student demographics. It will also feature AI capability to accurately respond to user questions and explain budget and policy decisions.

By October 2025, the team will share a plan for the budget tool to clearly connect to student out-

comes, illustrating how specific investments impact strategic plan goals. The valuable information will guide budget decisions for the 2026-2027 school year. As the budget tool and student achievement metrics are made available, regional, school and district leaders will use the information multiple times per year to make budgetary decisions.

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

# The Broad is ‘All About Laughs’

Enjoy “All About Laughs: Comedy Night at The Broad” on Sunday, June 30, from 7:30-10 p.m. on the museum’s East West Bank Plaza.

“All About Laughs” features a night of standup comedy showcasing some of the most popular comedians in Los Angeles. Co-curated and hosted by Chaunté Wayans, of the legendary Wayans family, the lineup features comedians LouLou Gonzalez, Zainab Johnson, Nicky Paris, Irene Tu and Tarek Ziad.

The third-floor galleries will be open during the event. Presented in conjunction with “Mickalene Thomas: All About Love,” audiences can view the exhibition’s powerful messages of joy and healing. Enjoy a summer evening with cocktails and beverages on The Broad’s outdoor plaza.

General admission is \$35. The Broad is located at 221 S. Grand Ave. For information, visit [thebroad.org](https://thebroad.org).



photo courtesy of The Broad

Comedians Chaunté Wayans, LouLou Gonzalez, Zainab Johnson, Nicky Paris, Irene Tu and Tarek Ziad are performing during the comedy night at The Broad.

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# LAUSD establishes ‘Play Day’

The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education approved a resolution on June 18 to champion policies and practices that promote equitable access to sports, play and movement opportunities for all students. The resolution, authored by board member Rocío Rivas and co-sponsored by board member Nick Melvoin, designates June 29, 2024, as “Play Day” and encourages all district students and families to join the celebration.

Recognizing the importance of play for positive youth development, health and academic success, the resolution aims to address inequities in access to play, particularly for youth of color. The resolution also emphasizes the district’s commitment to creating safe and healthy learning environments that promote joy and wellness.

The board directs the superintendent to utilize and promote resources through the district’s Summer of Learning summer school programming, as well as Los Angeles County and Los Angeles City programs, to support “Play Day” on June 29, and to champion equitable access to sports, play and movement opportunities for all students throughout the year.

“Every child deserves the opportunity to experience the joy and benefits of play. By championing play equity, we are investing in the health, well-being and academic success of all our students. ‘Play Day’ is a celebration of this commitment and a reminder of the power of play to transform lives,” Rivas said.

“Sports and physical activity were a big part of my life growing up in LAUSD schools. They are an important outlet for many students, both for their physical and mental wellbeing. I strongly support this resolution by board member Rivas and board member Melvoin to create a day focused on increasing access to sports – and celebrating the joy of play,” Board President Jackie Goldberg said.

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



photo courtesy of LAUSD

LAUSD board members Rocío Rivas, second from left, and Nick Melvoin, center, celebrated the announcement of the district’s first ever “Play Day.”

# Festival Beverly Hills returns with new location

Festival Beverly Hills is set to make a summertime comeback on Sunday, July 21, from 12-6 p.m. The festival will relocate from the Farmers’ Market to the scenic Beverly Gardens Park, located at 9439 Santa Monica Blvd. Presented in collaboration with the city’s Community Services Department and Arts and Culture Commission, the Farhang Foundation and the Consulates of Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Senegal and Trinidad and Tobago, this year’s Festival Beverly Hills promises to be a vibrant showcase of over thirteen diverse cultures.

Attendees can look forward to a rich tapestry of cultural experiences, including captivating dance and musical performances, engaging storytelling with puppetry and poetry, interactive cultural arts and crafts activities, enlightening Japanese tea ceremonies, a curated record and book pop-up offering global music and literary works and a delightful array of food trucks serving up flavors from around the world.

“Following the successful launch of Festival Beverly Hills last year at the Farmers’ Market, we are looking forward to being able to accom-

modate even more participants and community members by moving it to our iconic Beverly Gardens Parks,” Mayor Lester Friedman said. “It’s imperative we continue to be a city that celebrates all cultures across the globe through immersive presentations, dance, food and more.”

