



Volume 35 No. 27

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

INSIDE

• State boosts film tax credit pg. 2

• Hit-and-run claims life in Hollywood pg. 4

July 3, 2025

# Beverly Hills will likely ban short-term rentals

■ Historic homes will be exempted in city law

BY Tabor Brewster

The Beverly Hills City Council on July 1 agreed to prohibit short-term rentals – which include Vrbo and Airbnb – in single and multi-family residences throughout the city. The City Council has not yet passed a formal ordinance banning short-term rentals, and the matter

will return for a public hearing on July 15. However, council members expressed support for creating a one-year minimum lease on most rental properties.

The city currently allows single-family residences to be rented for less than six months at a time no more than twice per calendar year.

See **Beverly Hills** page 27



photo by Tabor Brewster

A new ordinance will create a minimum one-year lease for single and multifamily residences.

## Dog owners bark at Hart Park renovations

■ Proposed plans may change space for large dogs

BY SAM MULICK

Community members voiced concerns over proposed design changes to William S. Hart Park, a popular West Hollywood park for dog-walking at a June 30 Hart Park

Ad-Hoc Subcommittee meeting. Concerns ranged from how renovations will decrease the amount of off-leash space for large dogs to whether the city will surface the off-leash area with synthetic turf or wood chips, and whether the changes will attract homeless individuals.

West Hollywood Urban Design and Architecture studio manager Ric Abramson, along with the city's

project architect Michael Barker, presented updated plans for the park at the meeting, including a planned eight-month closure to create a new disability compliant pedestrian pathway, plaza space, reconfigured parking area and revamped off-leash dog area. City staff also presented different options for the off-leash dog area surfacing material as well as plans to mitigate a possible increase of unhoused individuals within the park. The subcommittee meeting was attended by Councilmembers Lauren Meister and Danny Hang, who offered their feedback to the project's planners.

Current city plans include decreasing the off-leash area for large dogs to create a larger section specifically for small dogs, a plan that has sparked significant push-back from frequent park dog owners.

"This is money in search of a problem," said David Yocum, a West Hollywood resident who walks his schnauzer Maggie everyday at the park, and has walked his dogs there since 2001. "This went from a little project to this massive

See **Dog park** page 27



photo by Sam Mulick

Owners let their dogs run around in Hart Park's off-leash area.

# LACMA galleries exude a symphony of light, shadows and sound

■ Kamasi Washington concert fills museum with 'Harmony'

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art's sleek and spacious new David Geffen Galleries opened for public viewing for the first time on June 26, when the sweeping building came to life with sound in a one-of-a-kind musical performance by jazz composer and saxophonist Kamasi Washington.

Visitors heard Washington's piece "Harmony of Difference," a six-movement suite with diverging melodies that come together as a harmonious whole. More than 100 musicians were positioned in different spaces throughout the 110,000-square-foot gallery space, enabling visitors to hear the same song in different areas, all in perfect harmonious timing with each other. The public tour was described as a "sonic preview" that incorporated the building



photo by Karen Villalpando

LACMA's David Geffen Galleries have floor-to-ceiling windows offering panoramic views of the city while allowing natural light inside.

itself into the experience, with sound resonating throughout the empty glass and concrete struc-

ture. Hosted by LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director

See **LACMA** page 26



photo courtesy of Elizabeth Asher for the LA Phil

The Hollywood Bowl will host the annual fireworks spectacular.

## Freedom rings on Fourth of July

■ Some cities cancel events amid fears of ICE raids

BY SAM MULICK

Members of the public can celebrate the Fourth of July around Los Angeles, although there will be fewer events this year.

Beverly Hills will host a

Fourth of July community picnic at Roxbury Memorial Park from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. where the community can gather with Mayor Sharona Nazarian for a DJ performance, as well as special prizes and giveaways.

The Hollywood Bowl is hosting the annual Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular with Earth, Wind and Fire.

See **Fourth of July** page 27

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## CALENDAR

**Hollywood Bowl Fireworks**

Join the LA Phil for its "July Fourth Fireworks Spectacular with Earth, Wind & Fire" on Thursday, July 3, and Friday, July 4, at the Hollywood Bowl. Earth, Wind & Fire has become a music institution with hits such as "September" and "Shining Star," influencing new generations of musicians. The Fourth of July celebration at the Hollywood Bowl also includes the LA Phil conducted by Thomas Wilkins, as well as fireworks. Showtimes are at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$44. 2301 N. Highland Ave. laphil.org.

**70mm film festival**

American Cinematheque presents the "Ultra Cinematheque 70 Fest 2025" from Thursday, July 3, through Monday, Aug. 4, at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood and Aero Theatre in Santa Monica. The series features 33 films in glorious 70mm, starting with "2001: A Space Odyssey" on July 3-5 at 7:30 p.m. Also included in the series are "Lawrence of Arabia," "Inception," "Spaceballs," "Top Gun," "Dune," "North by Northwest," "Vertigo," "Amadeus," "Boogie Nights," "Total Recall" and "Ghostbusters," among others. Exclusive members-only screenings and exciting public events will be held. See schedule for showtimes. Egyptian Theatre, 6712 Hollywood Blvd., Aero Theatre, 1328 Montana Ave. american-cinematheque.com.

**Deon Cole**

Hollywood Improv welcomes comedian Deon Cole in "Does This Work?" on Thursday, July 3, Wednesday, July 9, Sunday, July 13, and Monday, July 19, at 9:30 p.m. Cole, a comedian, actor, writer and producer, is known for starring in the BET+ series "Average Joe." He also appears in Amblin/Warner Bros.' "The Color Purple" and Netflix's "Charleen's Boy." The shows are for guests 21 and older. General admission is \$24.19. 8162 Melrose Ave. improv.com.

**Jazz at LACMA**

Celebrate L.A.'s finest jazz musicians with Jazz at LACMA, presented on Friday evenings from 6-8 p.m. through October on the Smidt Welcome Plaza. Enjoy a concert by Catalyst on Friday, July 4. The brainchild of drummer, composer and producer Greg Paul, Catalyst performs an eclectic mix of experimental contemporary jazz. Admission is free. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. lacma.org.

**'Jaws in Concert'**

Don't miss "Jaws in Concert with the LA Phil" celebrating the iconic film's 50th anniversary on Saturday, July 5, at 8 p.m. at the Hollywood Bowl. Directed by Academy Award winner Steven Spielberg, "Jaws" set the standard for suspense, quickly becoming a cultural phenomenon and forever changing the movie industry. Enjoy the unforgettable



film with live orchestra accompaniment, featuring the Academy Award-winning score by composer John Williams. Tickets start at \$31. 2301 N. Highland Ave. laphil.org.

**'The Catskills'**

Enjoy a free Los Angeles premiere screening of Lex Gillespie's documentary "The Catskills" and a discussion with artists and curators on Thursday, July 10, at 2 p.m. at the Skirball Cultural Center. With a trove of archival footage and a cast of characters endowed with the gift of gab, "The Catskills" journeys into the storied mountain getaway north of New York City that served as refuge for Jewish immigrants fleeing poverty, as well as a lavish playground for affluent Jewish families. Bungalow colony proprietors, guests, waiters, comedians, hoteliers and beauticians share colorful tales of Catskill farms, boarding houses and luxury resorts, painting a picture of vibrant American Jewish life and culture in the 20th century. Admission is free but reservations are required. 2301 N. Sepulveda Blvd. skirball.org.

**Women's health**

Dr. Sara Reardon will discuss and sign her book "Floored: A Woman's Guide to Pelvic Floor Health at Every Age and Stage" on Thursday, July 10, at 6:30 p.m. at Diesel, A Bookstore. "Floored" is a rallying cry for women's health and the authoritative guide for the pelvic floor, a critical group of muscles often overlooked in mainstream health conversations. One-in-three women experience a pelvic floor disorder at some point in their lives, and there are simple and easy ways to pre-

vent and address the issues. Reardon provides clear and engaging health guidance to help women. Free seating is limited. Book purchase required to reserve a seat. 225 26th St., Ste. 33, Santa Monica. (310)576-9960, diesel-bookstore.com.

**Japan Foundation**

Japan Foundation Los Angeles welcomes Ibuki Kuramochi for a performance on Thursday, July 10, at 7 p.m. that explores kinship, motherhood and otherness as ongoing acts of connection. The performance includes a video documenting a live piece she created with her dog. In the new performance, Kuramochi dances with a transparent dog that represents his memory. The performance is set to the Japanese lullaby Yurikago no Uta. Admission is free. 5700 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 100. jflac.org.



photo courtesy of Gov. Gavin Newsom's office

Gov. Gavin Newsom said the expanded Film and Television Tax Credit Program will boost California's economy.

**Newsom signs \$750 million film and television tax credit**

■ Incentives aim to attract productions back to California

BY SAM MULICK

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced a \$750 million tax credit for film and television production in California on July 2.

Newsom signed a bill expanding the Film and Television Tax Credit Program, which increased the cap on film production in California from \$330 million to \$750 million. The incentive comes after L.A. film and TV production decreased by 22.4% in the first quarter of 2025.

California has lost out with filmmakers choosing to shoot in New York and Georgia, where tax programs are uncapped, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2023 SAG-AFTRA and WGA strikes.

"California is where filmed entertainment was born, and with this expansion, we're making sure it stays here," Newsom said. "We're not just investing in productions and soundstages – we're investing in middle-class careers, small businesses and the communities that power this iconic industry."

At a July 2 event held at The Ranch production studio in

See **Tax credit** page 26

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

# Beverly Hills Chamber welcomes Offer Nissenbaum as board chair

■ Peninsula managing director enthusiastic about new role

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce on June 25 announced Offer Nissenbaum as its new board chair. Nissenbaum is the managing director of the Peninsula Beverly Hills, a five-star hotel and leader in the business community.

"I'm very honored and blessed to have this opportunity and to be asked to serve on the chamber's board with the board members and the leadership of the business community in Beverly Hills, and work

very closely with our Mayor Sharona Nazarian and Beverly Hills City Council," Nissenbaum said. "I've been in this community for 17 and a half years and I've had the privilege of leading the Peninsula Beverly Hills in that time. I've seen how deeply rooted the spirit of the community is in our local businesses. The support I've experienced both personally and professionally has been extraordinary and I'm proud to serve and also extremely grateful to belong to this community."

In his 12-month term, Nissenbaum will lead the executive committee and board of directors in decisions moving forward the business community. The board con-

sists of leaders across many businesses in Beverly Hills and supports the chamber's overall goals and initiatives.

Additionally, Nissenbaum will play a key role in ensuring local businesses are supported, and establishing relationships with potential businesses that may come to Beverly Hills.

While the city is already known as a premiere location for thriving, world-renowned businesses, Nissenbaum said there's always room for growth and improvement.

"It's not enough to simply celebrate who we are. We have to keep working in the business community. We need to move beyond the sound bytes and hashtags. We've got to have some real action, particularly in identifying and removing barriers that limit growth [and] productivity for all the enterprises," he said.

Nissenbaum has already taken action since stepping into his new role. On July 1, he attended a City Council meeting to speak in favor of an ordinance that would create a one-year minimum lease on rental units in Beverly Hills. In addition to driving up housing costs, critics say short-term rentals including Airbnb and VRBO negatively impact the revenue of local hotels while avoiding paying taxes that benefit the community.

Nissenbaum said that the biggest



photo courtesy of the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce

Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian swore in Offer Nissenbaum as the chamber's board chair on June 25.

challenge facing the business community this year will be the projected decline in international tourism. In May, the World Travel and Tourism Council announced that the United States is projected to lose \$12.5 billion in international visitor spending this year – a 7.5% drop from last year.

"We have a very solid and stable community that supports the local businesses, but we need more than that. We need people to come into Beverly Hills from other cities – from domestic destinations, from local destinations and of course from international destinations," he said. "The biggest challenge right now is international business that the local businesses depend on, the local restaurants depend on, the local hotels depend on."

Although Nissenbaum sees challenges ahead, he is excited for the

opportunity to support the local business community, expand opportunities and further civic pride in Beverly Hills.

"I'm committed to helping the chamber not just be a platform for promotion, but a true partner where we can get real follow-through and action. Connections lead to opportunity," he said.

Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce CEO Todd Johnson expressed gratitude toward Nissenbaum for assuming the role.

"We're very fortunate that he's agreed to take this on," Johnson said. "He's a man of a great skill set that runs one of the premiere hotels here in Beverly Hills. His hard work ethic and his vision and his can-do attitude – because he's a hospitality guy at the end of the day – he's going to be a wonderful addition as the new chair."

## Input sought on Fire Zone maps

West Hollywood is encouraging community members to review updated Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps from Cal Fire.

As part of the state's adoption of updated Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps, West Hollywood is providing links to the Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps and is required by Cal Fire to facilitate a 30-day public comment period through July 31.

The maps assess wildfire hazards across the state, categorizing

areas into Moderate, High or Very High risk zones based on factors such as vegetation, topography, weather patterns and fire history. The northern portions of West Hollywood, Hollywood and Beverly Hills are designated as High or Very High risk zones due to their proximity to hillside areas.

To submit public comment, visit [engage.weho.org/firemaps](http://engage.weho.org/firemaps), or email with the subject "Public Comment: Fire Maps" to [safety@weho.org](mailto:safety@weho.org).



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photo by Edwin Folven  
The fatal collision occurred near the intersection of Sunset Boulevard and Sierra Bonita Avenue.

## Hit-and-run claims woman's life on Sunset Boulevard

### ■ Police search for Mercedes Benz G-Wagon SUV

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The community is mourning a 36-year-old woman who was struck and killed on Sunset Boulevard on June 29 by a driver who fled the scene and remains wanted by police.

The Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner identified the victim as Erika Edwards, who was known as Tilly. Los Angeles Police Department spokeswoman

Norma Eisenman confirmed that Edwards was struck around 9 p.m. in the 7500 block of Sunset Boulevard by a dark-colored Mercedes Benz G-Class SUV, commonly known as a G-Wagon. The Mercedes was traveling eastbound when it struck Edwards and continued on Sunset Boulevard, failing to stop. The vehicle turned and was last seen heading south on Gardner Street, Eisenman said.

The victim's husband, Kris Edwards, posted a heartfelt message on Instagram. He said his wife had performed at an LGBTQ+ fundraiser nearby and

See Police page 27



photo courtesy of BHPD  
Four suspects wanted for a Huntington Park robbery were arrested by the BHPD following a pursuit.

## License plate reader alert leads to arrests in Beverly Hills

The Beverly Hills Police Department arrested four suspects wanted for a Huntington Park robbery after receiving an alert via the department's Automated License Plate Reader cameras on June 24.

BHPD received the alert at approximately 1 p.m. and officers quickly located the vehicle within Beverly Hills city limits. When officers attempted to pull over the vehicle, the suspects failed to yield, prompting a pursuit. The suspects' vehicle eventually became disabled near the intersection of Beverly and Rexford drives. Four occupants then fled on foot.

A video of the incident posted to the BHPD's Instagram shows the suspects' vehicle coming to a stop, at which point the suspects begin to flee and a BHPD vehicle collides with the suspects' vehicle.

Officers apprehended three of the individuals a short distance away. A coordinated containment and search led to the arrest of the fourth suspect in a nearby residential yard.

There were no reported injuries during the incident. The case remains under investigation.

The Beverly Hills Police Department credited the effectiveness of the ALPR system, along with the rapid response of officers, for the safe and successful resolution of the incident.

"This incident is another clear example of how our police officers acted swiftly and decisively, supported by our civilian professional staff, to ensure the suspects were taken into custody without harm to the community," BHPD Chief Mark Stainbrook said. "I am proud of our department's continued commitment to proactive policing and public safety."

## Vacant Beverly Grove buildings demolished

### ■ Three-parcel property is cleared after being taken over by squatters

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Three adjacent vacant properties at the southeast corner of First and Flores streets in Beverly Grove are being demolished to make way for a new housing project.

The buildings, which were vacant since at least the start of May, attracted squatters and became a nuisance, neighbors and city leaders said. Los Angeles Fire Department spokeswoman Margaret Stewart said three fires were reported at the vacant buildings during the past two months. The Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety fast-tracked demolition permitting and the work began on June 25.

Steve Medrano, a job site supervisor with Arrow, the demolition company, said crew members found two people inside one of the vacant buildings when work started. He said although it was fenced, people were still able to get inside.

"We see this a lot," Medrano added. "We secure it at night but no matter what we do, people keep going in when houses are vacant."

Leo Daube, a spokesman for Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, called conditions at the site "outrageous and unacceptable" and added that the council member's office was directly involved in getting the site demolished.



photo by Edwin Folven  
Vacant buildings at First and Flores streets are being razed to make way for a new project.

