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

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August 15, 2024

El Rodeo celebrates grand reopening in Beverly Hills

■ Leaders honor school's past, present and future

BY Tabor Brewster

More than 2,000 Beverly Hills residents – including families, teachers, administrators, students and local leaders – descended upon the newly renovated El Rodeo Elementary School on Sunday,

Aug. 11, to celebrate the school's grand opening following a five-year construction project. The modernization effort – which included seismic retrofitting and a renovation of school facilities – began in 2019 and was originally scheduled

See El Rodeo page 22



photo by Tabor Brewster

The Beverly Hills City Council, BHUSD Board of Education and El Rodeo School leadership joined together on Aug. 11 for the grand opening of El Rodeo Elementary School.

Wires Only gets its wires crossed, again

■ Dealership fails to pay appeal fee after permit is denied

BY Tabor Brewster

After the Beverly Hills Planning Commission denied the conditional use permit for a luxury car dealership on Wilshire Boulevard in June, the dealership appealed the decision. However, in the latest turn of

events in a years-long saga involving complaints from neighbors, code violations and chaotic planning commission meetings, the dealership, Wires Only, failed to pay the appeal fee on time, putting the ordeal to rest once and for all.

"The applicant appealed the commission's decision on that item but did not pay the appeal fee by the deadline. So that appeal is considered withdrawn and the Planning Commission's decision on that mat-

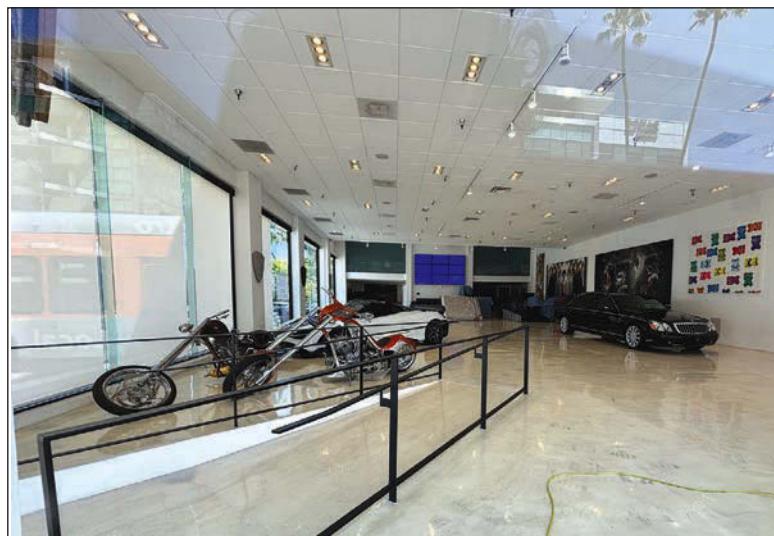
ter is final," said Michael Forbes, director of community development.

The showroom features a collection of supercars, lowriders, racecars and motorcycles that are visible from the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Wetherly Drive. The owner, RD Whittington, is known for the Jamie Foxx-produced television series "Million Dollar Wheels," in which he makes big-budget car sales to celebrities like Kim Kardashian and Tom Holland.

According to the city, Whittington had been operating Wires Only for years without a business license, without a DMV license, without paying business taxes and without a conditional use permit. A series of planning commission meetings in which Whittington appeared unprepared resulted in a denial from the commission. In some meetings, Whittington did not appear at all and was represented by former planning commissioner Hamid Gabbay.

"I don't like what I've seen from this applicant. I don't think we can approve something where there has been so much dysfunction and so little clarity," Commission Chair

See Wires Only page 21



On Aug. 14, it appeared as though the occupant may have begun moving out of the property, though some cars were still visible on display.

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L.A. delegation returns from Paris

■ Government officials, Metro look ahead to 2028 Games

BY RANCE COLLINS

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass brought the Olympic Flag to Los Angeles on Aug. 12, following the previous evening's hand-off at the close of the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games. Bass was the first Black woman mayor in history to receive the flag, which was handed to her by Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, the first woman to ever hold the city's top office.

"The Olympic Games have officially come back to Los Angeles," Bass said. "We have been working with the urgency that is required to put on an international event, and we are focused on all the ways we can match Paris' success in Los Angeles."

Bass said that she has "big" goals for the Games, wanting to ensure that "Angelenos from all corners of the city have the opportunity to show the world all of our communities," with a focus on growing and contributing to small and local businesses.



photo by Emma McIntyre/Getty Images for LA28

Mayor Karen Bass and LA28 chairperson and president Casey Wasserman returned to Los Angeles with the Olympic Flag on Aug. 12.

"Forty years ago, Mayor [Tom]

Bradley hosted a Games that continue to benefit Los Angeles – I will be sure to do the same," Bass

See Mayor page 22

said.

The 1984 Los Angeles Games held the distinction of being the



photo by Rance Collins

Some residents expressed concerns over noise and shaking in communities along the proposed Metro K Line Extension route.

Residents voice opinions at Metro K Line meeting

■ Over 100 people gather to give input on rail line route

BY RANCE COLLINS

Metro hosted a public meeting on Aug. 13 discussing the K Line Northern Extension, the subway expansion that has long been

under consideration. The focus was on the Draft EIR, which is currently in its 45-day public comment and review period, set to end on Sept. 5. It was held in the Pan Pacific Park Community Room. On Aug. 10, Metro also hosted a meeting at Susan Miller Dorsey Senior High in Crenshaw, and a virtual meeting

See Meeting page 22



photo by Tabor Brewster

Residents and some planning commissioners expressed support for a ban on short-term rentals for multifamily and single-family residences.