The festival lineup includes: Lazaro Arvizu and Danza Azteca presenting traditional drum circle and dance performances; Kooban Ensemble led by Vandad Massahzadeh, taking attendees on an Iranian musical journey; Klezmer Juice, under the direction of Gustavo Bulgach, offering a fresh take on Jewish soul music; Lily Henley, singer, fiddler and songwriter, enchanting audiences with Sephardic Jewish ballads; Dance duo Carlos Rauda and Hazel Pineda showcasing Salvadorian-inspired dance routines; and Changui Majadero, bringing an infectious danceable modern take on the Afro-Cuban musical tradi-

tion of changui to the stage.

In addition, an arts and crafts activity area and gourmet food trucks will provide experiences in taste and tradition represented by an array of cultures.

Don’t miss the exciting opportunity to immerse yourself in a cultural extravaganza at Festival Beverly Hills in Beverly Gardens Park.

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



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Artist Klezmer Juice will offer a fresh take on Jewish soul music.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Danza Azteca will present traditional drum circle and dance performances.


# Cher leaves Abbey moonstruck



photo courtesy of Getty Images

Cher was among the guests at the star-studded The Abbey Food and Bar relaunch party June 20, marking the West Hollywood establishment’s recent purchase by Tristan Schukraft (right). Also attending were artists like, from left, Michaela Jaé Rodriguez, Law Roach and Saweetie, as well as Jean Smart, Lance Bass, Bruce

Vilanch, Adam Havener and Candis Cayne. Attendees were treated to special performances and complimentary servings of Cher’s gelato brand Cherlato. The Abbey is located at 692 N. Robertson Blvd. and is open from 11-2 a.m. on weekdays, and 10-2 a.m. on weekends. For information, visit [theabbeyweho.com](http://theabbeyweho.com).



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## Bowl opens with Mancini tribute

The Hollywood Bowl opened its 2024 season on June 23 with a 100th birthday celebration of 20-time Grammy Award-winning composer Henry Mancini. Special guest performers Michael Bublé, Cynthia Erivo, Dave Koz, Monica Mancini and musicians of YOLA, joined Thomas Wilkins, principal conductor of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, in the tribute.

Other noted guests included Sharon Osborne, Jonathan Scott, Lena Waithe, Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath and Los Angeles County CEO Fesia Davenport. With more than 12,000 guests attending the benefit concert, opening night at the Hollywood Bowl raised more than \$2.14 million to support the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association and its learning and community programs.

Wilkins and the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra opened the program with Mancini’s “Overture to a Pops Concert,” after which Wilkins welcomed the audience and introduced saxophonist Dave Koz. Koz joined the orchestra for “Baby Elephant Walk,” which Mancini composed for the 1962 film “Hatari!,” earning him a Grammy

Award for Best Instrumental Arrangement in 1963. The orchestra then performed works that appeared in one of Mancini’s small screen scores, the main theme from “The Thorn Birds” and “Meggie’s Theme,” sung by the composer’s daughter, Monica Mancini.

Wilkins then introduced a TV medley of Mancini’s themes from “Hotel,” “The Bob Newhart Show” and “Remington Steel.” This was followed by a live-scored video of Julie Andrews singing “Whistling Away the Dark” from the 1970 film “Darling Lili.” Wilkins then welcomed Emmy, Grammy and Tony Award-winner Cynthia Erivo to the stage to sing “Days of Wine and Roses” from the 1962 movie of the same name. Mancini, along with lyricist Johnny Mercer, received the Academy Award for Best Original Song for this piece.

Continuing the evening’s musical journey, Wilkins introduced musicians from YOLA (Youth Orchestra Los Angeles). Their stage entrance was accompanied by a video highlighting the LA Phil’s program that provides fundamental and equitable access to the arts for youth. Wilkins led the orchestra, Erivo and YOLA in “Crazy World” from Victor/Victoria, and Erivo closed

out the first half of the evening with a performance of “Le Jazz Hot!,” also from Victor/Victoria.