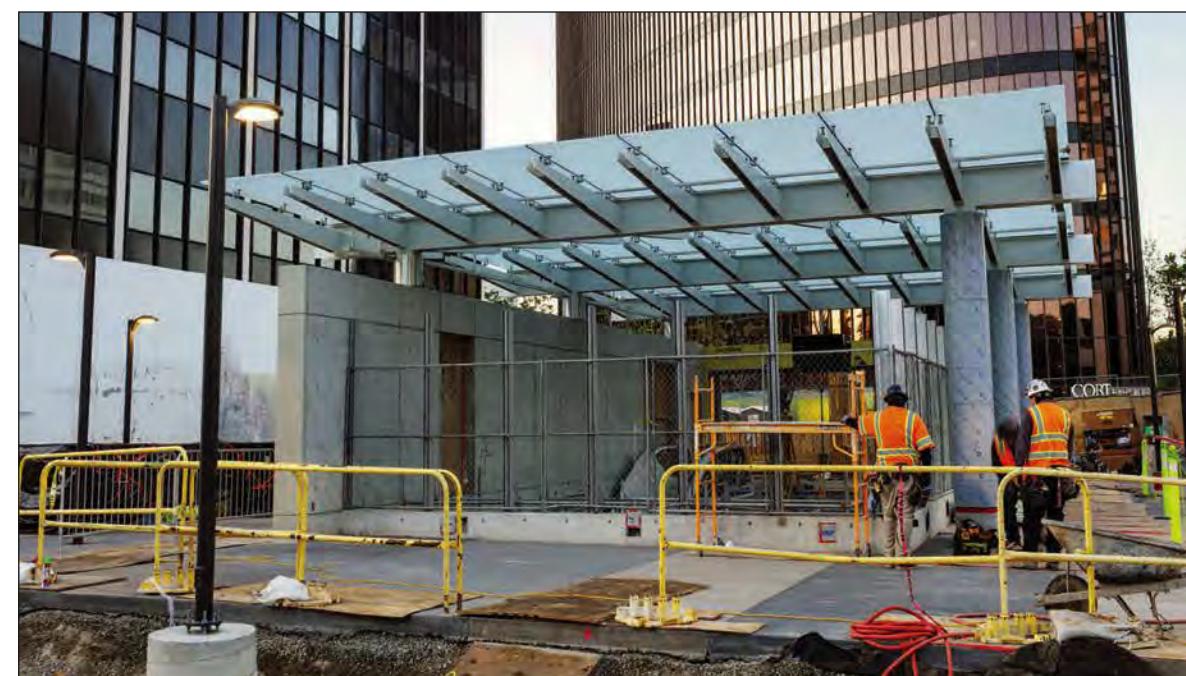
"The council office has continued to apply pressure to ensure the owner addresses the safety and nuisance issues without delay, including requesting the repair of fencing around the properties and hiring private security. We also pushed the Department of Building and Safety to expedite demolition permits, and are pleased to report that they have now confirmed that demolition has begun," Daube said in a statement.

"This is a critical and long-overdue step. Our team will keep using every tool available and working with city partners and the community until this is fully resolved. The neighborhood deserves nothing less."

Beverly Grove resident Steve Adelson, who walked by the site on June 26, said he is glad to see it being demolished.

"This has been a problem for weeks. Homeless people have taken it over and there have been all kinds of issues," he said.

The property owner was not publicly named by city officials. Medrano declined to provide the owner's name. Media reports have stated that a 50-unit housing project is planned at the site, but it could not be confirmed.



### D LINE SUBWAY EXTENSION PROJECT

Section 1 – Beverly Hills

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IMAGE: *Buddha Shakyamuni*, India, Uttar Pradesh, late 6th century, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of the Michael J. Connell Foundation, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA

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# First Amendment expert responds to BHUSD policy

■ 'Sensitive' topics would be prohibited

BY Tabor Brewster

A proposed Beverly Hills Unified School District policy that would limit what teachers can discuss in classrooms has raised concerns from members of the community over intellectual freedom, while proponents argue that it keeps classrooms free from political bias. An expert on the Constitution and freedom of speech said the policy likely does not violate the First Amendment.

The draft policy, titled "Standards-Based Instructional Environment," prohibits teachers from discussing "sensitive" topics if they do not directly relate to the approved curriculum. The policy also prevents teachers from promoting political or ideological causes, displaying partisan materials and discussing religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or geopolitical conflicts. The policy states that teachers may face disciplinary action if found in violation of the policy, and encourages staff to report potential violations.

The policy was discussed at a BHUSD Board of Education meeting on June 24, where two members of the community expressed concerns. Beverly Hills Education Association President Katherine Warren opposed the policy on behalf of the teachers union, stating that the guidelines around teachers' speech are already addressed in board policy and in the contract agreement.

"If the board wishes to revise or clarify language related to controversial issues, the appropriate venue for that discussion is the bargaining table," Warren said.

Additionally, several parents and teachers have expressed concerns over the policy, arguing that it will create an environment in which instructors are afraid to teach without fear of disciplinary action.

"Teachers are on the frontlines, they're with our kids the most. We need to trust their professional judgement. This policy would cause them to be constantly looking over their shoulder, second-guessing what they do. If they're constantly in fear, our kids are going to feel it, and it's going to affect their education negatively," BHUSD parent Andrew Katz said.

Eugene Volokh, a former UCLA professor of First Amendment law and the current Thomas M. Siebel

Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, said the school district's draft policy likely does not violate the rights of teachers under the First Amendment.

"School teachers don't have a right to use their classroom as a platform for their political or religious views, or social views or other such views," Volokh said. "When they are in the classroom, teaching students, they're essentially speaking on behalf of the school. And the school, generally speaking, can tell them, 'teach this way and not that way.'"

Board Member Sigalie Sabag, who introduced the proposed policy, argued that it "encourages balanced presentation and critical thinking without partisan influence."

**"School teachers don't have a right to use their classroom as a platform for their political or religious views, or social views or other such views."**

Eugene Volokh, a former UCLA professor of First Amendment law

"The goal is to ensure that all BHUSD students have a safe and respectful academic environment where they can explore ideas, think critically and form their own views without feeling pressured or influenced by the personal beliefs of educators," Sabag said.

Volokh said a school generally has the right to shape the content that is taught in the classroom.

"As a practical matter of course, schools can't completely micromanage every word that teachers say. But they can generally say, 'look, if you're teaching algebra, we want you to teach algebra. We don't want you to explain your views about God, or your views about President Trump or your views about the Middle East,'" Volokh said. "Now, if the teacher wants to write a newspaper column about those subjects, they may have First Amendment right to do that. If they're talking to their colleagues over lunch in the cafeteria, they may have the right to do that, but not when they are speaking on behalf of the school by teaching their class."

He also acknowledged that the policy carries a risk of teachers

being reported for things they may say in the classroom without intending to promote their views.

"There's always some risk that if you say something – especially something that's kind of out of the norm, especially something that someone finds offensive – that they'll complain. That's something we should worry about. I think good administrators realize that they're going to have problems keeping their employees effective and happy if they overreact to these things," Volokh said.

The policy is currently being refined by Sabag and board member Amanda Stern, who called it "redundant." It will return to the board at a future date for further discussion. Stern said it will likely return at the next board meeting on July 16.



photo by Edwin Folven

The BHUSD draft policy, titled "Standards-Based Instructional Environment," would limit what teachers can say in classrooms.

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## Notable Quotes

"The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that is will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of the continent to the other, from this time forward forevermore."

John Adams (1735-1826)  
Second Letter to Abigail Adams (July 3, 1776)

On July 2, 1776, the resolution for independence, drafted by Robert Henry Lee of Virginia, was adopted by committee including John Adams. On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was agreed to, engrossed, signed by John Hancock and sent to the legislature of the States.

Source: Bartlett's Familiar Quotations

## L.A. nonprofit creates a Thinking Nation

### ■ Curriculum teaches students to engage with history

BY Tabor Brewster

In 2018, Dinah Ruch – an attorney and Beverly Hills resident – had a realization.

"So many folks that I know who are well-educated bright people do not really understand the workings of the Constitution, our government and history," she said.

Modern education in the United States, she thought, placed a strong emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics – STEM – but often overlooked civics.

"The social sciences have suffered," Ruch added. "It's time to bring that up to an equilibrium. I feel that a functioning democracy depends on literate citizens who understand history and the Constitution. If we fail to educate, then democracy won't thrive."

Perturbed by the state of civics education, Ruch founded the organization Thinking Nation to better prepare students by introducing a comprehensive curriculum that ties history to the present.

"Since most adults are woefully

unprepared to understand current issues and how they're linked to the past, we want to educate a new generation of kids so that they'll be able to thrive as citizens and as human beings," she said.

Now a nonprofit, Thinking Nation creates a curriculum for grades 6-12 that empowers students to think critically and prepares them to engage with the world around them.

"There's these two sides of a quality civic education – civic knowledge and civic dispositions," Thinking Nation Executive Director Zachary Cote said. "We wanted to take a civic disposition route. There were many opportunities for students to learn 'about' certain things. But to learn in the processes and the skills and the dispositions – to engage with that material and that information – there seemed to be quite a bit lacking, especially in public education."

The curriculum aims to "shift the paradigm" of the typical social studies classroom.

"Most people see history as a content, which is something that's remembered, but we really want people to see it as a discipline, which is something that's engaged with," Cote added.

The organization developed its

curriculum by implementing assessments on historical thinking, writing and analysis in social studies classrooms across five Bright Star Schools – tuition-free charter public schools – in Los Angeles. After input from teachers, Thinking Nation honed an education model that encourages students to ask questions that deepen their understanding of civic engagement.

"We realized there were these barriers to implementation," Cote said. "Quite frankly, it takes way more time to teach and assess a discipline than it does a content. I can just tell students what happened, and I can check it off my box if I'm just teaching the content, but I have to really equip them to engage and ask questions and write persuasively."

To remove the time barrier for teachers, Thinking Nation developed a platform that utilizes artificial intelligence to provide immediate feedback to instructors and students on their writing. Additionally, the platform provides teachers with data for their classroom which helps them assess their instruction.

"We could turn student work back in seconds, instead of weeks, and really just expedite this paradigm shift in classrooms where teachers felt prepared and supported to empower their students to think deeply," Cote said.

On July 1, the organization marked five years as a nonprofit. Thinking Nation's curriculum now helps educate approximately 40,000 students across 17 states and Washington, D.C.



photo courtesy of Zachary Cote

Zachary Cote, right, serves as the executive director of education nonprofit Thinking Nation.

"We primarily serve urban schools, but we also work with schools in the heart of rural America. We work with schools that work with predominantly immigrant populations or other minority student group populations. We work in suburban school districts as well," Cote said. "We've really been able to shift the way teachers and schools approach history education to make it something empowering for students."

Cote added that the mission of Thinking Nation – a strictly nonpartisan organization – is particularly important in the current fractured political climate.

"We don't have the tools to humanize the people who are against us – if everything is an 'us versus them' mentality, then there is no progress, there is no ability to collaborate," he said. "What historical thinking does is it forces you to think beyond yourself. It's like an

antidote for this cultural and societal narcissism that we see in both the legislation and the reaction to legislation."

Ruch added that the work of Thinking Nation has the potential to bring future generations together as a society.

"What we are doing is in a very large way key to changing the climate into one [in which] people have empathy for one another by understanding one another," Ruch said. "That doesn't necessarily mean that we have to agree with one another, but that we will listen and make the attempt with the skills and knowledge of historical thinking and contextualization."

For information, visit [thinkingnation.org](http://thinkingnation.org). Educators interested in utilizing the Thinking Nation curriculum can visit [share.hsforms.com/1Xgq4DT5JSZoJAmgVT1zzQ4m2gi](http://share.hsforms.com/1Xgq4DT5JSZoJAmgVT1zzQ4m2gi).

## Federal HIV prevention funds restored for Los Angeles

BY SAM MULICK

Nearly \$20 million in federal anti-HIV funds were unfrozen following efforts led by U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) and other lawmakers.

The Trump administration froze Congressionally-appropriated funds for HIV prevention and surveillance programs in May, leading Los Angeles County to terminate contracts with 39 community health providers, cutting off services and leaving thousands of patients in medical limbo. The Los Angeles LGBT Center was forced to close public health services such as HIV testing, free STD screening and treatment for people without insurance. Friedman, along with other lawmakers, demanded the release of the funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"I was proud to lead the fight to get these critical federal dollars flowing again to local providers – including those serving West Hollywood," Friedman said. "That means HIV testing, PrEP access and community education can continue.

This is a huge win against the Trump administration and for public health across California and for providers like AIDS Project Los Angeles Health here in West Hollywood and the people they serve. And this shows that public pressure matters."

"These grants go straight to front-line HIV prevention – testing, PrEP and PEP access, community education and outreach," she added. "For providers like the LA LGBT Center, this means the reopening of paused services and reconnecting with patients who were left in limbo."

Terra Russell-Slavin, chief strategy officer for the center, which provides medical care and social services for members of the LGBTQ+ community, said the funds are a matter of life and death for people seeking HIV treatment at a press conference with Friedman on June 28 celebrating the release of the funds.

The allocation will allow APLA Health to reinstate some public services but the organization will need more time to recover after having to lay off staff members, said Katja

See HIV Funds page 10



photo courtesy of Laura Friedman  
U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale), standing with Chief Strategy Officer for LA LGBT Center Terra Russell-Slavin, advocated for the funds.

## NOTICE OF COMMISSION AND FOUNDATION VACANCIES

### COMMUNITY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

One vacancy (Term begins upon appointment)

### \*ARCHITECTURAL AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

One vacancy (Term begins upon appointment)

(Position must be filled by a licensed landscape architect.  
Beverly Hills residency not required for this vacancy.)

### DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR THE ABOVE COMMISSION IS ON FRIDAY, JULY 25, 2025 AT 5:00 P.M.

For more information on the above vacancies and to obtain an application online, please visit the City's website at [www.beverlyhills.org/applyforacommission](http://www.beverlyhills.org/applyforacommission) or call the City Clerk's Office at (310) 285-2400 to obtain the application form by mail or e-mail. Selected applicants will be required to complete a background check.

Huma Ahmed  
City Clerk

## Local lawmakers hope to unmask federal agents

### ■ Friedman backs No Masks for ICE Act

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

U.S. Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) and local city leaders announced support on July 1 for the No Masks for ICE Act, legislation that would prohibit federal agents enforcing immigration laws from covering their faces and require them to wear clothing that clearly displays their name and agency.

Friedman made the announcement during a press conference at Griffith Park, a location where families commonly gather for Fourth of July barbecues and picnics but may be afraid to this year because of ICE raids, she said. The raids have spread fear in communities throughout Los Angeles County. Federal agents wearing face cover-

ing and masks are compounding the fear, Friedman added.

"In a democracy, law enforcement should be visible, accountable and working to build trust, not operating in the shadows," Friedman said. "ICE agents wearing masks and refusing to identify themselves during raids doesn't make our communities safer. It makes them more fearful, more vulnerable and less protected. I'm proud to help lead this effort to restore basic transparency and public safety."

Friedman was joined by Los Angeles City Councilwoman Nithya Raman, 4th District, and Burbank Mayor Nikki Perez. The No Masks for ICE Act – H.R.4004 – was introduced by Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-NY). It is currently pending in Congress.

"We would never accept local police operating in masks without names or badges – and we

shouldn't accept it from ICE either," Velázquez said. "When agents hide their faces and identities it creates chaos, spreads fear and opens the door to abuse. I introduced the No Masks for ICE Act to end these secretive practices and bring basic accountability and transparency to federal immigration enforcement. I'm proud to have Congresswoman Friedman's support on this critical legislation and look forward to working with her to get it passed."

Raman said federal agents have been making arrests in her district. On June 30, agents arrested vendors selling flowers on Forest Lawn Drive near the 134 Freeway, she added.

"These actions have made these agents into criminals themselves. It is a basic tenet of democratic society that law enforcement must be accountable to the public," Raman



photo by Edwin Folven

Rep. Laura Friedman, joined by Burbank Mayor Nikki Perez, said lawmakers must step in to stop federal agents from wearing face coverings.

said. "Public safety depends on public trust, and there is no trust when agents with guns and handcuffs are allowed to operate without any badge. I'm proud to support

this bill and to stand with Congresswoman Friedman to demand transparency, accountability and the basic safety protections

See **Unmask Agents** page 10



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND SUMMARY OF NOTICE

### DATE:

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

### TIME:

7:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard

### LOCATION:

Meeting will be held in person at:

Council Chamber

Beverly Hills City Hall  
455 North Rexford Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

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

### PROJECT ADDRESS:

Citywide

The City Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at a REGULAR meeting on **July 15, 2025**, will hold a public hearing beginning at **7:00 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider:

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

The proposed amendments to the single-family and multi-family residential regulations of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC) would:

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

On May 22, 2025, the Planning Commission held a public hearing to review the draft ordinance. By a unanimous vote (3-0), the Planning Commission recommended approval of the ordinance to the City Council by adopting Planning Commission Resolution No. 2087.

This summary of the ordinance is prepared and published in accordance with the requirements of Government Code §36933. Pursuant to the requirements of Government Code §36933, a certified copy of the entirety of the text of the proposed ordinance will be available for review during normal business hours at the Office of the City Clerk located at City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Second Floor, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 at least five days before the City Council will consider adoption of the ordinance.

### ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The draft ordinance was assessed for compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and City environmental regulations, and has been determined to be exempt from CEQA per Section 15305 (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations). The Amendments represent minor alterations in land use limitations and do not result in any changes in land use or density. Further, the residential areas of the City to which

the Amendments apply have an average slope not exceeding 20 percent. Staff recommends the City Council find the ordinance exempt under these provisions from any further CEQA review.

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Please be advised that pre-entry metal detector screening requirements are now in place at City Hall. Members of the public are requested to plan visits accordingly. Members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending in-person or telephonically and may view the meeting through live webcast or BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable. City Council meetings are broadcast on local Beverly Hills television and on other media platforms. Anyone who participates at the meeting and/or enters the City Council Chamber is subject to having their image displayed. These recordings will remain publicly accessible in perpetuity.