Planning Commission considers regulations for short-term rentals

BY Tabor Brewster

The Beverly Hills Planning Commission held a study session on Aug. 8 to discuss potential restrictions to short-term rentals within the city, which includes popular rental apps like Airbnb and Vrbo.

"Short-term rentals can exacerbate housing affordability issues, as they can remove units from being available to longer-term tenants," senior planner Chloe Chen said. "Whereas single-family rentals may attract uses such as parties or the use of amenities on the property, the use of multifamily units for short-term rentals may have a greater negative impact on the rental market as it would make fewer units available

and potentially cause these existing units to become less affordable."

Residents expressed concern about short-term rentals, stating that they negatively affect rent prices and contribute to nuisances, such as noise from loud parties.

Multifamily building resident Kathy Bronte shared her negative experience with short-term rentals, stating that the tenants above her frequently rent out their unit on a short-term basis, which causes constant noise and visitors coming and going from the building. She said that for 18 months, the issue has not been resolved despite a code enforcement case being opened. She said the tenants above her deny renting out their unit.

Resident Mark Elliot echoed the concerns over housing prices and suggested the city instate a rule that would prohibit leases of under one year in multifamily, rent-controlled units. He noted a similar ban recently put in place in West Hollywood.

Some members of the public, and planning commissioners, favored even stricter short-term rental regulations.

Maura O'Neill, a representative for housing advocacy group Better Neighbors L.A., urged the planning commission to ban all short-term rentals for both multifamily and single-family homes.

"An analysis that we recently did, we pulled data from July 2024 from Airbnb and found that there were 1,157 active short-term rental listings in Beverly Hills, and those were just on Airbnb alone. This is a significant number," she said. "Beverly Hills faces the same housing affordability and homelessness crisis that other cities in Southern California face and we believe the city must protect housing stock for long-term residents."

Most of the planning commissioners agreed with the possible further restrictions on short-term rentals, with commissioners Lou Milkowski and Myra Demeter stating that they would support a total ban on short-term rentals for both multifamily and single-family homes.

Commissioner Gary Ross was slightly more hesitant, stating that he wants to learn more about the impact of short-term rentals within the city before implementing a ban.

"I have a little bit of ambivalence about tying landlords' hands for more than six months. I don't like short-term rentals, but I guess it's in the eye of the beholder."

Commission Chair Terri Kaplan was not present at the meeting.

The planning commission ultimately continued the discussion to a future date, as the city will continue with its community outreach to gather feedback on short-term rentals.

Beverly Hills Chamber

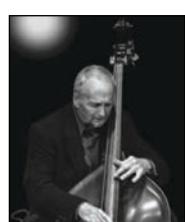
The Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce welcomes members and visitors to its August Networking Breakfast on Friday, Aug. 16, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at SIXTY Beverly Hills. Learn about the benefits and opportunities available to members and what the chamber is doing to assist them. Expand your network, build lasting relationships and access opportunities. Networking begins at 8:45 a.m., followed by a presentation at 9 a.m. Admission is \$30 for members, \$60 for non-members. 9360 Wilshire Blvd. members.beverlyhillschamber.com.

HIV health seminar

The Life Group L.A. is holding "Taking Supplements Safely," an online program on Friday, Aug. 16, at noon, via Zoom. The organization, which provides programs for people with HIV/AIDS, is offering a new free series of online monthly seminars. Guest presenters Allison Strawn and G. Negrete will lead the event, which is held in collaboration with APLA Health. Participation is free but registration is required. thelifegroupla.org/covid19/index.html.

Jazz at LACMA

Don't miss a Jazz at LACMA performance with 6 Beats Apart on Friday, Aug. 16, from 6-8 p.m. on the museum's Smidt Welcome Plaza. Led by bassist Bruce Lett, the six-piece band was formed during the COVID-19 pandemic and has made a name for itself performing classic jazz fusion music of the 1970s-1990s. Jazz at LACMA is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and available on a first come, first served basis. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. lacma.org.



Opera gala

Soprano Golda Zahra performs the role of Liu in Puccini's "Turandot" on Friday, Aug. 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. The captivating evening celebrates Puccini and



features 200 performers and soloists from the Opera Choir of Los Angeles, the Dream Orchestra led by conductor Maestro Daniel Su and a delegation of singers from the Han China Opera Conservatory of Music headed by soprano Yanwen Han. Tickets start at \$20. 111 S. Grand Ave. dreamorchestra.org.

Patient 13

Rogue Machine at the Matrix Theatre presents the world premiere of "Patient 13" from Friday, Aug. 16, through Sunday, Sept. 1. Chronically single, Gail has always been good at staying busy, setting boundaries and avoiding intimacy. That is until a scary diagnosis makes her realize that she might need to slow down and get help. But

who can she trust? Showtimes are 8 p.m., Friday; 3 p.m., Saturday; and 1 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are \$45. 7657 Melrose Ave. (855)585-5185. roguemachineatre.org/patient13.



The Kingston Trio

Music fans won't want to miss "The

CALENDAR

Kingston Trio: A Folk Music Celebration" on Saturday, Aug. 17, and Sunday, Aug. 18, at the Greek Theatre. The Aug. 17 concert features the Kingston Trio with Cynthia Sayer & Joyride, The Hot Licks (the music of Dan Hicks) and The Limeliters. On Aug. 18, the lineup includes The Kingston Trio, The Limeliters and the John Stewart Band. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., the show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$57. 2700 N. Vermont Ave. lagreektheatre.com.