The second half of the festive evening opened with a video showcasing an iconic Mancini work, “The Pink Panther.” Dave Koz, the orchestra, and YOLA joined for a lively version of the theme. The orchestra then performed “Strings on Fire!,” a piece composed by Mancini for the debut album with the Philadelphia Pops Orchestra, released in 1969. An orchestral movie medley included selections from “That’s Life!” and “10,” followed by “Charade” from the 1963 eponymous film and nominated that year for the Academy Award for Best Original Song. Monica Mancini returned to the stage for “Two for the Road,” a song she noted was a personal favorite of both Audrey Hepburn and her father.

Five-time Grammy Award-winner Michael Bublé joined Wilkins and the orchestra for “It Had Better Be Tonight,” from “The Pink Panther” and “Moon River” from “Breakfast at Tiffany’s.” A spectacular finale, accompanied by fireworks, was choreographed to “The Great Waldo Pepper March” and “Hong Kong Fireworks.” The theme from Peter Gunn with Dave Koz closed out this evening celebrating Mancini’s legacy.

The 2024 Hollywood Bowl season runs through September 28, 2024. For information, visit [hollywoodbowl.com](http://hollywoodbowl.com). The Hollywood Bowl is located at 2301 Highland Ave.



photo by Loreen Sarkis/Capture Imaging

The late Henry Mancini’s music helped kick off the Hollywood Bowl’s 2024 season.

## MusiCares hosts female-led panel



photo courtesy of the Recording Academy/Anna Webber for Getty Images

From left, Sierra Lever, Saweetie, MC Lyte, Leslie “Big Lez” Segar and Laiya St. Clair discussed the role of women in hip-hop.

On June 18, MusiCares, the leading charity supporting the health and well-being of the music community, in partnership with Vivid Seats and H3 contributor Amazon Music, hosted its Los Angeles installment of its Humans of Hip Hop initiative at Amazon Studios in Culver City. The event, entitled “She’s Iconic: A Salute to Women in Hip Hop,” included a dynamic female-led discussion with panelists Saweetie, MC Lyte, Big Lez, Sierra Lever and moderator Laiya St. Clair.

The panelists chatted about women in hip hop culture, mainstream influences, mental health awareness and everyday wellness practices and cultural bias women face in the industry. Some of the main takeaways from the event surrounded perseverance in the face of hardship,

the love of hip hop and supporting each other.

“What’s the point of having a platform if you’re not inspiring others?” Saweetie said. She discussed her own experiences and uplifting others through her work.

The event also had a hearing health activation including custom earplug fittings for guests who qualify, a signature offering of MusiCares services, along with additional information on the variety of services offered by the charity to music professionals.

MusiCares’ Humans of Hip Hop initiative is directed at providing resources tailored to the needs of the hip hop community nationwide. MusiCares helps the humans behind music, offering preventive, emergency and recovery programs. For information, visit [musicares.org](http://musicares.org).

## KCCLA brings traditional art to Descanso Gardens

Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles is participating in “HWAJODO: Flowers and Birds in Korean American Art,” an art exhibit on display through Sunday, Sept. 29, in the Sturt Haaga Gallery at Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada Flintridge.

Presented by Descanso Gardens and curated by renowned Asian art historian Meher McArthur, the exhibition features a vibrant juxtaposition of traditional Korean flower and bird imagery with the innovative works of contemporary Korean American artists from the Los Angeles area.

Drawing from centuries-old traditions, “HWAJODO” explores the enduring themes of nature that have

been a focal point in Korean art. The exhibition uniquely combines traditional representations of flowers and birds, particularly in Minhwa (Korean folk painting), with the abstract and stylized interpretations of contemporary artists, reflecting a bridge between the past and present and tradition and innovation.

“We are deeply honored to be a part of the first Korean art exhibition at Descanso Gardens,” KCCLA director Sangwon Jung said. “We hope that this exceptional exhibition will enhance the audience’s understanding of Korean cultural heritage throughout history and its ongoing influence on the contemporary world.”