### Public Comment Participation:

Oral Comment/Listen only: (310) 288-2288

Email: [cityclerk@beverlyhills.org](mailto:cityclerk@beverlyhills.org)

Video (during public comment only): <http://beverlyhills.org/comment>

To Watch Video Live: <http://beverlyhills.org/live> or

On-Demand: <http://beverlyhills.org/citycouncilmeetings>

In-Person: Submit a Speaker Card to the City Clerk at the meeting

### How to Submit Public Comment (Email/Video):

It is recommended that public written comments be submitted to the City Clerk's office by 12:00 p.m. on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the City Council/Parking Authority. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item Number or Topic in the subject line of the email. The City Clerk will read only the first three minutes (approximately 350 words) of a written comment. In the event of a large number of written comments on one item, written comments may be summarized by the City Clerk's Office. The entire written comment shall be archived in full as part of the record.

If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record. Public comment via video conference will be no longer than three (3) minutes per each individual comment, subject to City Council discretion based on the anticipated length in the meeting. In-person speaker cards may be submitted to the City Clerk directly during the meeting.

Any interested person may participate in the meeting and be heard or present written comments to the City Council. According to Government Code §65009, if you challenge the Council'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.

### In Person Participation:

All interested persons are invited to attend and speak on this matter in person. Please see the above information on the location and time of this meeting.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact **Patrick Achis, Associate Planner**, in the Planning Division at **(310) 285-1129**, or by email at [pachis@beverlyhills.org](mailto:pachis@beverlyhills.org). Copies of the project materials are on file in the Community Development Department and can be reviewed by any interested person at 455 North Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210. Please also reach out to add your email to the interested parties list, so that important updates and notifications may be sent to you.

HUMA AHMED  
City Clerk



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

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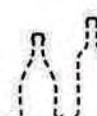
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Culver City, CA 90230  
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(424) 523-0077

### WEST HOLLYWOOD

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& La Brea Ave.  
1130 N. La Brea Ave.  
West Hollywood, CA 90038  
Hours: Mon - Sun 9am - 10pm  
(213) 370-0999

# L.A. County homeless dispatch center opens lines to public

■ Resource center provides a centralized response for homeless services

BY SAM MULICK

Los Angeles County's first centralized homeless dispatch center began accepting public requests on July 1.

The county's Emergency Centralized Resource Center opened in January after Supervisors Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, and Kathryn Barger, 5th District, proposed the center in an effort to centralize intake for the county's homeless services and has so far received more than 400 referrals, said Libby Boyce, senior manager of the L.A. County Homeless Initiative. The center "provides a one stop shop" for members of the public to report homeless encampments and individuals in need of help, rather than calling multiple agencies just to constantly be redirected, Boyce added.

"For too long, our homeless services system has operated in silos, duplicating services without focus on outcomes, and using more precious resources than necessary to restore encampments in our neighborhoods," Horvath said. "The ECRC is a physical space where this coordination is happening in real time to ensure every resource is maximized and people are connected to housing and services to end their homelessness."

The center comes after the board of supervisors in April redirected more than \$300 million from the Los Angeles Homeless Services

Authority to create its own department for homeless services. Members of the public can submit requests through [la-hop.org](http://la-hop.org) by including descriptions of the encampment's physical location, number of inhabitants, their specific needs and the date they were last seen. Once a request is made, the ECRC coordinates across multiple agencies to dispatch one of 150 outreach teams to the site and provide interim housing and other assistance.

**"Before, a bunch of different entities would get a call and they wouldn't necessarily speak to each other."**

Donald Holt,  
center's director

"As the county transitions to a unified department on homelessness, the ECRC demonstrates the benefit of a centralized approach," Horvath added.

Once teams are dispatched, the ECRC coordinates between L.A. County's departments of Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention, Public Health, Veteran Affairs and Social Services to best assist each specific case. The center can also help connect people to Inside Safe and Pathway Home, L.A. city and countywide initiatives that dispatch outreach teams to encampments to provide interim housing. Additionally, ECRC staff provide consistent updates to who-

ever made the referral in an effort to create trust and a reliable contact.

After the motion for the center was approved in September, staff began operating on Jan. 3, four days before the onset of the L.A. County wildfires. In response to the fires, the ECRC coordinated with the county's Emergency Operations Center to evacuate homeless shelters in danger and distribute 6,000 N95 masks to unhoused individuals and outreach teams.

"Going from a September motion to securing office space in December to assisting with wildfire evacuation and emergency shelter is unprecedented, both in speed and impact of service," Horvath said. "It shows what's possible when you move with the urgency our homelessness emergency requires."

The ECRC also made a difference in the county's response to multiple encampments in Ballona Creek, a multi-jurisdictional site in West L.A., where the ECRC coordinated with officials from Culver City, L.A. County Flood Control and law enforcement agencies to cohesively respond to the entire property, rather than only addressing certain areas which led to unhoused people migrating to other parts of the site.

"Before, a bunch of different entities would get a call and they wouldn't necessarily speak to each other," Donald Holt, the center's director, said. "To actually have the ability to clean the entire area at one time and offer services to all those individuals occupying that space was instrumental in us bringing people indoors."

The county was ultimately able to engage with about 45 people at Ballona Creek and get 15 indoors due to the ECRC effectively coordinating with multiple agencies, Holt said.

To make a referral to the ECRC, members of the public can visit [la-hop.org](http://la-hop.org) or call 211.

federal — and tell them that they must fight to protect the funding that supports the health, mental health and wellbeing of our community, including HIV prevention and care funding, Medicaid and SNAP, HOPWA and other housing funding. And if you have any friends and family in other states, tell them to call their representatives too."

Friedman said she will continue fighting for the LGBTQ+ community amid federal attacks.

"I'll keep leading this fight and demanding transparency from the Trump administration to make sure these and similar grants aren't delayed or politicized again," she said. "Congress appropriated these investments and communities like ours shouldn't have to beg for them to be released. The Trump administration has shown it will keep targeting LGBTQ+ health and rights. If or when they try this again, I'll fight back just as hard. We can't afford to let up."

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photo by Sam Mulick  
L.A. County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, along with ECRC Director Donald Holt, presented the ECRC's homeless coordination services.



## Pancreatitis Season: Why Vets Dread the Fourth of July

Independence Day may be a celebration of freedom, fireworks, and full plates — but for veterinarians, it marks the beginning of something far less festive: pancreatitis season.

Every year around July 4th, emergency clinics and urgent care vets brace for a flood of vomiting, lethargic dogs who've indulged in holiday scraps. Pancreatitis, or inflammation of the pancreas, is one of the most common and preventable conditions we treat this time of year — and it's almost always tied to human food.

Whether it's hot dog grease, rib bones, steak, buttered corn, or a rogue burger someone dropped off the grill, fatty foods overwhelm a dog's digestive system. The pancreas, which plays a key role in digesting fat, can react violently — causing inflammation, pain, and systemic illness. Symptoms usually include vomiting, abdominal discomfort, loss of appetite, and lethargy. In some cases, dogs become dehydrated or develop dangerous electrolyte imbalances that require hospitalization.

Even well-meaning party guests can be part of the problem. "Oh, it's just a bite," they say, handing off a chip slathered in guac or a hunk of steak fat. But dogs aren't built for sudden high-fat feasts — and one bite can be all it takes.

What starts as a joyful holiday can end in an emergency room visit, an IV catheter, and a bill you weren't expecting. When I graduated ten years ago, overnight hospitalization for pancreatitis cases typically ran \$2,000 to \$3,000. Today, \$4,000 to \$8,000 — or more if surgery is needed — is increasingly common.

So how can you protect your pet this Fourth of July?

- No table scraps. Period. Not even "just a little."
- Secure the trash. Many cases happen after a dog gets into the garbage post-party.
- Warn your guests. Let them know not to feed your dog — no matter how cute the begging face.
- Stick to safe treats. Offer lean, plain meats or dog-specific goodies if you want them to feel included.
- Know the signs. If your pet is vomiting, refusing food, or seems off — don't wait. Early treatment can prevent serious complications.

While fireworks tend to steal the spotlight as a pet hazard this time of year, fatty foods are quietly doing damage in the background. This July 4th, show your dog you love them — by skipping the scraps and sticking to safety.

### About Dr. Ameis

Dr. Ezra Ameis is an emergency veterinarian and the owner of Paw Priority in West Hollywood, a clinic providing general practice, urgent care, and acupuncture. He will be contributing weekly articles to this column. To suggest a topic or ask a pet-related question, email: [hello@ppvet.com](mailto:hello@ppvet.com).



Celebrate

4th of July

All Weekend!

## July is National Hot Dog Month!

40 Hot Dog Varieties • A Dozen Varieties of Hamburgers • Yummy Fries & Onion Rings!



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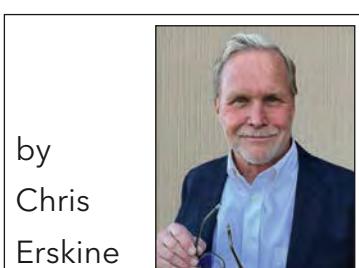
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## Cool cars, yummy recipes and 'Spin the Bottle'

Random thoughts while pouring warm butterscotch over half-melted vanilla ice cream:

- My mind is an ocean of summer cravings.
- Root beer. Dodger Dogs. Dill pickles. Pie.
- Yep, I eat like a pregnant woman. So?
- If I ever open a steak house, it'll be called "Grill Marks."
- If I ever open a bar, it'll be called "Spin the Bottle."
- Passion is nothing to laugh at. Yet, what's funnier?
- Best coach in sports: Dave Roberts.
- Most fun summer board game: Chronology.
- Best summer supplement? Vitamin sea.
- Long as I live, I'll never understand all my Apple charges.
- Nothing is prettier than a simple bowl of fresh plums.
- Unless it's a horse track.
- Unless it's a steamy bowl of chili (yes, even in July).
- In summer, I can't go a day without a ballgame or a book.
- My dream date: a 1952 Porsche 1500.
- If he's not careful, Dave Roberts will wind up as baseball commissioner.
- Good for baseball; bad for Dave.
- Who isn't happier in a dugout?
- "Good eye, good eye, good eye, good eye..." – every youth baseball coach ever
- Where is Shohei Ohtani's new house? I know but I'm not telling (unlike the lame Japanese media).
- A terrific beach read: "Perfect



by  
Chris  
Erskine

Eloquence," essays on the great Vin Scully.

• "I fear the day technology will surpass our human interaction. The world will have a generation of idiots." – Albert Einstein

- Right again, Mister Einstein.
- FYI, if you invested \$1,000 in Berkshire Hathaway when Warren Buffett started it in 1965, it'd be worth \$55 million today (the Wall Street Journal).
- Strength is money. So is patience.
- Spotted lunching at Farmhouse, Descanso Gardens' lovely new restaurant: Mookie Betts.
- Best thing on the menu: Herb-crusted jidori chicken.
- Their secret? Chef Adam Cherney brines it.
- FYI, the magnificent bar top was crafted from the garden's fallen oaks.
- Trivia time: Why does Dodger first baseman Freddie Freeman wear sleeves, no matter the weather?
- More summer cravings: Kabobs. Sno-cones. Freckles. Naps.
- Best therapy in the world: a belly laugh.
- Best thing to plant in your garden: a hammock.

• I would've bought TikTok. But I have my eye on Switzerland instead.

• Rough times should soften our hearts, not harden them.

• World's worst noise: a sick baby.

• Second-worst noise: a chainsaw.

• Anyone seen my golf ball?

• Tip: It's a Titleist 3 with a little barbecue sauce on it.

• To me, Burbank can't open its new airport terminal soon enough.

• Estimated opening: Oct. 1, 2026.

• Meanwhile, the penal system could use LAX as punishment.

• Tell me, what's a synonym for synonym?

• What's another word for thesaurus?

• Having memory lapses? Try walnuts.

• FYI, the worst roads in L.A. are the Dodger parking lots.

• Thanks, Frank McCourt!

• Prayers for Billy Joel on his battle with a rare brain disorder.

• FYI, the Executive Room bar on Wilshire, site of Joel's "Piano Man," was torn down years ago to build a strip mall.

• Developers do more damage in L.A. than termites.

• "At 18, our convictions are hills from which we look; at 45, they are caves in which we hide." – F. Scott Fitzgerald

• Hey, did I mention walnuts?

• RIP, Marge Simpson (even if your death was a flash-forward stunt).

• 34% of Americans feel most people can be trusted, Pew reports.

• In 1972, that number was 46%.

• "I wanted to glorify the average man, not the guy at the top ... just the ordinary guy whose

strength I admire, whose surviv-

ability I admire." – director Frank Capra

spoons Dijon, 4 teaspoons balsamic, 4 tablespoons soy sauce, 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice, 2 teaspoons Colman's dry mustard, 3 cloves garlic (pressed),  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup olive oil. Whisk, let stand at room temp for an hour.

• Warren Buffett was the Harry Truman of finance.

• I'm the Donald Duck of finance.

• Why was Secretariat the greatest ever? His heart was three times the size of a typical racehorse. And he covered 20% more ground with every stride.

• Final summer cravings: Banana splits. Tan lines. Fresh rhubarb. Little deuce coupes.

• "Ah, summer, what power you have to make us suffer and like it." – Russell Baker

For books or additional columns, please go to [ChrisErskineLA.com](http://ChrisErskineLA.com)



photo courtesy of Farmhouse at Descanso Gardens

The gleaming oak bar at Farmhouse, the new restaurant at Descanso Gardens, is made from Descanso's fallen trees.

## 4th of July!



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The City of West Hollywood Presents

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**JULY 6**  
Aneesa Strings, HourTheBand and DJ Novena Carmel

**JULY 27**  
Buyepongo and DJ Jeremy Sole

**AUGUST 17**  
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featuring the Motown On Mondays LA DJ's  
Celebrating 40 Years of Cityhood

**Plummer Park**, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Blankets & low chairs recommended.



Food truck on site. All ages.  
[weho.org/summersounds](http://weho.org/summersounds)  
[@wehoarts](http://wehoarts) [@wehocity](http://wehocity)

FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES

## Engage with WeHo on Plans for Plummer Park

The city of West Hollywood is launching a community-driven process to reimagine Plummer Park. Through the Plummer Park Comprehensive Improvement Plan, West Hollywood residents and stakeholders can share input and ideas to help guide the park's future.

The city will host a Community Brainstorm Workshop on Saturday, July 12, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Plummer Park's Fiesta Hall, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. The collaborative workshop will gather ideas, feedback and insights from a diverse group of West Hollywood community members to inform planning and decision-making for the Plummer Park Comprehensive Improvement Plan. Throughout summer, community pop-up events, topical group conversations and community listening sessions will be held. City staff will provide information about Plummer Park's history, current uses and programming.

To learn more about upcoming opportunities and sign up for updates and notifications, visit the city's Engage WeHo Project Page [engage.weho.org/plummer-park-comprehensive-improvement-plan](http://engage.weho.org/plummer-park-comprehensive-improvement-plan).

## Letters to the Editor

BHUSD Board's proposed limits on teachers' speech are a step backward

Re "BHUSD considers limiting teachers' speech," June 26 issue

Clearly, BHUSD Board Member Sigalie Sabag pines for the good old days of the KGB, the Stasi and the SAVAK.

Regarding the Beverly Hills Unified School District's recent draft policy on limiting teachers' speech, which Board Member Sabag introduced, I am speechless.

Controversial and "sensitive" subjects should be avoided in class? Where's the intellectual growth opportunity in that ridiculous idea?

Board Member Sabag cites examples of teachers talking about politics in a music class. What if the class is about music and pop culture? Or protest songs of the anti-war movement? Or what if students want to explore Richard Wagner's personal history? What if, in English class, the teacher wishes to examine political rhetorical writing, as in political speech writing? Are these off limits? There are too many troubling examples to offer.

Tabor Brewster's excellent article states that in this draft policy, teachers should be encouraged to report other teachers who violate the new policy. Sounds like the Soviet Union. Authoritarian and fear mongering leadership don't foster good teaching or good learning. What can this board be thinking? Clearly, they're not. Instead, they're anti-intellectual.

The draft policy is egregious and offensive and altogether sickening for students and teachers alike, and probably unconstitutional. We are embarrassed and heartsick about the direction of the school district, and about its leadership.

Andrea Grossman  
Beverly Hills

## WeHo suspends trolley service while city searches for new operator

West Hollywood has announced a temporary service interruption of The PickUp, the city's free weekend trolley, effective immediately. The interruption is necessary as the city works to transition to a new vendor.

The PickUp is a fun and light-hearted trolley service launched by the city of West Hollywood in 2013. It has provided more than 50,000 annual passenger trips, connecting residents and visitors to bars, clubs, restaurants and entertainment venues in and around the Rainbow District, Center City and Eastside. The PickUp runs along

Santa Monica Boulevard in a loop with stops in each direction between Robertson Boulevard and La Brea Avenue and aims to reduce driving under the influence and ease parking and traffic congestion.

West Hollywood is actively working to identify a new vendor. Updates regarding the temporary service interruption will be provided at [wehopickup.com](http://wehopickup.com) and through The PickUp social media pages @wehopickup on Instagram, Facebook and X. Temporary signs are posted at PickUp stops located throughout West Hollywood.



photo by Jon Viscott

The city is working to restore trolley service on The PickUp as soon as possible.

In the interim, residents and visitors are encouraged to use alternative transportation options such as Metro, and ride-hailing services. For information, visit [weho.org/transit](http://weho.org/transit).