America's Forgotten People and Pets" on Tuesday, Aug. 20, at 6:30 p.m. at Diesel, A Bookstore. The book unites the causes of animal welfare and social justice, chronicling the work of animal rights activist Lori Weise and examining the U.S. rescue movement.

Mithers will be joined in conversation by Los Angeles Times columnist Robin Abcarian. The event is free to attend; books are available for purchase. 225 26th St., Ste. 33, Santa Monica. dieselbookstore.com.



'Happy Fall: A Queer Stunt Spectacular'

Rogue Artists Ensemble joins forces with the Los Angeles LGBT Center and the Contemporary American Theater Festival for "Happy Fall: A Queer Stunt Spectacular" running from Saturday,



Aug. 17, through Sunday, Sept. 8, at the Renberg Theatre. Written by Lisa Sanaye Dring in collaboration with Rogue Artists Ensemble and directed by Sean Cawelti, the production follows the professional and romantic rise and fall of two queer, closeted stuntmen in Hollywood. Showtimes are 8 p.m., Thursday through Saturday; 3 p.m., Sunday. Tickets start at \$45. 1125 N. McCadden Place. rogueartists.org.

Miracle Mile Chamber

Join the Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce for its August Sunset Happy Hour on Wednesday, Aug. 21, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on The Roof at Kimpton Hotel Wilshire. Sip a beverage, make new friends and meet new business acquaintances while enjoying the sunset and beautiful views of Los Angeles. The event also includes a raffle. Admission is \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members. 6317 Wilshire Blvd. miraclemilechamber.org.

Holocaust film

Join Holocaust Museum L.A. for a screening of "The Auschwitz Report" on Thursday, Aug. 22, from 6:30-9 p.m. at AMC The Grove 14 theaters. The film is based on the incredible true story of two Slovak Jews who escaped from Auschwitz



and compiled a detailed report about the systematic genocide at the camp. However, with Nazi propaganda and international liaisons still in place, their account seemed too harrowing to believe. The screening is part of the Teicholz Film Series and will include a post-screening discussion between Teicholz and Holli Levitsky, founder and director of the Jewish Studies Program and an English professor at Loyola Marymount University. Admission is free but reservations are required. 189 The Grove Drive. RSVP by visiting holocaustmuseumla.org/event-details/teicholz-film-series-the-auschwitz-report.

Art exhibit

7811 Gallery in the Melrose District presents "Colors and Light," an exhibition by artists Caty Maxey, Reihaneh and Benson Simmonds running from Sunday, Aug. 18, through Sunday, Sept. 29. Maxey creates multi-colored, nature-inspired and abstract fabric screens, fused-glass panels and pictures lit from behind known as lightboxes. Reihaneh's paintings blend representation and abstraction, using bright and muted colors to reflect emotion. Simmonds creates powerful, expressive paintings that emanate in what he calls "Soular Power." An opening reception will be held on Aug. 18 from 2-5 p.m. 7811 Melrose Ave. 7811gallery.com.

Carol Mithers book

Author Carol Mithers will discuss and sign her new book "Rethinking Rescue: Dog Lady and the Story of



The Chinese Acrobats of Hebei are a multi-talented troupe that features such unique acts as Chinese Poles, Foot Juggling, Towering Chair Balance, and more - All paired with unbelievable martial arts. A beautiful oriental soundtrack drives each jaw-dropping act. This sets an exotic tone for the production. With stunning costumes and props that create a kaleidoscope of color, the Chinese Acrobats of Hebei create a definite "wow" factor for the audience.

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Two men charged in Beverly Hills watch robbery

■ Police find gun belonging to notorious former LAPD officer Christopher Dorner

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Two suspects have been charged for an armed robbery that occurred on Aug. 7 on the patio of the

Beverly Wilshire Hotel at 9500 Wilshire Blvd.

According to the police report, the victim was sitting at THE Blvd Restaurant with his wife and two daughters when a suspect approached him at approximately 6:41 p.m. and pointed a semi-automatic handgun at him. A second suspect approached and took his silver Patek Philippe watch, which

according to the victim is valued \$1 million. Both suspects fled the scene in a blue Toyota Corolla.

Through the investigation, law enforcement identified an Airbnb in South Los Angeles where the suspects were allegedly staying. On Aug. 10, the Beverly Hills Police Department executed a search warrant on the Airbnb. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, officers found a handgun registered to Christopher Dorner during the search, a former LAPD officer who killed four people and injured three during a series of targeted attacks in 2013. It is unclear how the gun ended up in the possession of the two suspects, or whether it was the gun used in the Aug. 7 watch robbery.

Additionally, later that day on Aug. 10, law enforcement conducted a traffic stop on a Chevrolet Equinox and identified the two suspects, Jamer Mauricio Sepulveda Salazar, 21, of Colombia and Jesus Eduardo Padron Rojas, 19, of Venezuela, inside the vehicle. The Equinox is reportedly linked to a similar watch robbery that occurred in the 400 block of Doheny Road in Beverly Hills on Aug. 5, in which a \$30,000 Rolex was stolen from a person.

"On [Aug. 5], a victim was on foot and approached by a suspect who exited a vehicle. The suspect demanded the victim's Rolex watch at gunpoint and fled prior to our arrival," BHPD Lt. Andrew Myers said.