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

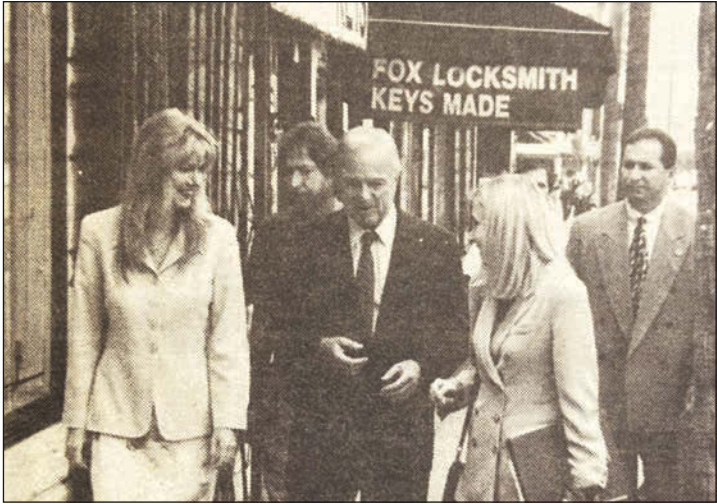


photo courtesy of KCCLA

Kee Soon Sung’s “Shipjangaengdo (Ten Symbols of Long Life Screen)” is illustrative of the works featuring flowers and birds in the exhibit.

## VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

### Mayor pledges to revitalize Fairfax District



Former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan walked the Fairfax District in this photograph in the June 27, 1996, issue of the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News. Riordan was on a walking tour that summer of different neighborhoods throughout the city, meeting community representatives and hearing their concerns. Riordan was joined by Susan Levi, owner of Fox Locksmith and a member of the Fairfax Business Association, and Stacey Greenwood from the mayor’s staff. Riordan had lunch at Canter’s Deli and pledged to help revitalize the area. The following year, he allocated \$300,000 through the Los Angeles Neighborhood Improvement initiative to build medians on Fairfax Avenue and improve lighting and sidewalks in the district.



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3. What for? My house is only worth a half-million dollars.
4. I really don’t care who raises our children.
5. I want a total stranger to go through all of my personal papers and financial affairs.
6. I like family fights – especially unnecessary ones.
7. I don’t care who inherits my hard earned money.
8. I’ve been messy in life; I’ll be messy in death.
9. They say you can’t take it with you, but what if you can?
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# Leaders call for additional security

From page 1

I’ve been in close contact with law enforcement officials, as well as civic community and faith leaders working to come together to ensure that this violence never happens again.”

Videos from the scene showed demonstrators from both sides fighting. Police officers in riot gear were deployed and the protesters were separated and left the area after approximately two hours. One individual who was not identified was arrested for having a spiked post and was cited and released at the LAPD’s West Los Angeles Division. Officers also took two battery reports. Choi said the LAPD is working with federal law enforcement partners to identify individuals involved in the violence, and authorities plan to prosecute them.

Bass, Yaroslavsky, Choi and Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors chair Lindsey Horvath joined other government leaders and representatives of the Jewish community at the Museum of Tolerance-Simon Wiesenthal Center on June 24 to condemn the violence and show solidarity. On Tuesday, Yaroslavsky and Councilman Bob Blumenfeld introduced a motion to enhance security around synagogues, community centers and schools citywide. The motion calls for a report on available funding to support security initiatives and mechanisms for the city to obtain funding from state and federal sources. President Joe Biden and California Gov. Gavin Newsom condemned the violence in the Pico-Robertson community. Newsom has committed to allocating \$80 million over the next two

years for nonprofit security grants that will support increased private security around sensitive sites.

“There is understandably a lot of fear right now in the Jewish community and what happened only deepened those fears. This violence would have been unacceptable anywhere in Los Angeles, but that this protest was planned and carried out in front of a synagogue in the heart of L.A.’s Jewish community on a Sunday afternoon is completely indefensible. It’s deeply disturbing and it’s rooted in antisemitism,” Yaroslavsky said. “This is not who we are. Los Angeles is a city of diversity, inclusion and mutual respect. We are also a city that values everyone’s right to peaceful protest or counter protest. It’s among the most important freedoms we hold as Americans. But we will not tolerate violence, intimidation or any acts that seek to divide us.”

“These actions are meant to strike fear into the hearts of Jewish community members and this cannot happen in Los Angeles County,” Horvath added. “Intimidation, antisemitism, this cannot be what we allow here in Los Angeles. We can and must do better to root out antisemitism. Enough is enough.”