# THE ORIGINAL FARMERS MARKET PRESENTS: ALTADENA MUSICIANS MONTH CELEBRATING ARTISTS IMPACTED BY THE FIRES



THURSDAYS, 7-9 PM, PLAZA

7/3 KENNY SARA & THE SOUNDS OF NEW ORLEANS JAZZ / NEW ORLEANS MUSIC

7/10 LIL' MO AND THE DYNAFLOS '50s & '60s DOO-WOP / R&B

7/17 QUAZAR AND THE BAMBOOZLED '70s FLAVORED BOOGIE POP

7/24 THE INSTRUMENTAL GIVING TEEN BANDS INDIE / POP / R&B

7/31 THE MOONTONES '50s RHYTHM & BLUES

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## RESTAURANT NEWS

### Enjoy a patriotic patio in Culver City

From patriotic sips and garden parties to a Parisian fete and a classic film screening, The Culver Hotel is celebrating July with lively events designed to delight residents and hotel guests alike. Nestled in the heart of downtown Culver City, the historic property is the perfect place to toast the summer season.

The hotel will host "Stars, Stripes and Spiked Sips" from 4-7 p.m. on July 4. Patriotic, playful and perfectly timed for the golden hour, The Culver Hotel welcomes patrons to stay cool on the garden patio with a \$10 build-your-own spiked lemonade bar featuring Ketel One Botanicals. Imbibers can choose a flavor combo, add a splash of spirit and garnish to their heart's content. Festive games, summer-inspired small plates and giveaways round out the fun.

For information, visit [culverhotel.com/culver-city-california-events](http://culverhotel.com/culver-city-california-events). The Culver Hotel is located at 9400 Culver Blvd.

### BOA celebrates July Fourth with all-night happy hour

BOA Steakhouse is offering all night happy hour on July 4 featuring \$8 margaritas and new bites. Happy hour favorites include wagyu skewers, caviar cones, wagyu smash burger and fries, and boneless Thai chili wings.

For reservations, visit [boasteak.com](http://boasteak.com). BOA Steakhouse West Hollywood is located at 9200 Sunset Blvd.

### Sparks fly at Pink's on July 4

Pink Hot Dogs is celebrating the Fourth of July weekend with a fiery Jalapeño Hot Dog loaded with pastrami, bacon, lettuce and tomato – basically a BLT with a spicy kick and pastrami. The special price is \$9.25, a \$6 discount that's sure to

### Florentine sandwiches spice up The Original Farmers Market

The Original Farmers Market at Third and Fairfax welcomes All'Antico Vinaio, the legendary Italian sandwich shop hailed as "home of the best sandwiches." Known for its freshly baked Tuscan schiacciata bread and exceptional Italian ingredients, All'Antico Vinaio has drawn global attention and daily crowds in Florence, Italy since 1991.

Now expanding into the U.S., the All'Antico Vinaio team is eager to share the flavors of Florence with the Los Angeles community. The new location at The Original Farmers Market will be the brand's fourth location in Los Angeles.

"I'm excited to be a part of The Original Farmers Market family and bring the flavors of Florence to this bustling community of Angelenos and tourists," All'Antico Vinaio L.A. regional manager Douglas Zamensky said.



photo courtesy of The Original Farmers Market

All'Antico Vinaio has been serving sandwiches in Florence, Italy since 1991.

Stop by All'Antico Vinaio and enjoy the market's newest culinary gem.

For information, visit [farmersmarketla.com/merchants/all-antico-vinaio](http://farmersmarketla.com/merchants/all-antico-vinaio).

[farmersmarketla.com](http://farmersmarketla.com) is located at 6333 W. Third St.

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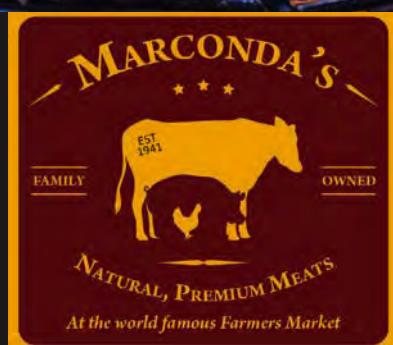
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make sparks fly, owner Richard Pink said.

The Fourth of July is America's No. 1 day for hot dogs, with approximately 150 million hot dogs consumed on the holiday alone – enough to stretch from Washington, D.C. to Los Angeles more than five times. Los Angeles leads the nation in hot dog consumption, followed by New York and Philadelphia, Pink's said. Stop by the stand and enjoy a special hot dog this Fourth of July weekend.

Pink Hot Dogs is located at 709 N. La Brea Ave. For information, visit [pinkshollywood.com](http://pinkshollywood.com).

## Skybar makes a splash on Fourth of July

Celebrate Independence Day at Skybar at Mondrian Los Angeles. Skybar is celebrating Independence Day with its annual Fourth of July Pool Party, complete with live DJ sets, signature cocktails and stunning views of the city skyline, starting at 1 p.m.

Tickets start at \$25 and are avail-

able at [eventbrite.com/e/orloves-11th-annual-4th-of-july-pool-party-tickets-1325799715639](http://eventbrite.com/e/orloves-11th-annual-4th-of-july-pool-party-tickets-1325799715639). For table reservations, email [skybarlatales@mondrianhotels.com](mailto:skybarlatales@mondrianhotels.com).

Mondrian Los Angeles is located at 8440 W. Sunset Blvd.

## Providence and Somni earn Michelin stars

This year's Michelin Guide California ceremony was full of celebration as the selection was revealed. The 2025 selection raised the bar with two new three-star restaurants. Providence in Hollywood was promoted from two stars and Somni in West Hollywood enters the selection with three stars.

The excitement continued with Enclos in Sonoma entering the selection with two stars and Kiln in San Francisco being promoted from one star to two stars. The 2025 selection also welcomed five new one-star restaurants bringing the state's total to 65. Additionally, two new Michelin Green Stars were

See page 16

## Savor the summer in Marina Del Rey

Summer is officially here – and Marina del Rey Hotel and Jamaica Bay Inn are bringing all the vibes and lively experiences. Whether you're craving cocktails by the pool, an oceanside brunch or a chic tea party at sea, the two hotels are an iconic way to spend the season.

At the Marina del Rey Hotel, events include Oysters and Martinis Thursdays – shuck, sip, and savor! Dive into \$2 chef-selected oysters and \$12 martinis every Thursday from 4-6 p.m. Sip and Save Wine Tuesdays, because Tuesdays deserve wine. Enjoy half-off select bottles and unwind in style. Enjoy Sunday Funday Pool Parties – held every Sunday from 1-6 p.m., Marina del Rey Hotel is turning up the heat with a live DJ, outdoor barbecue, drink specials, poolside activations and giveaways. Guests can also experience High Tea on the High Seas. All aboard for a luxury tea cruise featuring Dammann teas, gourmet bites and champagne or Japanese whiskey high-



photo courtesy of the Marina Del Rey Hotel

Guests can experience High Tea on the High Sea at the Marina Del Rey Hotel.

balls. Choose a tier, grab your sunnies and sail into the perfect afternoon. Available Wednesday-Sunday, 1:30-4 p.m.

The Jamaica Bay Inn has many events for guests this summer, including the Weekend Executive Chef's Brunch. Bubbles, beach vibes and next-level brunch – think yellowfin tuna with caviar, steak and eggs on asiago, and peanut butter banana French toast. The brunch is \$60 per person every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Guests can also enjoy

Dog Sundays at Beachside. Sundays are going to the dogs – in the best way. From 1-6 p.m., bring your pup to play and lounge oceanside while you sip cocktails. The hotel has furry VIPs covered with pup cups, protein bowls and tasty treats.

For information, visit [marinadelreyhotel.com](http://marinadelreyhotel.com) and [jamaicabayinn.com](http://jamaicabayinn.com).

The Marina Del Rey Hotel is located at 13534 Bali Way. The Jamaica Bay Inn is located at 4175 Admiralty Way.



## Back to School School Supply Drive!

### Farmers Market Poultry

We Stand for the Best Poultry.

Donate new, unused school supplies\* and receive a FREE Pound of Ground Chicken or Ground Turkey!

### Huntington Meats

The best meats, period.

Donate new, unused school supplies\* and receive a FREE pound of Ground Beef or Homemade Sausage!

\*Valued at \$10 or more.

Items collected will be donated to Union Rescue Mission in Downtown Los Angeles servicing 350 kids struggling with homelessness.

Accepting backpacks, pens, calculators, small scissors, markers, water bottles, composition books, binders, rulers, lunch boxes, etc.

Scan here for all items needed:



One FREE pound of Ground Beef or Sausage per customer per visit please.

School Supply Drive runs through July 31.

Huntington Meats  
6333 W. Third St. #350  
323.938.5383

Farmers Market Poultry  
6333 W. Third St. #216  
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## 'Puppet Up!' takes over Kirk Douglas Theatre

Center Theatre Group presents "Puppet Up! – Uncensored" this summer for 14 hysterical performances of adult comedy, puppet hijinks and surprises from July 16-27 at the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

This is no ordinary puppet show. "Puppet Up! – Uncensored" is a night of outrageous, off-the-cuff comedy for adults featuring puppets brought to life by a cast of world-class puppeteers from The Jim Henson Company. "Puppet Up! – Uncensored" is never the same show twice, effortlessly

blending increasingly unhinged feats of improv comedy with the unparalleled skill and originality of Henson puppeteers.

Based on suggestions from the audience, the puppet mayhem showcases both the improvised puppet action projected live on screens above the stage, and the puppeteers racing around below in full view of the audience to bring it all to life. Performances also include recreations of classic pieces by Jim and Jane Henson that have not been performed for audiences

in decades.

The production is part of "CTG: FWD," which began with theatrical special events, community gatherings and legacy projects and now expands to include an eclectic offering of plays and musicals at Center Theatre Group venues.

The show is recommended for audience members ages 16 and up; those under 16 are not admitted. Ticket packages include VIP with priority seating and access to a new pre-show cocktail party experience where guests can mix and mingle with puppets and puppeteers featured in the show and take photos with iconic Henson characters from "Labyrinth," "The Dark Crystal" and "Fraggle Rock." VIP guests can also enjoy an exclusive behind-the-scenes conversation with show creator, legendary puppeteer, award-winning director and producer Brian Henson, and director and host Patrick Bristow.

Tickets for "Puppet Up! – Uncensored" are available through [centertheatregroup.org](http://centertheatregroup.org), by calling (213)972-4400 or in person at the Center Theatre Group Box Offices at The Music Center, 135 N. Grand Ave. and the Kirk Douglas Theatre – open two hours prior to curtain – at 9820 Washington Blvd. in Culver City.



photo courtesy of Puppet Up!

The show features adult comedy brought to life by puppeteers from the Jim Henson Company.

## Catch the Dodgers for final homestand before All-Star break

The Los Angeles Dodgers are in Los Angeles for the last homestand before the All-Star break. Catch the final game in a series against the Chicago White Sox on July 3, and three games against the Houston Astros from July 4-6.

The Dodgers will celebrate "One Piece Night" on July 3, when fans will receive a straw hat from the hit Japanese manga series. Game time is at 7:10 p.m. A drone show will be held after the game.

The series against the Houston Astros will begin on Friday, July 4, at 6:10 p.m. After the game, fans can enjoy Independence Day fireworks presented by Budweiser.

On July 5, the game starts at 4:15 p.m. and is nationally televised on FOX. The Dodgers will celebrate Hololive Night. Fans who purchase a special ticket pack will get a set of three unique Hololive trading cards. Thirty minutes after the game ends, a Hololive post-game show will be held with Hololive characters streaming on DodgerVision, as well as fan interactions, a staring contest and mascot racing.

The series concludes on Sunday, July 6, with a 1:10 p.m. start time. Viva Los Dodgers presented by Budweiser and Spectrum returns to Centerfield Plaza with perfor-

mances, player interviews, prizes and games. Kids Run the Bases, presented by General Mills, takes place after the game.

Before the All-Star Game in Atlanta, the Boys in Blue will make one last road trip to Milwaukee

(July 7-9) and San Francisco (July 11-13). The All-Star Game will be held in Atlanta from July 13-15, and the Dodgers will return to Los Angeles on July 18.

Tickets for all games are available at [dodgers.com/tickets](http://dodgers.com/tickets).



photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Dodgers

The Dodgers face the Chicago White Sox on July 3, followed by the Houston Astros from July 4-6.

From page 15

awarded to Enclos and Sons and Daughters in San Francisco for their efforts in sustainable gastronomy. The full selection, including Bib Gourmands and recommended restaurants, totals 548 eateries spanning 55 cuisine types.

"Tonight marked a momentous evening for California and its culinary community," said Gwendal Poullennec, international director of the Michelin Guide. "Our anonymous Inspectors discovered extraordinary culinary gems to highlight in this year's selection, including two new three star restaurants, Providence and Somni. Congratulations to all of the chefs

and restaurant teams awarded. We are proud to welcome you all into the Michelin Guide family."

For information, visit [providence.com](http://providence.com) and [somnirestaurant.com](http://somnirestaurant.com).

Providence is located at 5955 Melrose Ave. Somni is located at 9045 Nemo St.

### T.G.I. Fry Day at Farmer Boys

Universally savored – French fries are the ultimate sidekick, a perfect pairing to burgers, sandwiches, fried chicken and anything in between. They're so loved,

Farmer Boys is celebrating on National French Fry Day, July 11.

The one-day-only deal: \$1 always crispy fries with any \$5 minimum purchase, is available exclusively through the Very Important Farmer app. Farmer Boys' always crispy fries are a fan favorite for a reason – fresh, never frozen and made from locally sourced potatoes, they live up to the name with a craveable golden crunch. They're a perfect pairing with a Big Cheese burger or fried chicken sandwich – or a snack all on their own.

For information, visit [farmerboys.com](http://farmerboys.com). Farmer Boys is located at 5519 Hollywood Blvd.



photo courtesy of The Butchery

The newest butcher in Manhattan Beach offers exceptional cuts for Fourth of July weekend barbecues.

## The Butchery brings meats to Manhattan Beach

Barbecue season is officially here – and with the Fourth of July approaching, there is no better time to impress guests thanks to the arrival of The Butchery in Manhattan Beach. While the fireworks, cocktails and summer festivities will set the scene, it is the premium meats from Southern California's go-to neighborhood butcher shop that will truly steal the show. Known for top-quality cuts and expertly sourced selections, The Butchery is Manhattan Beach's new secret weapon for unforgettable grilling all summer.

The Butchery opened its doors on June 23 in Manhattan Beach just in time to celebrate

Independence Day with top-quality meats for the grill. Guests will find premium cuts of beef, pork and poultry, all responsibly sourced from the finest farms and purveyors around the world. In addition to hand-cut meats, the shop is a go-to destination for curated charcuterie, artisan cheeses, gourmet groceries and sustainable seafood.

Whether it's marinated steak tips, thick-cut ribeyes, house-made sausages or surf-and-turf pairings, The Butchery makes it easy to create a memorable Fourth of July feast – from prep to plate. For information, visit [butcherymeats.com](http://butcherymeats.com).

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## Robbie Totten promoted to Provost at American Jewish University

American Jewish University promoted Robbie Totten to the role of Provost. In this position, Totten will lead strategic planning, academic innovation, faculty recruitment, program development and accreditation oversight, ensuring AJU's academics align with its mission.

"Dr. Totten is the ideal leader to reimagine the future of our academic vision," said Jay Sanderson, President of American Jewish University. "Robbie has already helped AJU reshape what Jewish higher education looks like –

expanding access, introducing doctoral study and launching innovative programs that meet this moment. As Provost, he will be at the forefront of building the Jewish future and developing the leaders of tomorrow."

Totten is a scholar and strategic academic leader who has served as AJU's Chief Academic Officer and Vice President of Academic Affairs for over five years, overseeing all for-credit academic programs and helping shape the university's educational vision –

responsibilities he continues in his enhanced role as Provost. He joined AJU in 2014 as a political science faculty member, later chaired the department and earned tenure as associate professor of politics and global studies.

"American Jewish University is redefining Jewish education for the 21st century – accessible, innovative, and mission-driven, with a clear focus on the future of Jewish life in North America," Totten said. "As Provost, I'm honored to work alongside our strong and dedicated faculty and leadership team to educate and inspire the next generation of Rabbis, educators, professionals, and lay leaders."

During his time at AJU, Totten played a key role in expanding the

university's national reach by transitioning many academic programs to thoughtfully designed online formats, while preserving in-person instruction where essential to learning outcomes. He helped reestablish doctoral-level programs at the university for the first time in decades, launched innovative undergraduate initiatives such as the Jewish Learning Experience, and collaborated with colleagues in the Masor School for Jewish Education and Leadership to position AJU as a global leader in Jewish early childhood education. As Provost, he continues to advance AJU's mission to foster Jewish knowledge, identity and leadership.

For information, visit [aju.edu](http://aju.edu).



photo courtesy of American Jewish University  
Robbie Totten served as AJU's Chief Academic Officer and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

## LAUSD approves 2025-26 budget

The Los Angeles Unified Board of Education unanimously approved the 2025-26 budget, reaffirming its commitment to student



photo courtesy of LAUSD

The 2025-26 budget includes funding for the Black Student Achievement Plan.

safety and achievement, educational equity and workforce support – while maintaining a focus on long-term fiscal sustainability. The budget reflects input from stakeholders through the Local Control and Accountability Plan process. The 2025-26 budget includes an additional \$25 million in equity investment for the Black Student Achievement Plan, bringing total funding to \$175 million; an additional \$26 million for accelerated arts investment; an additional \$2 million for protection, awareness and training toward supporting LGBTQ+ students; a continued \$700 million commitment to the Student Equity Need Index; increased funding for Student and Family Centers; up to a \$5 million moratorium on cabinet-level salary increases and on certain benefits for senior staff; preservation of current staffing levels without furloughs.

The Board of Education also sup-

ported the redirection of \$645 million in general fund contributions, originally intended for the Other Post-Employment Benefits trust, to fund a fiscal and workforce stabilization fund.