According to the U.S. Attorney's



photo by Tabor Brewster

The armed robbery occurred as the victim was dining on THE Blvd Restaurant patio at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

Office, the two suspects are allegedly part of a "crime tourism" group. The term refers to the trend of foreign nationals visiting Southern California to commit high-value robberies before returning to their home countries.

"We will not accept violent crime perpetrated by organized crime groups that exploit the freedoms of our country," U.S. Attorney Martin Estrada said in a press release. "Our number one mission is to protect our community and those who undermine public safety will be held accountable. We should all be grateful for the swift actions of law enforcement in apprehending these suspects before they could cause more

harm."

Sepulveda Salazar is charged with one count of interference with commerce by robbery and one count of possessing a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence. Padron Rojas is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit robbery. The two suspects made their initial court appearances on Aug. 13. Sepulveda Salazar's arraignment is scheduled for Sept. 3, and Padron Rojas' is scheduled for Sept. 19, both in the U.S. District Court in Downtown Los Angeles.

If convicted on all counts, Sepulveda Salazar faces a maximum sentence of life in prison while Padron Rojas faces a maximum of 20 years.

Beverly Hills police make one arrest for pharmacy burglary

On Aug. 14, at approximately 2:45 a.m., a burglary was reported at a pharmacy in the 9700 block of Wilshire Boulevard.

The Beverly Hills Police Department received a call from a witness who observed the crime in progress. At the same time, officers in the Real-Time Watch Center observed the incident unfolding. In less than one minute, responding officers closed in on the burglary suspects.

As officers arrived, the suspects fled in a stolen Dodge Durango Hellcat. A brief vehicle pursuit ensued. However, the suspects managed to evade the responding officers. Officers then requested aerial support to locate and track the suspects.

An LAPD helicopter later located the suspects on the 10 Freeway, traveling eastbound at a high

speed and without headlights. The suspects exited the freeway near the L.A. Live entertainment complex in Downtown Los Angeles, leading to an LAPD pursuit tracking them to the 1700 block of East Imperial Boulevard in Watts.

Upon reaching the area of Imperial Highway and 115th Street, four to five suspects ran from the stolen vehicle. Law enforcement established a perimeter. One suspect was taken into custody, and the stolen vehicle was impounded for evidence.

The BHPD arrested Sergio Giovanni Estrada Ochoa, 18, of Los Angeles, who was booked for commercial burglary.

The exact loss at the pharmacy is still under investigation. Anyone with information is urged to contact the BHPD at (310)285-2150.

According to the U.S. Attorney's

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The group smashed a window at the 7-Eleven store at Olympic and La Cienega boulevards during the flash mob takeover.

Cyclists target convenience stores in flash mob takeovers

■ Group strikes twice in local area on Aug. 9

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A group of approximately 50 teens on bicycles swarmed two 7-Eleven stores in the local area on Aug. 9, entering the stores and stealing merchandise. No arrests were made and the crimes remain under investigation.

The first incident occurred around 6:50 p.m. at a 7-Eleven store at 5600 S. San Vicente Blvd., corner of Hauser Boulevard. Employees reported to police that a large group of bicyclists was loitering in the parking lot before they entered the store all at once and stole food and drinks. The bicyclists exited the store within minutes and fled the area before officers from the Los Angeles Police Department's Wilshire Division arrived.

Around 8 p.m., police believe the same group of bicyclists swarmed inside a 7-Eleven store in a mini-mall at 8500 Olympic Blvd., corner of La Cienega Boulevard. The group entered all at once and stole cigarettes and other merchandise, police said. The cyclists fled before officers arrived.

Police are using security camera footage in an attempt to identify the suspects. Detective Randy Yoshioka, with the West Los Angeles Division, said the investigation is just getting started and will likely be a long process. He added that facial recognition technology will be used to try to match suspects with

photographs of people who have been previously arrested and are in a police database.

"We are in the process of getting all the video from the store and we will try to ID them," he said. "From my understanding, it happened in a matter of minutes. We will have to see if we can get anything we can work with."

The flash mob-style incidents are being considered property crimes because the suspects did not harm or forcibly intimidate the employees, Yoshioka said. A window was smashed at the 7-Eleven on Olympic Boulevard, which was vandalism, he added. Police were still calculating the losses. The stolen merchandise at the store on Olympic Boulevard was preliminarily estimated to be valued at approximately \$1,000. No estimate of loss was available from the incident on San Vicente Boulevard.

Lt. Mark Ro, with the LAPD Wilshire Division, said the incidents represent a concerning trend that has occurred in other neighborhoods throughout the city. Police believe groups of cyclists coordinate via social media and meet up at different locations. As they ride around the city, the cyclists sometimes target stores for flash mob takeovers. Yoshioka said police recently investigated a similar crime at a store in Century City, and Ro recalled a similar crime at a store in downtown Los Angeles.

Anyone with information about the crimes is urged to call the West Los Angeles Division at (310)444-1535 and the Wilshire Division at (213)922-8205.

Graffiti taggers confound cleanup efforts

■ City struggles to keep pace with current resource levels

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

As graffiti proliferates on buildings, fences and street infrastructure across the city, efforts to remove it continue to face a multitude of challenges, according to city departments and contractors tagged with addressing the problem.