The city and county leaders called for other changes including potentially creating safe zones outside temples and houses of worship where protests will not be allowed, and potentially establishing laws prohibiting protesters from wearing masks. The city and county will also be pressing state and federal legislators for more money for private security initiatives.

Choi said police gathered infor-

mation on social media about protesters planning to converge on Adas Torah, and approximately 60 officers were stationed at the site. He said the protest was much larger than anticipated and the demonstrators arrived in “waves,” complicating efforts to quell violence until reinforcements arrived.

“No. 1 rule, violence is not tolerated, anywhere,” Choi said. “My officers will be coordinating with public safety organizations within this community to come up with solutions, immediate solutions, boots on the ground solutions so we can see rapidly better outcomes and results when these incidents occur. If they occur, we’ll have a more robust and more tactical strategic response. Please know that we are going to continue to investigate all acts of violence, trying to identify the suspects or perpetrators and arrest them and bring them to justice.”

The violence at Adas Torah was also condemned by city leaders in Beverly Hills. Councilman John Mirisch said he lives near the temple and went to the site on June 23 and witnessed the violence firsthand. He called it “unthinkable” and said members of the Jewish community must stand in solidarity and take steps to protect themselves. Beverly Hills Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian joined Bass, Yaroslavsky and the other leaders at the press conference on June 24 at the Museum of Tolerance-Simon Wiesenthal Center. Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman, who did not attend the press conference, called the violence unacceptable.

“Our City Council has always



photo by Edwin Folven  
Rabbi Abraham Cooper, of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, outlined steps necessary to protect the Jewish community at a press conference on June 24 with Mayor Karen Bass and city and county leaders.

condemned any form of violence,” Friedman said. “There is no tolerance for antisemitism here in Beverly Hills or any city in this nation.”

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, and Rabbi Noah Farkas, president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, called for the Jewish community to remain resilient in the face of threats. Cooper thanked Bass and said he is optimistic public safety will be safeguarded because she has been the most responsive mayor in decades.

“If we’re going to protect ourselves better, we need to have practical points, and we’re so grateful not just for your time, but for your leadership and your focus,” Cooper told Bass. “What happened was not only a problem, because the targeting of a house of worship, in this case, a powerful house of prayer and learning, is not only a hate crime, but domestic terrorism. The Jewish community will work with law enforcement and our political leaders to ensure that our families,

our children and our neighbors’ families and children will be safe.”

“[The] attack on the Jewish community has proved once again that we as a Jewish community remain vulnerable, even in the greatest democracy that has ever existed in the history of the world,” Farkas added. “We are at an inflection point, we’re actually at a decision point, where this country needs to decide whether or not they will support the Jewish community. Whether or not this country will take a different path than every other country in the history of the world and decide that this is a place for safety and security for the Jews,” Farkas added.

Dozens of pro-Israel demonstrators gathered outside the Museum of Tolerance on June 24, calling for peace and showing support for their community.

“We will take any steps necessary to make sure we are safe,” said West Los Angeles resident Mike Shapiro. “We will stand up and show the world we will not accept this violence anywhere, anytime.”

# Council considers Linden Drive project

From page 1

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

The builder’s remedy takes effect when a city’s housing element is out of compliance with state requirements. The housing element requires all cities in California to zone for a certain amount of affordable housing units.

Beverly Hills’ housing element for the 2021-29 cycle was out of compliance with state law from October 2021 until May 2024. Because the application for the project on South Linden Drive was initially submitted when the housing

element did not meet requirements, the builder’s remedy takes effect. The 200-foot-tall development would include 165 rental units, 33 of which would be reserved for low-income residents. Additionally, the building would feature a 73-room hotel and restaurant and a two-level underground parking structure.

The application for the 19-story mixed-use building was deemed incomplete by city staff on four separate occasions, citing missing application materials, and the fact that the applicant did not file a general plan amendment and zone text amendment. In response, the project’s developer Leo Pustilnikov appealed the city’s initial incomplete determination.

City staff argues that the appeal

should be rejected because it was not filed before the 14-day deadline. Staff also argues that two subsequent incomplete determinations – which were made after some aspects of the project were changed – render the appeal moot.

Pustilnikov’s attorney Dave Rand said the project’s appeal should be approved under state law.