"The principles and values reflected in this budget uphold our promise to student equity," Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho said. "While the structural deficit we face is unwelcome, our team has adopted a responsible framework with flexible guardrails that are adaptive to our economic reality. We will continue to monitor the budget throughout the year, preparing for future challenges while maintaining transparency."

"Our budget is the clearest expression of our values, our commitment to protect our most sacred

spaces – our schools," Board President Scott M. Schmerelson said. "I voted to support this budget because, though imperfect, it is the best we can do during these very difficult times."

"I'm proud to support the 2025-26 LAUSD budget – an \$18.8 billion investment that puts students, families, educators and employees first. In Board District 2, this means protecting our highest-need schools, uplifting immigrant communities, expanding green spaces, protecting our LGBTQ+ communities, strengthening special education and advancing success for Black students through increased investment in the Black Student Achievement Plan," said Board Vice President Dr. Rocío Rivas.

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

## School supplies drive prepares students for start of classes

California Credit Union has launched a school supplies drive to help local students start the school year ready to learn in association with NBC4 and Telemundo 52's Supporting Our Schools back-to-school donation drive. In the third year of the partnership, the organizations are working to ensure students have the supplies they need.

California Credit Union invites community members to make a donation through July 26 at any branch location in Los Angeles. For

a complete list of California Credit Union locations, visit [ccu.com/locations](http://ccu.com/locations). All supplies will be distributed to students at a community event at the Weingart East Los Angeles YMCA on Aug. 1.

"We believe in supporting our local youth and investing in their future – and that starts with education," California Credit Union president and CEO Steve O'Connell said. "This backpack drive is one small way we can help ensure that every child starts the school year

feeling prepared and confident. We invite our members and entire community to join us in making a difference. Every backpack donated is a step toward helping a student succeed."

Supplies needed include backpacks, notebooks, pens, pencils, markers, crayons, binders, folders, paper, graph paper, rulers, erasers and glue sticks. The public can join the campaign and donate any amount by visiting [nbcla.com/supportingourschools](http://nbcla.com/supportingourschools). For information, visit [ccu.com/school-supply-drive](http://ccu.com/school-supply-drive).



photo courtesy of the California Credit Union  
The California Credit Union hosts a donation drive to support local schools each summer before school starts.

## BHUSD leaders explore Education Through Imagination

As part of BHUSD's ongoing commitment to advancing 21st century learning, the Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education and district leadership recently visited Garner Holt Education Through Imagination in Redlands. The visit provided an immersive overview of how emerging technologies such as robotics, animatronics, artificial intelligence and virtual reality can inspire innovative, career-connected K-12 educational experiences.

Garner Holt Productions is widely recognized for creating the life-

like animatronic figures featured in iconic attractions at Disneyland, including classics like Pirates of the Caribbean and the Hall of Presidents. The Education Through Imagination initiative offers maker-space consultation, design, installation and training grounded in real-world applications of engineering, design, coding and storytelling.

The visit was an opportunity for BHUSD leadership to explore how programs such as Garner Holt can inform and inspire future learning environments.

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



Leaders from the BHUSD visited Garner Holt Education Through Imagination on June 24.

# MY UTERUS A WOMB WITH A VIEW



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**By DINA MORRONE**

**theatre west**

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**THEATRE WEST**

**3333 Cahuenga Boulevard West, LA CA 90068**



By DINA MORRONE

theatre  
west

Directed by Peter Flood • Tix: [theatrewest.org](http://theatrewest.org)

THEATRE WEST

3333 Cahuenga Boulevard West, LA CA 90068

## A totally, 100% unbiased review of 15 politically charged films

Since Washington spent between \$25 million and \$45 million on an Army/POTUS birthday celebration enjoyed by dozens, we have a special opportunity to objectively reflect on what July 4 can mean through the lens of films and TV series. So we remember the day a hero pilot flew his F-18 directly into an alien ship to save the world, we can also revisit beloved media anew in a totally, 100% unbiased way.

### "Idiocracy"

A man of average intelligence goes on ice and awakens during the dumbest era. His rudimentary knowledge of things like plants need water (not energy drinks) to flourish makes him a super genius, especially compared to an idiotic president known more for spectacle than critical thought. To be fair and balanced, that fictional character mustn't relate to anyone today.

### "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington"

In this Frank Capra classic, the idealistic Sen. Smith (Jimmy Stewart, early in his career) filibusters for 25 hours to stop a bill that would benefit only the rich. In March, Sen. Cory Booker set a new record by actually filibustering for 25 hours. But since he didn't speak against a new bill, the practical outcome of his efforts remains unfore-

seen, while Mr. Smith's idealism is also unproven at present.

### "Veep"

Speaking of filibusters, Julia Louis-Dreyfus summed up her HBO series best. "Our show started out as a political satire, but it now feels more like a sobering documentary," she said during the 2016 Emmys. Some moments, like a wood-chopping political ad, would be plagiarized by an actual candidate, while Louis-Dreyfus described her character as "narcissistic, sociopathic, mega-maniacal like someone else, whose name I shall not even utter." Exactly who she meant has never been overtly confirmed.

### "Green Room"

Surrounded by neo-Nazis, one punk band sings an anti-racism song that angers some Deep South locals. Basic dignity feels woke if you don't know the right action. Then the band witnesses a murder in the green room and spends the rest of the film trying to escape murderous neo-Nazis lead by a skinhead bar owner (Patrick Stewart). It's a brutal survival story with a touch of catharsis peppered in, if that's something anyone needs for undisclosed reasons these days.

### "The West Wing"

Aaron Sorkin's beloved political TV series presents Washington at

## ON SCREEN

WITH  
TIM POSADA

its most ideal. Folks can disagree and still function for the good of the country. Both sides are needed. In one moment, the president doesn't want to choose a Supreme Court nom both sides can agree on. He uses his team to cram his choice through, regardless of due process. Apologies, that didn't happen. I'm not sure where that idea came from.

### "The Dark Knight"

This film is quite unrealistic. Fighting crime in a rubber suit — sure. A clown terrorizing people — no lies detected. But a billionaire helping people. No empirical evidence supports this idea.

### "Parks and Recreation"

Despite bureaucracy and uninformed residents, Leslie Knope (Amy Poehler) and her team try their best to serve a small town. The series heavily relies on optimism, enough folks acting in good faith for the sake of constituents. And then there's the delightful Ron Swanson (wonderfully portrayed by Nick Offerman), a parody of libertarian values who feels objectively different than others who share his values.

### "Wag the Dog"

Remember in the 1990s when a single sex scandal was enough to derail a pol's career? In this political satire, an entire war is fabricated to distract the populace. That's rather



photo courtesy of Columbia Pictures

"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," starring James Stewart as Sen. Jefferson Smith, tells a story that parallels reality.

far-fetched these days. Why fake it when you can make it really happen.

### "The Menu"

Is it political? Maybe not, but any eat-the-rich story deserves some news value on a day the country remembers how its founders rejected a king's rule.

### "Milk"

Gus Van Sant paints a personal, emotional portrait of Harvey Milk as he argues with religious hardliners for his right to exist. The film also addresses Milk's "other than honorable" discharge from the military for a "homosexual act." Then in 2016, an oiler was named after Milk for civil rights efforts, only for the ship's name to change this year. No more comments required.

### "The Post"

This one's factually complicated. First, it heroizes The Washington Post while ignoring The New York Times' role in the historic Pentagon Papers. Second, valorizing The Post must now juxtapose the pub's owner, who halted a presidential endorsement.

### "Children of Men"

It might be set in the U.K., but "Children of Men" effectively portrays fascism and frivolous scapegoating of immigrants. Perhaps most haunting is how certain characters are violently removed from the story, forcefully dragged off screen by faceless agents. I can't think of any specific parallels. Objectively, that is.

"Sophie's Choice" (1982) will be shown on Thursday, Aug. 7, at 6:30 p.m. The film features an Oscar-winning performance by Meryl Streep as Sophie, a Polish immigrant to America with a dark secret from her past. The film also stars Kevin Kline in his feature film debut and was directed by Alan J. Pakula.

AMC The Grove is located at 189 The Grove Drive. For information, visit [holocaustmuseumla.org/filmseries](http://holocaustmuseumla.org/filmseries).

## Holocaust Museum hosts Teicholz Film Series

Holocaust Museum L.A. presents the Teicholz Film Series, a selection of five films focused on the theme of the aftermath of the Holocaust. The series will feature five screenings in July and August at AMC The Grove followed by panel discussions, moderated by award-winning journalist and producer Tom Teicholz.

"Operation Finale" (2018), will be shown on Thursday, July 10, at 6:30 p.m. The film tells the riveting story of the 1960 clandestine mission by Israeli commandos to capture former SS officer Adolf Eichmann and transport him from Argentina to Jerusalem for trial on charges of crimes against humanity. "Operation Finale" stars Oscar Isaac, Academy Award-winner Ben Kingsley, Nick Kroll and Joe Alwyn.

"The Pawnbroker" (1964) will be shown on Thursday, July 17, at

6:30 p.m. Based on the novel by Edward Lewis Wallant, the drama focuses on former professor Sol Nazerman, a survivor of a German concentration camp who now runs a pawn shop in East Harlem. Having witnessed his family's death at the hands of the Nazis, he is embittered toward humanity and pushes away anyone around him, including a young Puerto Rican employee, Jesus. Directed by Sidney Lumet and starring Oscar winner Rod Steiger, Geraldine Fitzgerald, Brock Peters, Jaime Sánchez and Morgan Freeman in his feature film debut, "The Pawnbroker" was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress.

"Enemies, A Love Story" (1989) will be shown on Thursday, July 24, at 6:30 p.m. Nominated for three

Academy Awards, the film was directed by Paul Mazursky and stars Ron Silver, Lena Olin and Oscar-winner Angelica Huston. It is based on a novel by Isaac Bashevis Singer and follows a Holocaust survivor living in New York City and struggling with depression after ordeals during the war.

"The Long Way Home" (1997) will be shown on Thursday, July 31,

at 6:30 p.m. An Oscar-winner for Best Documentary Feature, the film was directed by Mark Jonathan Harris and traces the plight of Jewish refugees after World War II and their determination to establish the State of Israel. With narration by Morgan Freeman and readings from diaries and letters by Edward Asner, Miriam Margolyes, Martin Landau, David Paymer and Helen Slater, "The Long Way Home" will be followed by a discussion with Mark Jonathan Harris.

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"Sophie's Choice," which will be shown on Aug. 7, stars Kevin Kline and Meryl Streep.

## Cats exhibition roars into Natural History Museum

The purrfect exhibition is coming to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County this summer, as "Fierce! The Story of Cats" will bring an in-depth look at a wide range of felines to the Exposition Park museum from July 13-Feb. 18, 2026.

Spanning continents and the ages, "Fierce! The Story of Cats" includes an array of incredible mounted specimens, interactive displays and cultural objects inspired by the fascinating creatures. The exciting new exhibition explores the diversity of felines – their behaviors, unique biology and complex relationship with humans – and offers an up-close-and-personal experience, highlighting their beauty and predatory skills. From ferocious tigers to beloved pets, the exhibition encourages guests to immerse themselves in the captivat-

ing world of cats while illuminating the importance of protecting wild species and their habitats.

"Cats have the impressive quality of being at once very familiar and mysterious," said Dr. Lori Bettison-Varga, president and director of the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County. "For many of us, cats are cherished members of our households, and for all of us, they are an integral part of the world's ecosystems. I hope that this fascinating exhibition inspires a sense of care and connection to the amazing felines that roam our planet, particularly here in Southern California."

The 10,000-square-foot multidisciplinary exhibition features more than 70 mounted specimens, including fossils, photographs and ephemera representing felines from all over the world and throughout history. Additionally, the exhibition

includes a special focus on Southern California, including the beloved mountain lion P-22 and large cats that roamed the Los Angeles basin in the Ice Age, as found at La Brea Tar Pits.

NHM visitors will be treated to immersive galleries on the diversity and evolution of cats, along with engaging interactives ranging from touchscreen content to experiencing how cats see in the dark to a "Guess Who?" game of global felines. The exhibition will also focus on cat culture and the ever-growing fascination with cats on social media. It will illuminate the plight of many species of wild cats that are in danger due to habitat loss, in line with NHM's commitment to showcasing the importance of biodiversity and habitat conservation.

On-site programming for



photo courtesy of the Natural History Museum

The new exhibition explores the history of felines.

"Fierce! The Story of Cats" includes a range of options for visitors of all ages, including a welcome day, specific "cat cafe" days and a special week of the Adventures in Nature Day Camp Feline Friends, for rising K-5 students.

The exhibition is an add-on experience; a general admission ticket is required for entry. Tickets start at \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. Members can view it free. For information, [nhm.org/cats](http://nhm.org/cats).

The National History Museum is located at 900 Exposition Blvd.

## New zoo exhibition tells stories of the 'Wild World'

The Los Angeles Zoo has partnered with Little Ray's Exhibitions to bring a special temporary exhibit "Wild World: Stories of Conservation + Hope" to the zoo this summer, running

through Sept. 30. The interactive exhibition tells the stories of real animals and the people who have dedicated their lives to helping them survive.

"We're excited to offer this spe-

cial experience to our guests this summer, connecting them to our mission of saving wildlife, enriching our communities, and creating connections to nature," Los Angeles Zoo CEO and Zoo Director Denise M. Verret said. "This experience brings a fun and immersive environment to Angelenos of all ages, fostering a safe space to learn more about the biodiversity around us and the critical work being done to conserve it."

"Wild World: Stories of Conservation + Hope" is located near the front entrance of the zoo. The exhibit features interactive science-based experiences, multimedia and live animals including reptiles, amphibians and tarantulas. Little Ray's Exhibitions is accredited by the Canadian Association of Zoos & Aquariums and is the largest exotic animal rescue in North America.

The Los Angeles Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive. For information, call (323)644-4200, or visit [lazoo.org](http://lazoo.org).



Young guests can learn about conservation in "Wild World: Stories of Conservation + Hope."

## Academy Museum presents film series based on 'Color in Motion: Chromatic Explorations of Cinema' exhibit

The Academy Museum is presenting a new film series, public events and education programs for July. "Bathed in Light: Saturated Colors in Cinema" is a film series inspired by the museum's "Color in Motion: Chromatic Explorations of Cinema" exhibition and celebrates some of the most impactful moments of electric cinematic color. Films highlighted in the series include "Tron" (1982),

"Suspiria" (1977), "Drive" (2011), "Spring Breakers" (2012) and "Moonlight" (2016).

Other July events include a screening of "Les Vampires," a panel entitled "Disabilities in Film: The Impact of Representation," "Cluny Brown" in 35mm nitrate, a drop-in tactile filmmaking workshop, a drop-in workshop for teens focused on creature design and storyboarding

in the style of Bong Joon Ho, a screening and talkback of "Crip Camp," a gallery spotlight on cinematic effects and other screening series focused on genres ranging from teen comedies to costume and hairstyling.

"Color in Motion: Chromatic Explorations of Cinema" is on view at the Academy Museum through July 13.

The Academy Museum is located at 6067 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit [academy.org](http://academy.org).



The Academy Museum's July programming includes teen educational workshops.

## Elephants march through Beverly Gardens Park

Throughout July, visitors to Beverly Gardens Park can encounter 100 life-size sculptures of Indian elephants. The installation is a temporary donation to the city of Beverly Hills from a global fundraising group known as the Great Elephant Migration.

The sculptures benefit 21 NGOs

that work to resolve conflicts between humans and wildlife. Each sculpture is for sale, and proceeds are donated to conservation efforts.

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

Each elephant is based on a real elephant currently migrating across the Nilgiri Hills of southern India. According to the group, "the exhibition amplifies Indigenous knowledge and inspires the human race to share space." The sculptures are made

of Lantana Camara, an invasive weed that has negatively impacted animal habitats in India.

The elephants' journey ends near the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, whose namesake philanthropist expressed support for the exhibition.

"These truly mesmerizing majestic mammals – sculpted to scale by Indigenous artists using plant remnants – are morally profound works of art that amplify how humans can coexist with nature, rather than co-opt it. The migration piece directly aligns with the Annenberg Foundation's work globally on conservation, as well as increasing engagement with the arts through powerful communication," Wallis Annenberg said.

The exhibition will be on view until Aug. 1.

For information, visit [the-great-elephant-migration.org](http://the-great-elephant-migration.org).

Beverly Gardens Park is located at 9439 Santa Monica Blvd.



photo courtesy of Gary McCarthy

One-hundred life-size elephants stand tall in Beverly Gardens Park until Aug. 1.

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## Keep pets safe during Fourth of July fireworks

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles is reminding the public to keep pets safe on the Fourth of July.

The loud noises and flashing lights of fireworks can trigger a pet's nervous system and cause fear and anxiety. A frequent response is to run, which is why many pets become lost and end up in shelters. SPCALA offers tips to help keep pets safe and calm.

Dogs and cats should be microchipped and wear current I.D. tags at all times. It is the best way to ensure a happy reunion if a pet goes missing.

Leave pets at home where they will be safe, secure and less stressed. Loud noises from fireworks can cause a dog to run away or a cat to hide for days. Keep pets indoors out of danger. Create a safe space for pets in a cool, well-ventilated room with soothing music playing softly in the background. Include a pet's favorite toys, a tasty chew and a blanket for comfort. Close windows and curtains to muffle noise and block flashing lights. It is ideal if at least one family member can stay home with the pet.

Never tie-up a dog to keep them from escaping. The loud noises from the fireworks can frighten a dog, making them more likely to attempt to flee. Dogs can seriously injure themselves or even die trying to escape.

For information, visit [spcalac.com](http://spcalac.com) and [laanimalservices.com](http://laanimalservices.com).