The city of Los Angeles' budget allocates approximately \$11.5 million to the Office of Community Beautification, which contracts with 11 nonprofits throughout Los Angeles to remove graffiti. With inflation and the rising costs of paint, transportation, equipment and insurance for workers, the removal organizations have less funding to work with, resulting in less graffiti getting removed. Another problem is a trend in which taggers post their graffiti on social media for bragging rights, prompting others to go out and do the same, police said. Combined with a lack of serious penalties for people who spray paint walls and damage property, it creates an environment for more tagging and graffiti citywide.

"Our graffiti budget is around \$11.5 million. It sounds like a lot, but then you extrapolate it onto a city the size of L.A. and it is not that much based on square miles and population," said Paul Racs, director of the Los Angeles Office of Community Beautification. "The



photo by Edwin Folven
Graffiti plasters many buildings, buses and signs in Hollywood and throughout the city.

problem with graffiti in a lot of areas is our crews do the abatement and then the wall doesn't even stay clean through the night and it's tagged up again. You have crews doing the same walls over and over, and then the taggers just come right back."

Racs estimates that it would take a funding boost of approximately 50-60 percent to adequately address the entirety of the graffiti problem citywide. He also believes graffiti removal services alone will not solve the problem without more enforcement and education.

"My personal opinion is that to solve the graffiti problem, you really need a three-pronged approach: eradication, education and enforcement. We are the eradication prong of that; our crews go out and

remove the graffiti. But what we don't have going on is a lot of enforcement. People aren't getting arrested as much or charged with it ... so there's not a lot of worry on behalf of those doing the graffiti that they're going to get caught," Racs said. "And we now have gone probably 15 years since we used to have an anti-graffiti curriculum that went into the elementary schools. All the LAUSD schools talked about that. So now you have a whole generation of kids that have grown up and never really heard that 'why you shouldn't write on walls' message. It all falls on to eradication, and at the same time the budget has been somewhat stagnant for the last couple years on graffiti removal but the costs for our

See **Graffiti** page 21



SUMMARY NOTICE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AUTHORIZING THE BEVERLY HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MILITARY EQUIPMENT USE INVENTORY IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 7071.

The above-titled Ordinance of the City of Beverly Hills authorizes the Beverly Hills Police Department to acquire new types of military equipment and larger quantities of previously-approved equipment pursuant to Government Code section 7071. The Ordinance contains the requisite findings to approve the designated military equipment identified in the Military Equipment Inventory.

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

The Ordinance was unanimously approved and adopted on August 6, 2024, effective September 6, 2024. Those voting for or against adoption of Ordinance No. 24-O-2899 are as follows:

AYES: Mayor Lester Friedman, Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian, Councilmember John Mirisch, Councilmember Craig Corman and Councilmember Mary Wells

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

A certified copy of the entirety of the text of the Ordinance is available for public review in the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, California 90210. Further information may be obtained by contacting Beverly Hills Police Department Sergeant Audra Alatorre at 310-288-2610.

HUMA AHMED

City Clerk



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

Off-duty BHPD officer shoots armed suspect involved in fight

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

An off-duty Beverly Hills Police Department officer shot and killed a man armed with a handgun in the San Fernando Valley on Aug. 8 after he witnessed the suspect fighting with another man on Roscoe Boulevard near the San Diego (405) Freeway, police said.

The incident occurred at approximately 8:15 p.m. in an area within the Los Angeles Police Department's jurisdiction.

"The off-duty officer was driving on Roscoe when he encountered two people fighting. One of the men was armed with a handgun and the other man was armed with a pipe," LAPD spokeswoman Norma Eisenman said. "The off-duty officer stopped,

Subway station art mirrors its environment

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

When the new Metro D Line subway station at Wilshire/Fairfax debuts in fall 2025, it will open a grand new portal for people to experience Los Angeles' rich art and cultural institutions along Museum Row in the Miracle Mile.

Art is a key component of the transit experience and the design of Metro's subway stations. Each station has three to five public artworks specifically reflecting the surrounding communities. At the Wilshire/Fairfax station, an artwork by Ken Gonzales-Day aims to capture the depth and diversity of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's expansive art collection and the environment in which it is displayed.

Gonzales-Day will join LACMA curators Eve Schillo and Rita Gonzalez for a special program on Tuesday, Aug. 20, from 7-8 p.m. to discuss the artwork and his collaboration with Metro and the museum. The artist's exceptionally-long titled piece is called "Urban Excavation: Ancestors, Avatars, Bodhisattvas, Buddhas, Casts, Copies, Deities, Figures, Funerary Objects, Gods, Guardians, Mermaids, Metaphors, Mothers, Possessions, Sages, Spirits, Symbols, and Other Objects." As the title indicates, it is comprised of images of dozens of LACMA sculptures from different time periods and cultures, many of which will be on display in the museum's new David Geffen Galleries.

Gonzales-Day said the process of

creating the piece dates back years, having initially submitted the idea to Metro in 2017 and going through a comprehensive approval process. Once Metro gave its OK, Gonzales-Day worked extensively with Rita Gonzalez, the Terri and Michael Smooke Curator and department head of Contemporary Art at LACMA, to obtain the images he needed to make his artwork a reality.

Gonzales-Day said he combed through more than 1,000 online images of sculptural artworks in LACMA's collection before narrowing it down to approximately 100. With the help of Gonzalez, he obtained the approval of curators from many different departments to photograph the sculptures he planned to incorporate into his piece. The process was made even more difficult because it unfolded in early 2020 as the museum packed up for its planned closure to make way for the new David Geffen Galleries, which are currently under construction. Once the photography process was complete, Gonzales-Day set about preparing the images for fabrication into tiles that are being installed on the concourse level of the Wilshire/Fairfax Metro station. The resulting piece has two large components on facing walls — one approximately 120-feet-by-10.5-feet and the other 66-feet-by-10.5-feet.