“We strongly disagree with the city’s position as articulated in the staff report and believe state law requires this project to be processed,” Rand said. “As we have said from Day One – the proposed project is not a take it or leave it proposition. We remain open to working with the city on the project specifics and hope the City Council will sanction a fair process to allow that conversation

to occur.”

The state of California has indicated that the appeal cannot be lawfully denied. On June 26, a representative from the California department of Housing and Community Development wrote a letter to the city of Beverly Hills stating that the appeal should be approved under state law.

“Under the HAA, the city should not require applicants of projects protected by the builder’s remedy to seek amendments to the city’s general plan or zoning code. Even if such amendments could somehow be required without violating the intent of the HAA, the Permit Streamlining Act prohibits the city from using the absence of the general plan amendment/zone change application as a reason to determine a project application is incomplete, if the requirement was not on the submittal requirement checklist,” Housing and Community Development representative

Shannan West wrote. “For the proposed project on Linden Drive, the City Council should grant the appeal and direct city staff to process the project without further delay and without imposing a requirement for a general plan amendment and zone change.”

Multiple housing advocacy groups agree that a denial would constitute a violation of housing laws.

On June 25, the California Housing Defense Fund – a housing nonprofit which “uses legal advocacy and education to ensure all cities comply with their own zoning and state housing laws” – wrote a letter to the city urging it to approve the appeal. The letter was signed by CalHDF executive director Dylan Casey and director of planning and investigations James M. Lloyd.

“The staff’s incompleteness determination, and instruction to

See Project page 22

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# Appeals challenge Television City project

From page 1

Commission will consider the proposed plan and the appeals during a hearing on Sept. 12 and will make a recommendation whether to support the project. If the commission supports the plan, the project will move to the Los Angeles City Council’s Planning and Land Use Management Committee and the full City Council for consideration.

Television City is owned by Hackman Capital Partners, which purchased the studio from CBS in 2019. Hackman Capital Partners is planning a \$1.25-billion project that will create 1,724,000 square feet of sound stage, production support, production office, general office and retail uses at the site. In April, Hackman Capital Partners adjusted the size of the proposed project and reduced it by 150,000 square feet after a request by Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, that the developer respond to concerns by neighbors about the project’s overall size and scope. Yaroslavsky has not yet taken a position on the project.

The nine appeals were filed by Neighbors for Responsible TVC Development, Beverly Wilshire Homes Association, Fix the City, Miracle Mile Residents Association, Park La Brea Impacted Residents Group, Save Beverly Fairfax, Broadcast Center Apartments, A.F. Gilmore Company, the owner of the Original Farmers Market, and Caruso, owner of The Grove. The appeals challenge the city’s approval of the project’s tentative

tract map and certification of the environmental impact report.

Neighbors for Responsible TVC Development is spearheading opposition to the project and previously raised concerns about the issues contained in the appeals. Opponents contend the project is too large and is out of scale with the surrounding neighborhood, will increase traffic congestion and air pollution and will take too long to build. They also oppose the amount of office space proposed on the site, claim the project is inconsistent with the community’s general plan and believe it violates the California Environmental Quality Act, commonly known as CEQA.

“We felt [there is] a striking commonality among the nine appeals in identifying core issues and concerns about the project, specifically the size of the project, the scale of the project, the element of an office park,” said Shelley Wagers, co-chair of Neighbors for Responsible TVC Development. “And, there has been a lack of transparency and proper disclosure, and the underlying specific plan, as well as the project itself, lack the kind of clarity and specificity that is required for a project of this type.”

“A lot of people have brought up during the [May 15] hearing how much support there was for the project. I think it’s important to note that the main tenants of support were that they wanted a revitalization of that property, a lot of people mentioned the blight and safety issue and how this would improve that, and of course there’s the issue

of jobs and boosting the industry,” Neighbors for Responsible TVC Development co-chair Danielle Peters added. “What I think is important to note is that the opposition is in total agreement with all of those points, and our position, which is to just remove the excess office space that doesn’t relate to production, has no impact in a negative way.”

Hackman Capital Partners is planning to upgrade the studio to meet the needs of modern production companies. The project is supported by the Mid City West Neighborhood Council, Park La Brea Residents Association, Melrose Business Improvement District, Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce and the Los Angeles Conservancy, as well as many community groups.