### NOTICE OF TEMPORARY HOSPITAL CLOSURE

Effective January 1, 2025

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

The three nearest facilities offering comparable services are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This notice is provided in compliance with California law.



## NOTICE INVITING SEALED BIDS FOR HAMMOND & ALTA LOMA BOLLARDS RE- PLACEMENT PROJECT, CIP 2507 IN THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

**PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City of West Hollywood as AGENCY, invites sealed bids to be received only by submitting electronically at:

<https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/public-works/bids>  
or <http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=22761>

for the above stated project and will only receive such bids no later than the hour of **5:00 P.M. on AUGUST 14, 2025**, at which time or thereafter said bids will be electronically opened and available online. Bids received after this time will be considered to be non-responsive.

No pre-bid meeting is scheduled.

The work to be done consists of furnishing all materials, equipment, tools, labor, and incidentals as required by the Plans, Specifications, and Contract Documents for the above state project. The general items of work include, at two locations in the City, the removal of the entire existing retractable bollard array system, the entire footing, all components and conductors, and the construction of new retractable bollard array systems and footings, new electrical cabinets, new power pedestal, new stop/go traffic signals/signage, and all appurtenant work and other items not mentioned that are required by the plans and specifications.

Bids must be submitted electronically for the exact item(s) requested in the bid specifications. Copies of the plans, specifications, and contract documents are available for free from the City of West Hollywood website:

<https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/public-works/bids>  
or  
<http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=22761>

Each bid submitted electronically is required to be accompanied by the Proposal Documents; Proposal, Bidder's Information, Proposal Bid Schedule (enter online), List of Subcontractors (enter online), Registration with the Calif. Dept. of Industrial Relations Form, References, Designator of Sureties, Bid Bond, Bidder's Violation of Law/Safety Questionnaire, Non-Collusion Declaration, Certificate of Non-Discrimination by Contractors, Statement Acknowledging Penal & Civil Penalties Concerning Contractors' Licensing Laws, Addendum Acknowledgement, and all additional documentation required by the Instructions to Bidders. Bids must be submitted on the Agency's bid forms.

The bid must be accompanied by certified or cashier's check, or bidder's bond, made payable to the AGENCY for an amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total bid price. Any proposal not accompanied by such a guarantee will not be considered.

Any contract entered into pursuant to this notice will incorporate the provisions of the State Labor Code. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1773.2 of the Labor Code of the State of California, the minimum prevailing rate of per diem wages for each craft, classification, or type of workman needed to execute the contract shall be those determined by the Director of Industrial Relations of the State of California, which are on file at the City Hall, City of West Hollywood, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, California 90069, and are available to any interested party on request.

Attention is directed to the provisions of Section 1777.5 (Chapter 1411, Statutes of 1968) and 1777.5 of the Labor Code concerning the employment of apprentices by the Contractor or any such subcontractor under him. Affirmative action to ensure against discrimination in employment practices on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, religion, sexual orientation, or handicap will also be required.

The AGENCY will deduct five (5) percent retention from all progress payments as specified in Subsection 7-3.2 of the standard specifications. The Contractor may substitute an escrow holder surety of equal value to the retention. The Contractor shall be beneficial owner of the surety and shall receive any interest thereon.

The AGENCY hereby affirmatively ensures that minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this notice and will not be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, or religion in any consideration leading to the award of contract.

In entering into a public works contract, or a subcontract, to supply goods, services, or materials pursuant to a public works contract, the Contractor, or subcontractor, offers and agrees to assign to the awarding body all rights, title, and interest in, and to, all causes of action it may have under Section 4 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. Section 15) or under the Cartwright Act (Chapter 2 [commencing with Section 16700] of Part 2 of Division 7 of the Business and Professions Code), arising from purchases of goods, services, or materials pursuant to the public works contract or the subcontract. This assignment shall be made and become effective at the time the awarding body tenders final payment to the Contractor, without further acknowledgement by the parties.

The successful bidder shall be licensed in accordance with the provisions of the Business and Professions Code and shall possess a valid **California State Contractor's License Class A** at the time of bid submittal.

### THE SUCCESSFULL BIDDER WHO ENTERS INTO CONTRACT WITH THE CITY FOR A VALUE GREATER THAN \$750,000, SHALL BE BOUND BY ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT LOCATED IN THE APPENDIX.

The City of West Hollywood reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or bids or to waive any irregularities or informalities in any bids or in the bidding should it deem this necessary for the public good, and also the bid of any Bidder who has been delinquent or unfaithful in any former contract with the City of West Hollywood and to take all bids under advisement for a period of ninety (90) days. No bidder may withdraw its bid for a period of ninety (90) days after the date of the opening thereof. The award of the contract, if made, will be to the lowest responsible Bidder as determined solely by the City of West Hollywood.

The California Air Resources Board ("CARB") implemented amendments to the In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulations ("Regulation") which are effective on January 1, 2024 and apply broadly to all self-propelled off road diesel vehicles 25 horsepower or greater and other forms of equipment used in California. A copy of the Regulation is available at:

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/barcu/regact/2022/off-roaddiesel/appa-1.pdf>

Bidders are required to comply with all CARB and Regulation requirements, including, without limitation, all applicable sections of the Regulation, as codified in Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations section 2449 *et seq.* throughout the term of the Project. Bidders must provide, with their Bid, copies of Bidder's and all listed subcontractors the most recent, valid Certificate of Reported Compliance ("CRC") issued by CARB. Failure to provide valid CRCs as required herein may render the Bid non-responsive.

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

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The following person(s) are doing business as BRICKS A GO GO, 950 NORTH KINGS ROAD, UNIT 124, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. BRICK CENTRIC, LLC, 950 NORTH KINGS ROAD, UNIT 124, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069. The business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, CA. The registrant has not yet started to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed herein. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on JULY 1, 2025. NOTICE - This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law. (See section 1440 et seq., Business Professions Code.)

7/3, 7/10, 7/17, 7/24/2025

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### Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

#### Across

- Some diner orders
- Sugar amts.
- Central Florida city
- Big melee/funny guy
- Robust
- Stop by
- Class of submarines/fancy sports car
- Clancy hero Jack
- Legislate
- They have two meanings
- Tall tale/ball of wool
- Bass, e.g.
- Unruffled
- Like some beaters
- Provide weapons/chair part
- Babbled
- Giant star
- Brainstorming session result
- To be married/hired
- Summer plus winter/ salts?
- Cry
- "Fiddlesticks!"
- Yak's home
- Compass point
- Cap'n's mate
- \_\_\_\_ and World Report
- Fond du \_\_\_, Wis.
- German "a"
- Veggie/crush or dock/protect
- Mother's sisters
- "Star Wars" princess

#### 61. Kind of court

62. Ralph of The Waltons

63. "Help \_\_\_ the way!"

64. Hand out

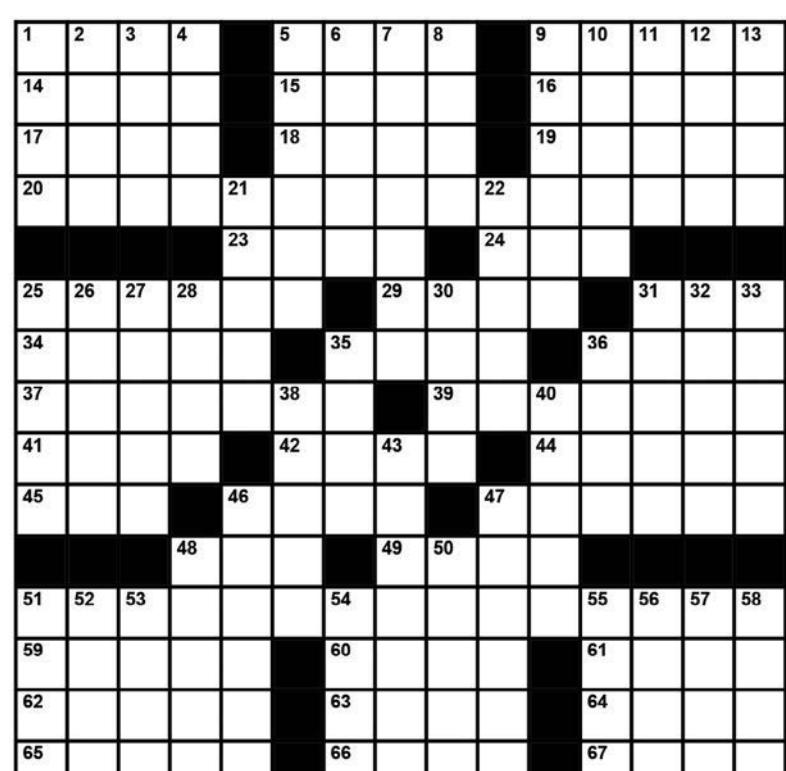
65. Ice hockey teams

66. Cornerstone abbr.

67. He's in boots

#### Down

- Thin fastener
- Disney character from Hawaii
- Good source of protein
- Injure
- Topic line in message board
- Singer, Leo
- Prepared carefully
- Dispatched
- Candidly
- Publisher Nast
- On \_\_\_ with (equal to)
- Pet parasites
- Colonial insects
- Telling a whopper
- Highest Boy Scout
- Hunts
- Highway divisions
- Go fish
- Shade of black
- "Wow!"
- Software maker
- Begin afresh
- Spars
- Exchanged words



36. "Beauty \_\_\_ the eye ..."

38. Notable period

40. Flummoxed

43. Unity

46. Sea and striped

47. "\_\_\_ me, you villain!"

48. Caffe \_\_\_

50. Bubblehead

51. Adages

52. Paris wharf

53. Multi-tasking computer system

54. "That's \_\_\_!"

55. Dudley Do-Right's org.

56. Sharp cheese

57. They may be wild

58. Deli wares

answers on page 27

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## The Music Center names new board chair

The board of directors of The Music Center on June 26 announced the appointment of Robert J. Abernethy, founder and president of American Standard Development Company and Self Storage Management Company, as its new chair. Serving on The Music Center Board for 22 years, Abernethy was named to the role at the board's annual meeting on June 25. His term began on July 1. Abernethy succeeds Cindy Miscikowski, who held the position of board chair since 2019. Miscikowski remains on The Music Center Board as member at-large.

Joining Abernethy in leadership positions on the board are current board members Cary Lefton and Darrell D. Miller, who have been named vice chairs. Lefton has served on the board for nine years

and currently chairs its Operations and Facilities Committee. Miller has served on the board for 11 years and chairs the board's Nominating and Governance Committee. Diane Medina and Sue Wegleitner will continue in their roles as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

As one of the nation's largest performing arts organizations, The Music Center presents world-class dance performances, nationally recognized K-12 arts learning programs, digital arts experiences and free and low-cost public concerts and events. The Music Center also manages an expansive campus that includes four theaters, the Jerry Moss Plaza and Gloria Molina Grand Park, comprising \$3 billion in assets, on behalf of the county of Los Angeles.

"It is a tremendous honor to be

named chair of The Music Center's board of directors, an institution I have been proud to support for more than two decades," Abernethy said. "The Music Center is a cornerstone of arts and culture in Los Angeles, and I am deeply committed to helping it thrive as an inclusive, inspiring and forward-looking destination for all Angelenos. I am excited to partner with my fellow board members, The Music Center's exceptional executive team and staff and our resident companies to expand the reach and impact of the arts across Los Angeles County and steward the organization's legacy into the future."

The Music Center Board has also inducted four prominent business and community leaders as new members: Romesh Anketell, program officer of The Ralph M.

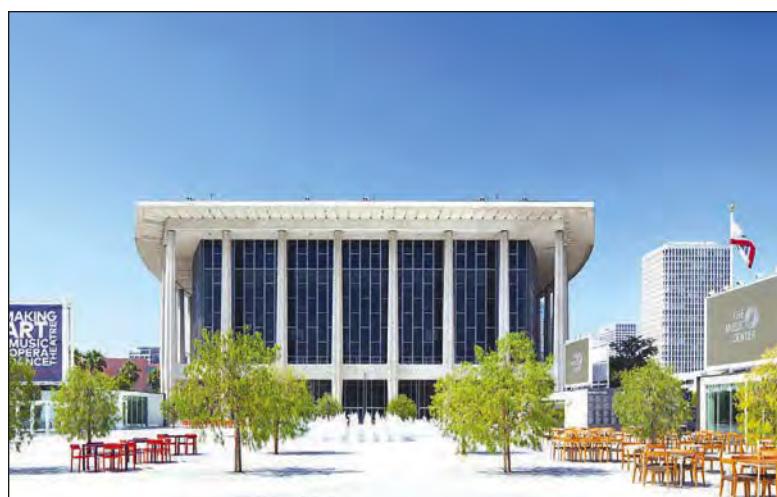


photo courtesy of The Music Center

Parsons Foundation; financial executive Ronnie Kaplan; and affordable housing developer Thomas Safran, who rejoins the board after a 10-year hiatus. Jason Subotky joins The Music Center Board as

designee for the LA Phil, one of The Music Center's resident company partners, for which he currently serves as board chair.

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

## Hammer Museum presents dystopic multi-dimensional exhibit

The Hammer Museum will present "NOX High-Rise," an immersive multi-gallery installation by London-based artist Lawrence Lek until Nov. 16. Threading together narratively linked videos, sound and objects across three distinct zones, "NOX High-Rise" delves into the advanced integration of AI entities in urban life and reflects on questions of agency, ethics and empathy between humans and machines.

Known for episodic storytelling, Lek blends narrative soundscapes and sci-fi mythologies with elements of game design, film, architecture and engineering. In 2023, he presented "NOX" at the LAS Art Foundation in Berlin, filling three floors with the first chapter in his Sino-futurist universe. The Hammer's presentation of

NOX High-Rise marks the next phase of the project, which probes the problems and promises of AI in an age of automation.

In the installation's fictional universe, "NOX," short for "Nonhuman Excellence," is a therapeutic center controlled by Farsight Corporation – a fictional AI conglomerate – where sentient self-driving cars with mental health problems undergo treatment, including equine therapy with real horses, before being returned for service. Lek's work considers the ethical and political implications of the development of artificial consciousness in a world shared by humans and machines.

The Hammer Museum is located at 10899 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit [hammer.ucla.edu](http://hammer.ucla.edu).



photo courtesy of Lawrence Lek and the Hammer Museum

Lawrence Lek's "NOX High-Rise" will appear at the Hammer Museum until November.

## Stars shine at L.A. Jewish Film Fest



photo courtesy of Todd Felderstein/LAJFF

Comedian Elon Gold, left, festival founder Hilary Helstein, Jewish Federation Board Chair Orna Wolens, comedian Jay Leno and actor Jonah Lees attended the opening night 20th Los Angeles Jewish Film Festival at the Saban Theatre Beverly Hills on June 26.

Attendees watched the Los Angeles premiere of "Midas Man," a biopic about The Beatles' manager Brian Epstein starring Leno as Ed Sullivan and Lees as John Lennon.

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

## Juanes returns to the Hollywood Bowl July 16

The LA Phil presents Latin music superstar and one of Latin rock's most influential voices Juanes at the Hollywood Bowl on Wednesday, July 16, at 8 p.m., as part of its 2025 Latin music concert series celebrating the richness and diversity of Latin sounds. Opening the night is instrumental trio LA LOM, known for a dynamic blend of Latin sounds and old-school soul, with a twang of Peruvian Chicha and Bakersfield Country.

It's nearly impossible to overstate the global influence of Juan Esteban Aristizábal Vásquez, known around the world simply as Juanes. Since his groundbreaking solo debut in 2000, the Colombian singer-songwriter has redefined Latin rock, fusing electric guitar-driven rock with folkloric Latin American rhythms and introspective lyrics. His global hits – including "La Camisa Negra," "Es Por Ti," and "A Dios Le Pido" – have made him one of the most beloved voices in Latin music.

A 29-time Grammy and Latin Grammy winner, Juanes has been named one of TIME's 100 Most Influential People, and praised by Rolling Stone, which listed "Un Día Normal" among the best albums of the 21st century. The New York Times hails him "a soulful poet with electric guitar."

After a seven-year absence from the Hollywood Bowl, Juanes returns to Los Angeles as part of a limited engagement of 2025 U.S. summer dates. In addition to celebrating many fan-favorite hits from throughout his career, the shows will also celebrate the 20th anniversary of "La Camisa Negra" and offer one of the first live performances of "Una Noche Contigo" – the first advance single from his upcoming 12th studio album.

"Playing the Hollywood Bowl is always something special. There's a magic in the air, a connection with the audience that stays with you," Juanes said. "Coming back after so many years, with music that tells the story of where I've been and where I'm going, feels like a beautiful full circle – especially in a city that has given me so much love."

Tickets are available at [hollywoodbowl.com](http://hollywoodbowl.com) or by calling (323)850-2000.