"It's very exciting to have it all come together," said Gonzales-Day, adding that the Aug. 20 discussion at LACMA will offer insights into the process. "I am looking forward to sharing the work with the communi-

ty of stakeholders and people interested in learning more about it. This is really the first chance for people to get a sneak peek at the artwork, and it's also a great opportunity to learn more about LACMA's collection."

Curators at LACMA are also looking forward to the discussion and the debut of Gonzales-Day's piece in the subway station. The artist said his work will be one of the first art pieces transit riders see when they arrive to visit LACMA and when they leave, so it was important to represent the museum and its vast diversity.

"We're incredibly excited for Ken's project. We have been working with [him] for many years," Gonzalez said. "[We] helped Ken go deep into the collection and search his interest department by department ... everything from Japanese art to art of the ancient Americas to modern to prints and drawings and on and on. He was excavating, in a way, working with a lot of different people who work at LACMA, from the registrar to curatorial to the people who were in charge of packing up and moving all of the collections because of the massive construction project that was about to begin."

The collaboration with LACMA unfolded as Metro simultaneously worked on the D Line Extension Project, which will add seven new subway stations from Wilshire/Western to Westwood/VA hospital. The first phase of the project to Wilshire/La Cienega is expected to open in Fall 2025. The segment includes the Wilshire/Fairfax and Wilshire/La Brea sta-



photo courtesy of LA Metro

Artist Ken Gonzales-Day will discuss his artwork in Metro's Wilshire/Fairfax subway station at LACMA on Aug. 20.

tions. The second segment through Beverly Hills to the Constellation/Century City Station is anticipated to be complete in 2026, and third segment to Westwood is planned to open in 2027 prior to the Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Holly Hampton, senior manager of Metro Art, Arts and Community Enrichment, said public art is an important component of the transit system. Artists apply and are vetted by a committee of art professionals from the communities where the stations are located, which then recommends certain pieces to Metro for inclusion. The D Line Extension Project will have 27 artworks at the seven new stations. Gonzales-Day's piece is among three artworks at the Wilshire/Fairfax station including Susan Silton's "We, Our, Us" on the platform level and Karl Haendel's "Hands and Things" near the entrance.

"It's very exciting because the pieces that Ken Gonzales-Day photographed for the artwork are pieces that are probably rarely seen [and]

displayed at LACMA," Hampton said. "Each museum has a storehouse of many items. This is an opportunity to actually bring those to the forefront. We're really bringing artwork to our riders where they are so it really expands the opportunity to showcase the museum's collection."

Hampton said the subway artwork is currently being installed and will be ready for the station's debut next year. Metro is keeping wraps on photos of the artwork, but the Aug. 20 event at LACMA will give a glimpse into what transit riders will see and experience.

"Quite a number of the pieces I photographed will be in the presentation at the new museum," Gonzales-Day added. "It should be a really interesting conversation on how Metro and LACMA are envisioning the future of Los Angeles."

The Aug. 20 event is free but reservations are required. LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit lacma.org/event/evening-ken-gonzales-day.



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People-powered mobility brings Hollywood together

■ CicLAvia pedals through the iconic area Sunday

BY RANCE COLLINS

CicLAvia will commandeer the streets once again on Sunday, Aug. 18, for its 54th event. It marks the third August in a row that the people-powered festivities will take over the Hollywoods – from east to west. Approximately 6.6 miles of streets will be car-free, along Hollywood Boulevard, Highland Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard in East Hollywood, Hollywood and West Hollywood.

Participants can join anywhere on

the route, which is filled with activations and activities involving local businesses, artists and restaurants. There are five hubs throughout the streets, which include restrooms, water-refilling stations, bike repair stations and first aid. Chief strategist Tafarai Bayne also praised advancements in Hollywood's infrastructure.

"We're very excited for the debut of new bike and pedestrian infrastructure designed to make this part of the city safer for people to experience one of L.A.'s most vibrant communities," Bayne said. "Built by the L.A. Department of Transportation, the project features a protected bike lane and center turn lanes reducing excessive speeding,

reducing pedestrian exposure, providing safer turns for drivers and providing dedicated space for bikes and scooters. Projects like this will help create more CicLAvia-like spaces all week long, not just on Sundays. LADOT will be at the event to engage participants and educate about the project."

Bayne said that Hollywood is typically one of the city's most dangerous traffic areas.

"It's intimidating to traverse it on foot and difficult by bicycle while being regularly clogged by automobile traffic. Our event provides the unique opportunity to really take in all Hollywood offers from Thai Town to the Walk of Fame to West Hollywood and so many neighborhoods and points in between. There is so much culture here we have to translate our outreach documents into five different languages. It really is an example of what makes L.A. so special."

West Hollywood Mayor John Erickson helped bring CicLAvia back to West Hollywood in 2022.

"This is such a popular event, and you see it by the sheer joy of everyone – even if you don't like bike lanes. I guarantee you most of those people will be on bikes themselves," he said. "I love biking by and seeing all the people I know stopping by our amazing businesses, spending all day out on that route, and just seeing how happy people are when they're on a bike and not in a car stuck in traffic."