“From the beginning, the goal of the Television City project has been to preserve and modernize the site as a studio, retain and create entertainment industry jobs and improve the Beverly-Fairfax community through investments in walkability and public safety. We are disappointed, but sadly no longer surprised, to see this small, well-funded opposition continue its disingenuous campaign to destroy this much-needed studio project,” said Zach Sokoloff, senior vice president of Television City. “Over the past five years, we have repeatedly met with project opponents to listen to their concerns and identify mutually acceptable solutions. Although many of their demands would render the



rendering courtesy of Hackman Capital Partners

The project will create new facilities on the studio lot to meet the needs of modern productions.

studio operationally infeasible, we have nevertheless made extensive refinements and reductions to the project to alleviate their alleged concerns. Yet, every concession we’ve made has been followed by shifting priorities and goalposts, new demands and an unwillingness to reach a reasonable compromise. The opposition’s [appeals reveal] an effort organized by wealthy business owners using their deep pockets and political muscle to fund a campaign that puts private gain over the needs of the city, the studio jobs the project would create and the people in the entertainment industry who are the heartbeat of Los Angeles. This latest batch of coordinated appeals does not raise new substantive issues and mostly regurgitates comments that have already been fully addressed by the city.”

Wagers and Peters said opponents will continue to raise awareness about impacts the project will create during the weeks leading up to the Sept. 12 hearing. Members

of the public will have an opportunity to weigh-in on the project during the hearing.

Sokoloff said Hackman Capital Partners will continue to meet with stakeholders in the community to demonstrate the benefits of the project and believes the Planning Commission will see the merits of the plan.

“Our community outreach has always been guided by a sincere desire to be a good neighbor. We will continue to actively engage with all stakeholders – including project skeptics – and know that when folks take the time to learn the facts about the project, they’re nearly always converted into supporters,” Sokoloff added. “We are grateful to the thousands of neighbors, workers and businesses in this community that support TVC and are hopeful the city will listen to the thousands of Beverly-Fairfax residents and stakeholders and industry professionals advocating for approval of this studio project.”

# Project may bring housing to Linden Drive

From page 21

the applicant to submit a general plan amendment and zone change, disregards the plain language of the Housing Accountability Act,” the letter from CalHDF read. “As was ruled in California Housing Defense Fund v. city of La Cañada Flintridge, the city may not require such a land use application as a condition of approval. Furthermore, the city may not use the modification of the project post-preliminary application as an excuse to deny it, as the modification was within the 20% threshold established in state law. Nor will the city succeed in arguing that its incompleteness determination – which, if upheld, would functionally bar the project from proceeding – does not count as a ‘disapproval’ triggering court review under the HAA.”

The aforementioned lawsuit against the city of La Cañada Flintridge alleged that the city violated the HAA by requiring a builder’s remedy project to revise

its plans based on zoning requirements, not unlike the current situation in Beverly Hills. The Los Angeles County Superior Court ruled in favor of CalHDF in March.

If the City Council denies the appeal, it will likely result in multiple legal battles for the city. Developer Leo Pustilnikov has already threatened litigation if the project is denied, and housing advocacy group Californians for Homeownership has also made clear that it plans to sue the city upon a denial.

“If the city denies the appeal, that will constitute a denial of the project in violation of the Housing Accountability Act, and we intend to immediately file suit against the city for that violation,” Californians for Homeownership counsel Matt Gelfand said.

“The city’s action is a transparent sham that attempts to insulate the city from HAA liability by disguising a denial as an incompleteness determination,” he added in a Feb. 20 letter to the city.

The city continues to issue renovation permits.

The project at 125-129 S. Linden Drive is the first builder’s remedy project to make it to this stage

within the city’s application process, and will likely set the precedent for future projects that hope to utilize the provision. Over 20 builder’s remedy projects have been filed in the city, ranging from eight to 31 stories tall. Approval of the projects could significantly increase the number of affordable housing units within the city, and

alter portions of the city’s skyline.

The Beverly Hills City Council will vote on whether to approve or deny the appeal on Thursday, June 27, at 7 p.m. in City Hall, located at 455 N. Rexford Drive. Residents can submit public comments in person, through email at [city-clerk@beverlyhills.org](mailto:city-clerk@beverlyhills.org) or by calling (310)288-2288.