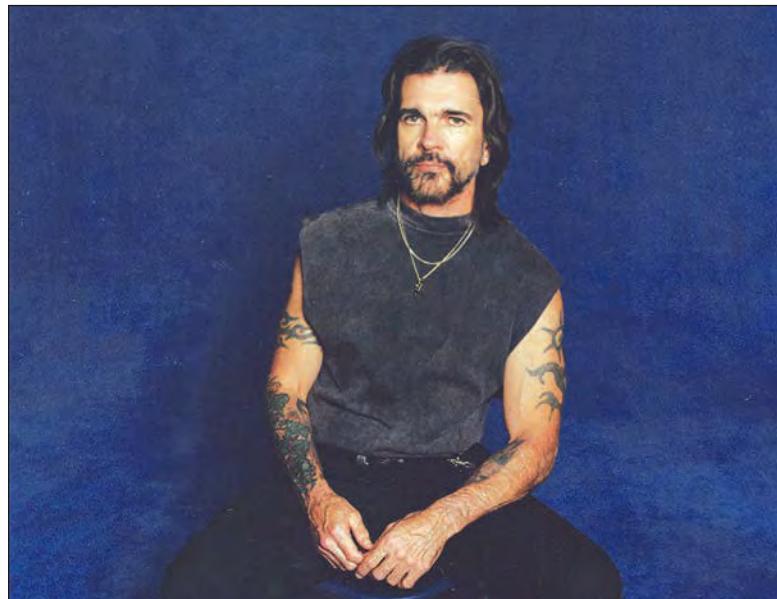


photo courtesy of the Hollywood Bowl

Latin superstar Juanes will perform at the iconic venue for the first time in seven years.



## 10 Reasons Why I Don't Want An Estate Plan

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

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

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## Join The Broad for events exploring Jeffrey Gibson exhibition

Celebrate the vitality of Native American creativity in Los Angeles, home to one of the largest Native populations in the United States, through a new series of live programs presented by The Broad in conjunction with the special exhibition "Jeffrey Gibson: the space in which to place me." Developed in collaboration with the artist, the events highlight thriving traditional and contemporary Native North American practices that span genres and generations.

The season includes intertribal and intergenerational Native singers and dancers, as part of the Sunset Exhibitions series; a short film showcase of international Indigenous filmmakers curated by film and television producer Bird Runningwater; and a screening of the historic 1961 film "The Exiles." Two Family Weekend Workshops invite children and families to par-

ticipate in hands-on artmaking projects inspired by Gibson's work, including one on the final day of the show. The Broad's summer concerts, one of which coincides with the museum's 10-year anniversary, return with a two-part festival-style series featuring the hip hop of Snotty Nose Rez Kids, introspective indie rock of Black Belt Eagle Scout, soulful stylings of M'lynn, innovative beats of Jin in a newly commissioned collaboration with Native musician Glen Begay of The BearSpring Singers, and experimental pow wow singer Joe Rainey. "I want people to experience the joy that Indigenous people feel when we come together in song, dance and community," Gibson said. "These moments are filled with connection, celebration and love. In Los Angeles, a place where diverse communities come together through art, it feels especially

meaningful to share the enduring power of creative expression and collectivity."

Each of the programs showcases the significant contributions that Native and Indigenous creatives continue to make across mediums and disciplines. Many of the programs are free, and all event tickets include access to "Jeffrey Gibson: the space in which to place me" and the museum's rotating third-floor collection galleries. The special exhibition is on view through Sept. 28.

On Sunday, July 6, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m., visit the Chapter House's LA NDN Flea Market at the Chapter House, 1770 Glendale Blvd. Join The Broad at the special offsite program where guests can make Gibson-inspired flags. Stop by The Broad booth to learn more about the exhibition, pose for photo ops, create an inspirational flag and receive giveaways. The market, which runs until 5 p.m., also features a curated selection of Indigenous vendors, food and live music.

A special edition of Sunset



photo by Joshua White/JWPictures.com

The Jeffrey Gibson installation is on display through Sept. 28 at The Broad

Exhibitions will be held on Thursday, July 17, from 7:30–8:30 p.m. at The Broad, featuring the Desert Cahuilla Bird Singers, a 15-member ensemble with dancers; a Chumash Women's Singing Group; Chumash and Tongva hip hop artist Jessa Calderon; Toveema, a three-generation singing group led by

Virginia Carmelo (Gabrielino/Tongva and Digueno/Kumey); and storyteller Louie Robles (Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation).

See the schedule for a complete list of events. The Broad is located at 221 S Grand Ave. For information, visit [thebroad.org](http://thebroad.org).

## Create Native art during WeHo pop-up installation

The city of West Hollywood invites the community to take part in an Art on the Outside pop-up installation on Sunday, July 6, from 4–6:30 p.m. at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. No RSVP is

necessary and artmaking is open to all ages. The pop-up will be adjacent to a Summer Sounds concert occurring the same afternoon.

"Ventanas Huicholas" is a one-day public artwork and participato-

ry event by San Diego-based artist Natalie Gonzalez made of "Tsikuris," which are traditional votive objects made by weaving a design out of yarn on two wooden sticks. "Tsikuris" translates to "God's Eyes" in the Wirarika indigenous language of Mexico. They are commonly found in some native communities of northwest Mexico and throughout the southwest United States.

"God's Eyes" is a ritual tool that was believed to protect those while they pray, a magical object and an ancient cultural symbol evoking the weaving motif and its spiritual associations. The community is invited to participate in a crafting exercise and make their own "God's Eyes" with the artist on July 6.

The Huichol, also known as Wixárika, are an Indigenous people of Mexico, primarily residing in the Sierra Madre Occidental mountain

range. They are known for preserving unique culture and traditions, including intricate art forms and deep spiritual practices. Their "God's Eyes" are called "Tsikuri," which means, "the power to see and understand things unknown." During Spanish colonial times, "God's Eyes" were placed where people worked or where they walked along a trail. The artwork celebrates the rich heritage of the Huichol culture while speaking to the multinational character of Southern California.

Gonzalez was born in Los Angeles but spent much of her life in Mexico. She earned a degree in

cultural management from the Universidad de Guadalajara. Gonzalez has extensive experience working with public art projects as a visual artist, art curator and outreach coordinator. Her artistic endeavors are centered around acrylic, mixed media and art installations, characterized by the use of simple shapes, lines and organic imagery.

Art on the Outside is West Hollywood's temporary art program that installs artwork throughout the city. Most exhibitions remain on display between six months and three years. For information, visit [weho.org/arts](http://weho.org/arts).

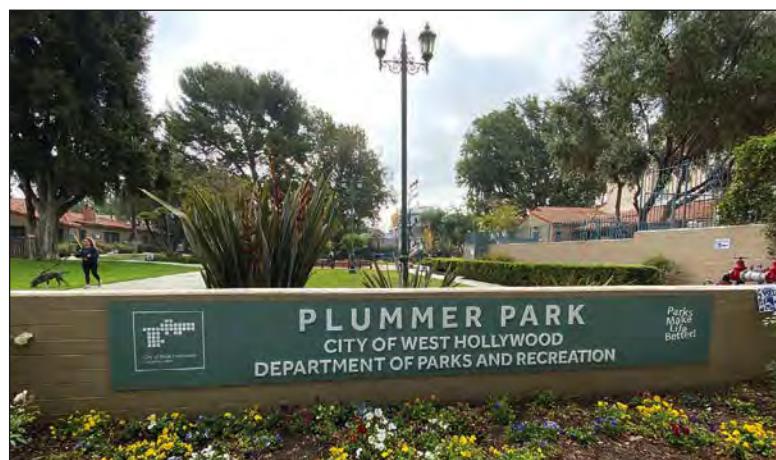


photo by Edwin Folven

The artmaking workshop at Plummer Park in West Hollywood is open to all ages.

## Getty presents 'Lines of Connection: Drawing and Printmaking'

The J. Paul Getty Museum presents "Lines of Connection: Drawing and Printmaking," a major international loan exhibition of approximately 70 works on paper exploring the relationship between drawing and printmaking in Western European art from the 16th-19th centuries. Organized by the J. Paul Getty Museum and the Art Institute of Chicago, the exhibition is on view at the Getty Center through Sept. 14. A separate display, unique to the Getty's presentation, will feature the drawings and prints of artist Toba Khedoori, bringing the exhibition's themes to Los Angeles' vibrant contemporary art community.

"We are delighted to once again collaborate with the Art Institute of Chicago in bringing together a selection of exceptional works that redefine the relationship between drawing and printmaking," Getty Museum Director Timothy Potts said. "No other exhibition has so thoroughly examined their connection, providing a new perspective that will challenge traditional views of both media."

From about 1400 to 1850, drawings and prints facilitated the production of one another, and each

inspired artists to generate new works in the other medium. It was common practice among collectors and specialists to store, view and study drawings and prints together, sometimes even substituting one for the other. The strong connection stemmed from their material, visual and kinetic similarities. Both relied on the same material and used a shared graphic vocabulary, and some of the bodily movements behind the mark-making often corresponded.

"Lines of Connection: Drawing

and Printmaking" is curated by Edina Adam, assistant curator of drawings at the Getty Museum and Jamie Gabbarelli, Prince Trust associate curator of prints and drawings at the Art Institute of Chicago. The co-authored exhibition catalog features four essays by Adam and Gabbarelli and six extended entries titled "Spotlights" written by curators and conservators at each institution.

To complement the exhibition, Getty will offer free printmaking workshops and gallery educator-led tours, as well as short gallery presentations by museum staff trained in printmaking.

For information, visit [getty.edu](http://getty.edu).

The Getty Center is located at 1200 Getty Center Drive.



photo courtesy of Getty

Works in the exhibition include Hendrick Goltzius' "A Right Hand," (1588).

## VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

### Flag from U.S. Capitol flies at Hancock Park Elementary



Gwynne Nelson, 9, and Walter Meyer, 10, helped teacher Marian Saund raise a flag formerly flown at the U.S. Capitol at Hancock Park Elementary School in this photograph in the June 26, 1975, issue of the Park Labrea News. Saund was married to Congressman D.S. Saund, who donated the flag to the school. Hancock Park Elementary was the only public campus in Los Angeles at the time to have a flag flown at the U.S. Capitol, according to the accompanying article. D.S. Saund (1899-1973), who was born in the Punjab Province of India and immigrated to the United States in 1920, was a successful rancher and court judge before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and serving from 1957-63. He was the first Sikh, first Indian American and first Asian American elected to United States Congress.

# 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 22 and June 28. 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 22

At 12:58 p.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Le Doux and Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of N. Rodeo at 3:18 p.m.

At 3:19 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire.

### June 23

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near Dayton and Rodeo at 3 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 9800 block of Charleville.

### June 24

At noon, an unknown suspect stole auto parts in the 300 block of S. Doheny.

An unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 300 block of N. Robertson at 4:30 p.m.

At 11:30 p.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the 200 block of N. Cañon.

### June 25

At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9100 block of Wilshire.

### June 26

At 6:30 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 600 block of N. Doheny.

### June 27

An unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 300 block of N. Elm at 4 a.m.

At 4:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 300 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9300 block of Wilshire at 9:52 a.m.

### June 28

At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of N. La Peer.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of N. Sierra at 2:39 p.m.

At 3:01 p.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Charleville and Doheny.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 5:29 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. La Peer.

An unknown suspect committed a

residential burglary in the 400 block of N. Oakhurst at 10:30 p.m.

## West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

### June 22

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

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 8400 block of Sunset at 12:50 p.m.

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

### June 23

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8400 block of Santa Monica at 1 a.m.

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7500 block of Lexington.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8500 block of Santa Monica at 5:35 a.m.

At 8:09 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Santa Monica at 855 a.m.

At 2:54 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 900 block of N. Larrabee.

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

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

### June 24

At 9:23 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8700 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7800 block of Santa Monica at 9:54 a.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1200 block of N. Kings.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 500 block of N. Orlando at 8:13 p.m.

### June 25

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of Sierra Bonita at 2:09 a.m.

At 7:51 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8400 block of Santa Monica.

### June 26

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1200 block of N. Detroit at 2 p.m. An additional theft was reported in the same area at 2:12 p.m.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Alfred and Santa Monica at 2:30 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a

# Law puts spotlight on guns linked to crimes

U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (D-Calif.), a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Representative Jamie Raskin (D-Md.), ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee, introduced a bicameral bill on June 26 to prevent the federal government from contracting with federally licensed firearms dealers that have a documented history of selling guns that are frequently used to commit violent crimes.

Existing federal law requires federally licensed firearms dealers that have sold 25 or more guns over the course of a single year that are subsequently traced to violent crimes within three years of their sale to report additional information on their sales practices to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The Clean Hands Firearm Procurement Act would leverage the ATF data to identify the small number of federally licensed firearms dealers that are consistently and dramatically overrepresented in criminal activity and render them ineligible for federal contracts.

"Far too often, lucrative federal contracts are inexplicably awarded to firearm dealers who have been linked to dangerous crime," Padilla said. "The federal government should not be doing business with repeat offenders who are fueling our national gun violence epidemic. Our commonsense legislation aims to combat senseless and preventable gun violence by ensuring that gun dealers keep guns from falling into the wrong hands."

The ATF established the Demand 2 Program more than two decades ago to improve the clearance rate for tracing firearms used in crimes. Crime gun tracing, administered by

the National Tracing Center, establishes the chain of custody of firearms recovered by law enforcement agencies in criminal investigations, from the importer or manufacturer to the first retail purchase, creating critical investigative links between a suspect and a recovered

firearm.

The Clean Hands Firearm Procurement Act is endorsed by Brady, Community Justice Action Fund, Everytown, GIFFORDS, Jewish Democratic Council of America and the National Council of Jewish Women.



photo by Edwin Folven

The interior of the home on Afton Place was significantly damaged.

## Firefighters keep flames from spreading at Hollywood home

A fire damaged a Craftsman-style single-family home in Hollywood on June 29, leaving the one-story structure uninhabitable. The Los Angeles Fire Department was called around 1:55 a.m. to a residence at 6221 Afton Place in the neighborhood just east of Vine Street and north of Melrose Avenue. Flames could be seen inside the structure when

firefighters arrived, LAFD spokeswoman Margaret Stewart said. The fire spread to the attic, but firefighters prevented the flames from spreading to neighboring apartment buildings. Thirty-two firefighters extinguished the blaze in 22 minutes. No injuries were reported and the cause remains under investigation.

## D.A. warns about penalties for illegal fireworks

Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman is warning residents not to light, possess or sell illegal fireworks, citing a case in which powerful explosives injured a woman and damaged property in an Inglewood residential neighborhood.

"Illegal fireworks are not just dangerous, they're criminal," Hochman said. "If you set off explosives in our neighborhoods, injure our residents, damage our homes and terrorize our communities, we will come after you with the full weight of the law. Do not gamble with your freedom this Fourth of July."

Hochman cited a case involving defendant Joshua Alavez, 26, of Inglewood, who was awaiting a preliminary hearing on illegal fireworks charges when he allegedly set off more illegal fireworks that resulted in a woman being injured on Christmas Day 2024.

The blasts shattered windows in an apartment building and damaged

multiple vehicles. One of the explosives went through a female victim's bedroom window, causing lacerations to her face.

Alavez, who allegedly ran a clothing line advertising "pyrotechnics," allegedly modified several fireworks to increase their concussive detonations. He faces one felony count each of explosion of destructive device causing bodily injury, possession of the ingredients to make a destructive device and possession of a destructive device on a public street. Alavez also faces two felony counts of vandalism resulting in \$400 or more in damage or destruction of property. It is further alleged that at the time of the crimes, the defendant was released from custody on bail.

Alavez pleaded not guilty to all counts. A pretrial hearing is scheduled for July 9. If convicted, he faces up to 35 years in state prison.

While fireworks-related offenses are handled by District Attorney's

Office's branch offices throughout Los Angeles County, the Arson and Explosives Section of the Target Crimes Division leads the prosecution of the most serious cases. Since Jan. 1, 2024, prosecutors have filed 54 cases countywide involving destructive devices, explosives and illegal fireworks.

"I'm grateful to the prosecutors in our Target Crimes Division and deputy district attorneys throughout our office, as well as our law enforcement partners, who are working diligently to eliminate the use of illegal and destructive fireworks in our communities," Hochman said.

The DA's Office urges anyone who witnesses illegal fireworks activity to report it immediately to law enforcement. Residents are reminded that even possession of certain fireworks can be a felony under California law, particularly when the fireworks are modified or used in a reckless manner.

Santa Monica at 2 p.m.

At 2:02 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Beverly.

A burglary was reported in the 8500 block of Melrose at 7 p.m.

### June 28

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7300 block of Santa Monica at 4:35 a.m.

At 3:10 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Greenacre and Santa Monica.

block of Santa Monica.

### June 27

At 8:30 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near Poinsettia and Santa Monica at 1:15 p.m.

At 1:40 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7300 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8800 block of

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8100

# LACMA offers preview of new galleries

From page 1

Michael Govan, the preview event gave special guests and members of the public a chance to explore the building – nearly two decades in the making – before it is filled with art leading up to the April 2026 grand opening.

“This has been the product of decades of work and literally thousands of people ... and to commemorate that, I wanted to do something very special. If you will, a blessing on the building,” Govan said as he introduced Washington to a cheering crowd. “‘Harmony of Difference’ is his homage to the diversity of Los Angeles. That’s what makes us so special, and he has embodied that. The way [the new galleries were] built, this is literally an acoustic miracle ... and when it’s empty, it’s like an instrument. This has never happened before, and it may never happen again.”

Designed by renowned Swiss architect Peter Zumthor, the David Geffen Galleries were conceived as a work of art unto themselves. A modern marvel, the undulating concrete structure extends out horizontally far beyond what is typically seen in a traditional post and beam structure, creating an almost levitating illusion. Designed to display art from across medium and millennia in a single level without hierarchy, the galleries are all located on one elevated level, while the ground level features outdoor spaces for installations, music, special programs and dining. Triumphant in its imposing size, the concrete structure lends a sense of permanence and gravitas, while the uninterrupted floor-to-ceiling windows spanning the perimeter of the galleries flood the space with light, creating a natural warmth amid a sea of gray.

Expansive spaces just inside the panoramic windows allow artworks to be viewed in a natural setting, while various chapel-like rooms of different sizes in the interior provide more intimate spaces for viewing.