"CicLAvia gets us outdoors, in a slower-moving and safer-feeling environment, for a day of fun, learning and togetherness," West



photo courtesy of CicLAvia

Hollywood Boulevard will be car-free on Aug. 18.

Hollywood City Councilwoman Lauren Meister said. "My legs are my people-powered vehicle of choice – I'm a walker!"

Bayne said he always forgets "how much noise cars make."

"Once they are gone, I feel more relaxed. Everything slows down," he said. "I usually get around CicLAvia by bike, but I have a special place in my heart for our Pedicabs. Free for everyone, they help to make the event very accessible and are a very relaxing way to get around."

CicLAvia was inspired by an event in Bogotá, Columbia, which celebrated its 50th anniversary earlier this year. Since 2010, CicLAvia in Los Angeles has been closing streets to help connect neighborhoods and get people out of their cars using only people-powered vehicles. The event's objective is to build a more "unifying social fabric," according to its website, as

well as bring awareness to important issues like air quality improvement and environmental health.

"Ultimately our goal with this program is to bring more open street events to more communities and to inspire the Los Angeles region to bring more infrastructure to our streets that will bring safer streets to residents and help us all have more CicLAvia-like experiences every day," Bayne said. "Our streets become barriers, like great walls that divide neighborhoods. When we remove the cars and fill that space with people, we create a sense of connection that I think people really need right now."

Only people-powered vehicles are allowed at CicLAvia events – be it bicycles, skateboards, pedal cars or non-electric scooters. For information on the CicLAvia – Meet the Hollywoods event and route, visit ciclavia.org.

LA4LA opens K-Town housing project

LA4LA, a public-private partnership housed at the California Community Foundation in collaboration with Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, announced the completion of its first facilitated affordable housing project in Koreatown. Built on a 7,500-square-foot lot, "The Eaves" project was developed by Treehouse Community L.A. and will provide 58 new units of permanent supportive housing. The project was originally planned to have mixed-affordability but was on the brink of being sold as a market-rate development, facing rising costs of material, and skyrocketing interest rates. In four short months LA4LA jumped in to work with developers and secure grant funding and a low-interest loan from philanthropic partners. The partnership also helped facilitate a master lease with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, which allowed the project to serve 100% low-income, formerly homeless tenants.

"This project is a perfect example of why collaboration is essential to solving the housing and homelessness crisis in L.A.," Bass said. "We launched LA4LA to bring together the public and private sectors so they could do exactly what we saw happen with this

development – leverage each other's best tools to ensure affordable housing is built faster across our city."

LA4LA was first announced during the mayor's "State of the City" address when she called on the formation of an unprecedented partnership between the private and public sectors to address the homelessness crisis. It was launched to develop new financing tools and funding sources that complement Bass' commitment to urgently house Angelenos and prevent homelessness. The partnership is focused on dramatically increasing affordable housing through various strategic tactics exemplified by the Eaves project, according to LA4LA lead strategic Sarah Dusseault.

"This project demonstrates that affordable housing can be delivered faster and more efficiently when we leverage the flexibility of the private and philanthropic sectors and pair it with both new and trusted government tools," Dusseault said. "It is an all hands on deck, all tools in the toolbox approach."

For more information about The Eaves project and the LA4LA initiative, visit www.la4la.org or email info@la4la.org.



photo courtesy of LA4LA

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass celebrated the launch of the affordable housing project along with LA4LA leaders.

Notable Quotes

"We observe today not as a victory of party but a celebration of freedom – signifying renewal as well as change ... let the word go forth from this time and place to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans."

John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917-1963)
35th President of the United States
Inaugural address January 20, 1961

Another torch has also been passed this week ... the Olympic Torch. Coming to a neighborhood near you in 2028!

*Source: Naitonal Archives

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photo courtesy of LA4LA

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Kevin Lipton exits BHUSD race

■ Candidate pool narrows to four

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Attorney Kevin Lipton has decided not to move forward with his candidacy for the Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education. In an interview with Beverly Press, Lipton stated that he has decided to focus his time on his family, as he and his wife plan to welcome a new baby in the coming days.

"I was very eager and intrigued at the opportunity to run for school board. I [will] have two kids that are going to be in the program in short order. But with that said, I have a newborn in the next two weeks and as such I need to be there for my wife and my family during these critical early months in my new son's life," Lipton said. "As much

as I would like to be there for the rest of my community – as I will be at one point in the future – unfortunately now is just not the best time for it to happen."

Lipton said he initially considered joining the race after families approached him encouraging him to run. He added that he never officially declared his candidacy, but pulled papers with Los Angeles County Clerk's Office while he was considering entering.

"The reason I was running is because I'm a father – about to be a father of two – and as someone who went through the Beverly Hills school system, I wanted to make sure they [have] the same opportunities, friendships [and] support I had in the city," he said.

Lipton is the founder and president of Lipton Legal Group, a Beverly Hills law firm specializing in personal injury, employment and real estate law. The Beverly Hills

Editorial

Prang says Assessment Roll shows strong growth

It's that time of year again when my office undertakes its most important function of the fiscal year that lays the groundwork for the property taxes that pay for vital public services: the Assessment Roll. In fact, it's a constitutional mandate.