Answers From Page 23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	L	T	O	S	H	A		C	L	U	B	S
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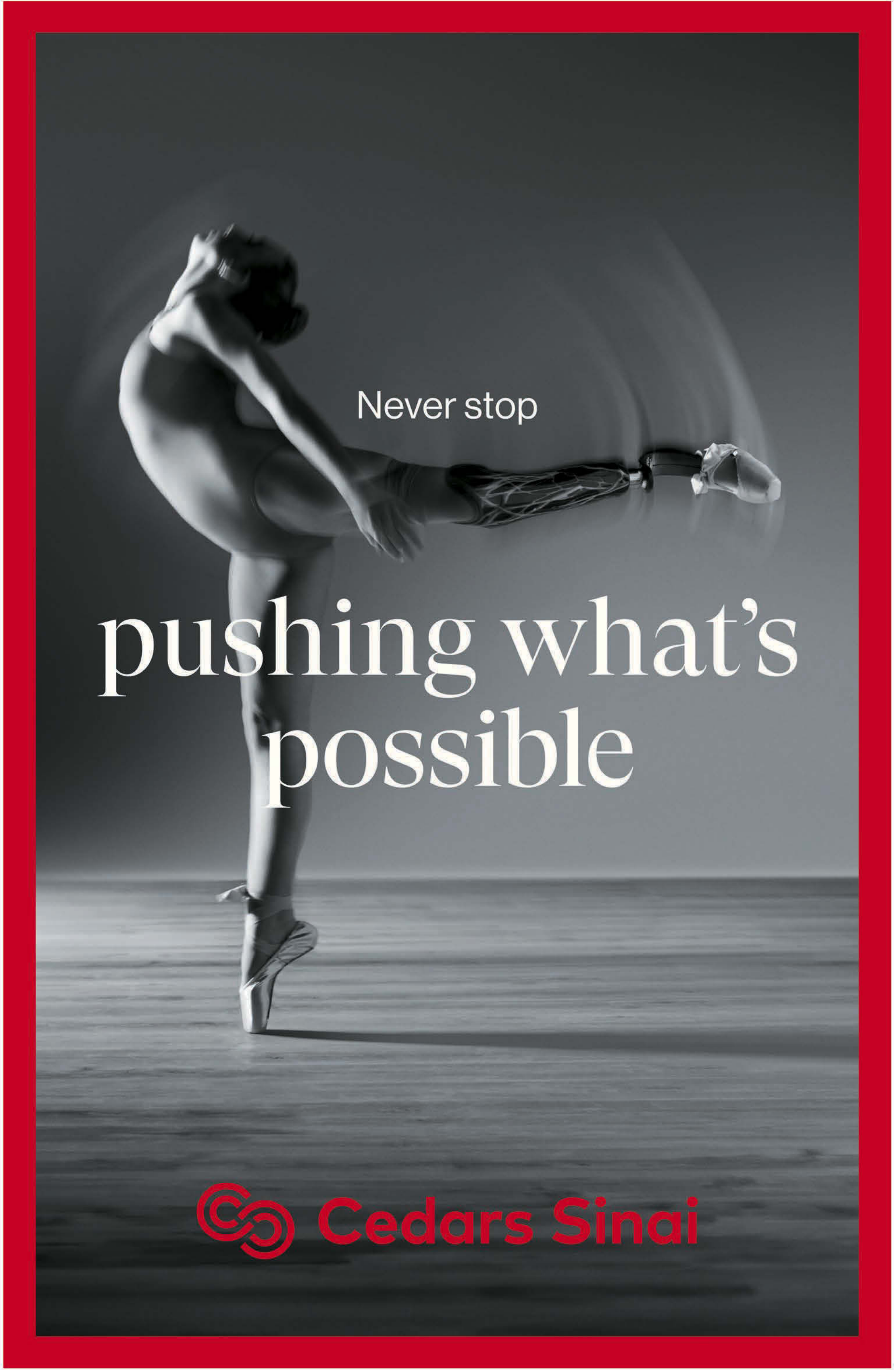
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