Allowing in natural light was a top consideration in the David Geffen Galleries, and Zumthor’s design allows visitors to see LACMA’s collection in new ways.

The floor-to-ceiling windows provide ample opportunity to “side light” sculptures and other three-dimensional works, which is ideal for the most dramatic viewing effect. This angle of natural lighting will provide an especially enhanced view of the thousands of culturally significant objects from around the globe in LACMA’s permanent collection, highlighting the textures and intricacies of some of the museum’s most treasured works from Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe and beyond.

In contrast, the interior chapel spaces will provide near complete darkness to display more delicate objects like works on paper and textiles. However, Zumthor’s space remains committed to the promise of light, adding a small 5-inch gap at the top of each chapel space to allow a small ray of daylight to peek in.

“Peter held off the walls five inches as they go up, so that when you go in and it will be even dimmer, you will see glimpses of daylight,” Govan said. “We have galleries we call courtyard galleries. As [you] walk through, you will notice deeper, darker spaces that are courtyards. It can get quite dim in the courtyards, and that’s the idea. We designed it to divide the museum in half and have space between these kinds of mixed light galleries and these houses, as we would like to call them. The metaphor is this is a village with a door in, and then in those spaces is where we have complete light control, so we can show the most fragile textiles, works on paper and we can go almost to dark.”

Artworks that can withstand sunlight but need special protection will be shielded by curtains that still allow some natural light. Sharon

Takeda, senior curator and department head of costume and textiles and Japanese art, showcased the innovatively designed quicksilvered fabric that will protect works from UV exposure without inhibiting the gallery’s panoramic views.

In homage to LACMA’s neighbor, the La Brea Tar Pits and Museum, the shiny floors are a deep tar color with seashells embedded in them paying tribute to the natural world and the city’s geology.

“You can see shells scattered throughout like little sparkly details into the concrete,” Govan added.

The David Geffen Galleries’ interior spaces were designed intentionally in gray concrete to differentiate them from other museums throughout the world and to offer a new ideal way of viewing art.

“Probably the biggest waste of energy in museums is tearing down walls and putting them up. And we do have two giant buildings (the Broad Contemporary Art Museum and the Lynda and Stewart Resnick Exhibition Pavilion) packed with sheetrock [for changeable installations],” Govan said. “But this was the collection, and we have millennia of art here. We talked about the materiality, that concrete goes with everything, and sheetrock is a recent invention, it’s a really modern backdrop. Concrete was used for, obviously, millennia, and it’s also a beautiful gray. Gray is the best color because lights come forward, darks recede, so it’s a beautiful backdrop for art, both emotionally and in the sense that it’s timely for our collections.”

Carlos Gonzales, division president of Clark Construction, the concrete contractor for the Zumthor building, shared a personal story about the importance of the building being made of concrete.

“I was born and raised in Mexico City and like many other people I had the opportunity to immigrate to Southern California, and I remember coming as a child, [the home] where I stayed, the men would get up and work in construction projects. They were concrete carpenters and laborers and in my young child life I experienced ‘they are living the American dream by working in concrete.’ So, when I was 12 years old, I went to my parents and told them ‘I got it figured out, I want to be a concrete worker.’ They said, ‘OK, but you have to get an education first.’ Fast forward, I had the opportunity to work in concrete – I did get an engineering degree and that keeps me a little bit away from the actual people who are doing the work, but I still feel connected to that passion ... to do something tangible and have that be the path to realize my own



photo by Karen Villalpando

LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director Michael Govan explained key design details incorporated into the galleries.

American dream. I am incredibly thankful and proud of what the workers that made it happen ultimately delivered.”

Govan echoed that the new David Geffen Galleries are a culmination of work by top designers, architects, engineers, construction professionals and carpenters, and of course, dozens of curators who over the course of years envisioned and conceptualized the new building and came up with a space unlike any other.

Govan noted that every concept and addition was critiqued and then critiqued again to ensure the best possible art viewing experience.

“The whole idea of the space was it’s a new idea. No one has ever experienced this before. There hasn’t been a museum design like this. That is the spirit of experimentation,” Govan said.

LACMA’s new galleries were also designed to maximize the number of artworks that can be viewed at one time from the museum’s collection of approximately 150,000 pieces. The works on view will be regularly replaced with new pieces so visitors always enjoy a new experience.

“You will see the building itself really avoids linear histories or linear paths. The [idea] was to make something that was more like wandering through a park where you create your own journey,” Govan said, adding that the concept was partially inspired by Frederick Law Olmsted’s design of Central Park in New York City. “If you take a left or right, you’re going to end up at the same place and create your own journey. And that was a little of the idea that if you go into a house gallery, one concept, it’s really clear, it’s all around you. And then you have pockets of things, and you could wander around from different perspectives toward them. As I

always say, as in life, you can come from different perspectives and what you see first changes from what you see again.”

The David Geffen Galleries will not be open to the public again until the grand opening next April. Member previews are being held July 3-5. A preview for NexGenLA members, the museum’s program for young members and families, will be held on July 6. NexGenLA members can participate in hands-on workshops, family tours, puppet walkarounds and a scavenger hunt at the exclusive preview of the new building. For information on becoming a NexGenLA member, visit lacma.org/event/nexgenla-sneak-peek-david-geffen-galleries. For information on the new David Geffen Galleries, visit lacma.org.

Rebecca Villalpando contributed to this story

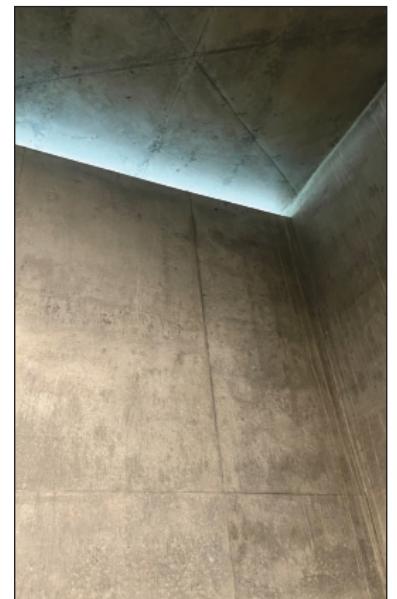


photo by Karen Villalpando

Interior spaces in the new David Geffen Galleries were designed with small gaps near the ceilings to allow natural light inside.

# Tax credit will boost film and TV production

From page 2

Burbank, Newsom also announced that 16 new projects will begin filming in California, which are projected to hire 6,664 cast and crew members and 59,000 background workers. The projects include HBO Max’s “The Pitt,” Hulu’s “Paradise” and CBS’s “NCIS: Origins.”

“This is a huge win, and we have the chance to make it even stronger,”

said Kate Holguín, a social impact producer and head of legislative affairs for Stay in LA, a grassroots organization advocating for more film production in Los Angeles. “By increasing the base credit and expanding eligibility, we can turn this investment into thousands of jobs across the state.”

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass and Assemblyman Rick Chavez

Zbur (D-Hollywood) appeared with Newsom at the celebratory event. The California Film and Television Jobs Act, a separate bill authored by Zbur and State Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) that further strengthens the film tax credit program, is set for a vote in the State Senate on July 3.

“That’s a lifeline – it means jobs returning to our sound stages. It

means crews back on set,” Zbur said. “It means working families being able to pay their bills and put roofs over their heads.”

Noah Wylie, writer, producer and star of “The Pitt” also spoke after he walked over from the film set on the Warner Brothers studios lot. He highlighted Rob Nary, a special effects coordinator working on the show whose father and grandfather were also special effects coordinators.

“What we get by shooting a show here in Los Angeles – we get Rob Nary,” he said. “But we also get three generations worth of experi-

ence and apprenticeship and expertise and mastery that come with Rob Nary. You can build another soundstage in another state but we won’t get a Rob Nary that comes with it.”

Filmmaker Austin James Wolff also said the tax incentives were a victory, but called on the government to do even more to help filmmakers after the COVID-19 pandemic decimated the industry.

“I think it’s a huge step in the right direction, and proves that the government actually wants filming to return here and they’re putting their money where their mouth is,” he said.

# Dog park upgrades scrutinized in WeHo

From page 1

project that nobody, and I mean nobody, wants."

"Separating the dog play area into two sections, one for smaller dogs, is a solution in search of a problem, and wouldn't have been suggested by anyone who'd come and spend some time at the park," said Bob Claster, a Los Angeles resident who walks his goldendoodle, another Maggie, almost daily in Hart Park, and has used the park since 2005.

The renovations would expand the total off-leash space for dogs in the park from 5,200 square feet to more than 6,250 square feet, a 20% increase, according to Abramson. He also provided the solution of a movable divider between the two sections that could be removed for weekly "full access Fridays." Abramson added that the city has heard the demand for distinct small and large areas through outreach efforts. Hang echoed the idea that the different sections would allow small dog owners to "feel reassured their pups will be safer when the fence is in place, while those with larger dogs still have plenty of space to roam."

The City Council directed staff in 2018 to improve Hart Park's accessibility as well as lighting, security and the off-leash dog area. In September 2024, the council approved a design agreement with Stoss, Inc. to renovate the park, including the addition of synthetic turf to the off-leash dog area. At the time, Claster, along with other com-

munity members, raised concerns about the turf, claiming the material is carcinogenic, raises the surrounding temperature, has a foul odor and is environmentally harmful. The City Council redirected staff to propose alternative surface materials after the public's response.

During the June 30 meeting, Abramson said the city is considering alternative options to wood chips, including a more gentle and environmentally friendly "engineered wood fibre." However, the decision on surface material is still under consideration.

Hang instructed staff at the meeting to conduct more research on healthier wood chip alternatives. Meister added that she personally favored synthetic turf but supported the city's direction to implement wood chips.

"So long as they are organic and non-toxic, that sounds fine to me," Claster added about the new proposed wood chips.

Beyond the renovations, Yocum also expressed disappointment at the possibility of losing the park for up to eight months, something he said the dog walking community was only informed of in February, after the renovations had been in talks for years.

"We'll be without a park," he said. "This is a community they're breaking up. These are hundreds upon hundreds of people, probably in the thousands, that come every week."

He said that frequent park users

are frustrated at the lack of engagement and notice from city staff on the proposed renovations, adding that the city never posted notice of the design plans at the park or included a member of the dog walking community in the committees that are deciding the renovations. However, Abramson said the city has held multiple community meetings in Hart Park, created the Public Facilities Commission Dog Park Subcommittee and solicited feedback from members of the public during multiple City Council and subcommittee meetings.

Beyond dog walkers, the Actors Studio's Los Angeles location is located at the park, with actors frequently using the picnic table area to rehearse and gather during breaks. The proposed closure of the park would impact the studio's daily operations.

"The upcoming construction plans for the Hart Park will have a substantial impact on the day to day activities of The Actors Studio," said Helen Sanders, the West Coast general manager of The Actors Studio, who attended the June 30 meeting along with actor and studio member Barbara Bain. "However, we are happy to work with the city and the designers to accommodate the process. And we look forward to the end result and feel it will be a wonderful improvement for the entire West Hollywood community."

Another concern of regular dog walkers is how the new proposed



photo by Sam Mulick

Dog owners fear the park's renovations will decrease the available space for their dogs.

the off-leash area. Though the city has since altered plans to not remove trees, Yocum hopes they will go further by marking the trees. Tasha Lowe, a 25-year West Hollywood resident who has walked her three chihuahua mixes in the park for the past five years, said she came to the June 30 meeting to ensure the protection of the park's trees.

The Hart Park Ad-Hoc Subcommittee meeting will reconvene later this summer, when city staff will present more ideas on the off-leash surface material and the park's proposed seating options before presenting final plans to the City Council. A new dog park at Plummer Park is also scheduled to begin construction and open within the next year. Construction on Hart Park is currently planned to begin in mid-2026.

## Police seek driver in fatal Hollywood hit-and-run

From page 4

was standing by her car when she was struck by the Mercedes.

"I can't begin to describe the gut wrenching hole that has been chiseled [in] my heart. My love, my soulmate, my partner in crime was taken from me without any warning," Edwards said. "We just bought a house [and] we closed escrow ... and got the keys. I'm still unpacking boxes. We were building our family. We wanted to have kids and were taking the next step to make a home and now that's all gone. The world just got a lot darker because we lost such a beautiful light. The amount of lives she has touched and changed will be the memory that I hold onto forever."

A GoFundMe campaign was organized by Kris' sister Andrea Edwards and raised more than \$96,000 as of July 2. Visit [gofundme.com/f/assist-kris-in-erikas-final-farewell](http://gofundme.com/f/assist-kris-in-erikas-final-farewell).

"I don't have the right words

for this – there probably aren't any. It's hard to wrap my head around it ... Tilly was such a bright, fierce, loving soul, and this loss feels unreal," Jordan Kensley posted.

The hit-and-run collision is being investigated by the LAPD's West Traffic Division, which said speed was a factor. Authorities are searching for security camera footage and are asking any witnesses to come forward.

A \$50,000 reward is available for information leading to the driver's identification, apprehension and conviction.

Anyone with information is urged to call detectives with the Los Angeles Police Department's West Traffic Division at (213)473-0234.

During weekends and off-hours, call the department's 24-hour hotline at (877)LAPD247, or submit tips to [lacrimestoppers.org](http://lacrimestoppers.org).

## Beverly Hills considers short-term rental ban

From page 1

In multifamily buildings, units cannot be rented for less than 30 days.

Housing advocates have raised concerns about short-term rentals, and argue that they can exacerbate housing affordability issues. Short-term rentals often negatively impact the housing market, as they reduce the overall number of units and can potentially make existing units less affordable.

Additionally, residents in Beverly Hills have expressed concerns over short-term rental properties that often become nuisances, where loud parties are thrown by out-of-town visitors.

Nearby cities have taken a similar approach against short-term and vacation rentals, including West Hollywood and Santa Monica. In 2024, West Hollywood passed an ordinance requiring a one-year minimum lease on single-family homes and condominiums.

An ordinance banning short term rentals was supported by members of the community through public comment. Several hotels supported the ordinance, arguing that short-term rentals hurt the revenue of

local hotels and create an unregulated market.

However, some residents who supported the basis of the ordinance also argued that an exemption should be made for historic homes.

Deborah Blum, an owner of a 1913 Craftsman-style home that is a designated historic landmark, said she relies on the income from short-term rentals to maintain her property.

"For the past two decades, we have relied on income from the short-term rental of our guest house to fund our preservation efforts. All these rentals have occurred without any disturbance, while we have resided in the main house," Blum said. "Please consider adding an historic caretaker exemption to the new ordinance. We propose that landmark properties be permitted to rent guest houses for under 30 days provided the owners maintain primary residence and direct oversight."

The City Council expressed support for increasing the minimum lease duration and creating an exemption for historic landmark properties with accessory dwelling

units. According to city staff, there are 19 historic landmark residences within the city, and approximately 5-6 have accessory units that could be rented.

"We pride ourselves to preserve our community, safety, security and our quality of life as a neighborhood. I strongly am against creating policies that we cannot enforce. And the way that the current policies are written, it looks like they're not enforceable," Mayor Sharona Nazarian said. "Obviously we want to be able to support housing. With the data that was shared with us, I'm fine with a one-year increase for multifamily as well as single family."

In addition to a minimum one-year lease, the ordinance will increase penalties for properties that violate the short-term rental prohibition, including fees.

The ordinance enacting a one-year minimum lease will return to the City Council on July 15. A separate ordinance making an exception for historic properties will go to the Planning Commission for review.

## Fourth of July celebrations planned

From page 1

Performances will be held July 3 and 4 at 7:30 p.m. The Hollywood Bowl is located at 2301 Highland Ave. For information, visit [hollywoodbowl.com](http://hollywoodbowl.com).

Some cities and neighborhoods have cancelled or postponed Fourth of July celebrations including Los

Angeles, Huntington Park, Boyle Heights, El Sereno and Lincoln Heights, citing concerns for community safety or the increased presence of Immigration and Customs Enforcement within the area.

The Music Center, along with Gloria Molina Grand Park,

announced the postponement of the regular Fourth of July Gloria Molina Grand Park's Summer Block Party in Downtown L.A. to a later date in the summer. Downtown L.A. has been the site of recent immigration raids by federal law enforcement and subsequent protests.

"Gloria Molina Grand Park opened more than a decade ago to become not only the park for everyone, but also as a place where community and connection are celebrated," Gloria Molina Grand Park Director Robert Gonzalez said. "We are disappointed to postpone what would have been the largest free Fourth of July celebration on the West Coast – yet, the safety of our guests, artists, staff and volunteers will always be our number one priority."

## Answers From Page 22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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14	R	I	O	T	15	H	A	L	E	P	O	P
17	A	L	F	A	18	R	Y	A	N	E	N	A
20	D	O	U	B	21	L	E	E	T	E	N	D
23	Y	A	R	N	24	A	L	E	A	L	E	R
25	P	I	A	C	26	E	G	G	Y	31	S	A
34	R	A	N	O	35	I	D	O	L	36	I	D
37	E	N	G	A	38	D	S	39	S	40	E	A
41	Y	E	L	L	42	P	O	43	H	44	T	B
45	S	S	E	B	46	B	O	47	U	48	U	S
51	S	Q	U	A	52	H	A	53	N	54	B	R
59	A	U	N	T	60	L	E	51	C	52	C	L
62	W	A	I	T	63	I	S	53	L	54	M	E
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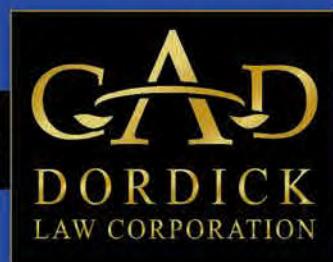
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