The 2024 Assessment Role has been closed since June 30, and it reflects growth for Beverly Hills as well as the rest of the county. First off, let me say this comprehensive tally values more than 2.5 million real estate parcels in Los Angeles County and results in the tax dollars that pay for vital public services such as health care, police, fire, schools and librarians. As I mentioned, I am constitutionally mandated to close the roll by the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

I am pleased to announce that the 2024 Assessment Roll has a total net value of \$2.10 trillion, indicating the 14th year of consecutive growth. The 2024 roll also grew by \$96.70 billion (or 4.8%) over 2023. Approximately \$20 billion will be used for public services.

Beverly Hills came in at \$46.83 billion for taxable values in 2024, which is a 4.1% increase over last year's numbers. It includes 8,232 single-family homes, 1,119 apartment complexes and 833 commercial-industrial parcels, for a total of

10,184 taxable properties. It's solid growth at \$46.83 billion.

The Assessment Roll contains the assessed value of all real estate and business personal property in the county's 88 cities, along with unincorporated areas. It also breaks down the number of single-family residential homes, apartments and commercial-industrial parcels.

This year's roll comprises 2.39 million real estate parcels as well as business assessments countywide. It includes 1.89 million single-family homes, 250,000 apartment complexes, 248,000 commercial and industrial properties and more than 163,000 business property assessments.

Since the roll is the inventory for all taxable property in the county, it can provide insight into the health of the real estate market. The roll is also driven in large measure by property sales, which added \$53 billion compared with 2023. The CPI adjustment mandated by Prop. 13 added an additional \$39 billion, and new construction added \$9 billion.

Finally, to say this has been a challenging couple of years is an understatement. The fact that property values continue to grow is certainly good news and testament to the viability of the region.

*-Jeff Prang
Los Angeles County Assessor*

Meals on Wheels helps support seniors

Beverly Hills Meals on Wheels is accepting new clients. The organization has been delivering hot food to homebound seniors for more than 50 years. However, the client base has decreased, coordi-

nator Pat Jacobson said. Hot or cold meals, sandwiches and milk are delivered Monday through Friday. Volunteers are also needed. For information, call Jacobson at (310)413-4037.



photo courtesy of Beverly Hills Meals on Wheels

Meals are delivered Monday through Friday to people in need.

native attended Hawthorne Elementary School, Beverly Hills High School, USC and Southwestern Law School. He has also been active in local charities, and currently serves as the chair of the Beverly Hills Charitable Solicitations Commission.

He said his goals as a BHUSD board member would have been to implement stronger initiatives to address issues such as budgeting, bullying and technology.

"As someone who was a bit of a wild child himself growing up in Hawthorne and Beverly, it really took getting through the school system, going to business school and law school to really appreciate how much consistency and structure could improve my life," Lipton

said.

He added that he wants to see BHUSD adapt to the modern problems of today.

"Things are constantly changing. The future is not what the past was. I felt through implementing some ideas I had, we could implement a better tomorrow," he said.

With Lipton out of the race and the filing period officially closed, Beverly Hills residents now have four options for a three-seat race. Incumbent candidate and current board president Dr. Amanda Stern, attorney Dela Peykar Ronen, contractor Sigalie Sabag and firearms store owner Russell Stuart will compete for the three open seats in the Nov. 5 general election.



photo courtesy of Lipton Legal Group

Lipton is an attorney and chair of the Beverly Hills Charitable Solicitations Commission.

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Walz makes stop in L.A.

BY RANCE COLLINS

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz appeared in Los Angeles on Aug. 13, marking the vice-presidential candidate's first solo appearance. It was also the first visit that a representative of Vice President Kamala Harris' presidential bid has appeared in Los Angeles. Walz addressed the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the largest labor union for public employees in the country with over a million members, at its annual convention.

AFSCME has a long history with the Democratic party, with its endorsements and organizational contributions going almost exclusively to Democratic candidates for over 50 years. Its conference was held at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Walz's speech followed a whirlwind week for the candidate, coming just seven days after he was chosen by Harris to be her running mate. Prior to entering politics, Walz was a social studies teacher, football coach and teacher's union

member.

"My week has been very interesting since last Tuesday, as you might guess, but here's a fact they shared with me as I came here to take this opportunity to say thank you. I happen to be the first union member on a presidential ticket since Ronald Reagan," Walz said.

Reagan was the president of the Screen Actors Guild prior to his time as California governor and his ascension to the presidency.

"But rest assured, I won't lose my way," Walz added.

The candidate, who previously served in the United States House of Representatives, largely stuck to talking points from the campaign trail, dishing out lines that have become familiar in the current political zeitgeist.

"This country is great because we have a golden rule that makes things work," he said when discussing women's reproductive rights. "We mind our own damn business."

Walz kept a friendly, jovial tone throughout the speech, using humor to draw contrast with the ticket's

opponent.

"Vice President Harris grew up in a middle-class family, picked up shifts at McDonald's as a student," he said. "I keep asking this to make a contrast here, can you simply picture Donald Trump working in a McDonald's trying to make a McFlurry or something?"

Walz also addressed criticism over his service in the National Guard. In the week since he joined, Republican vice-presidential candidate J.D. Vance has questioned the timing of Walz's retirement from service, accusing him of avoiding deployment to Iraq.

"I signed up for the Army National Guard two days after my 17th birthday," he recalled. "I served for the next 24 years for the same reason all my brothers and sisters in uniform did. We love this country. Then, in 2005, I felt the call of duty again, this time [to be of] service to my country in the halls of Congress. My students inspired me to run for that office, and I was proud to make it to Washington. I was a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee and a champion of our men and women in uniform. I'm going to say it again as clearly as I can. I am damn proud of my service to this coun-

try."

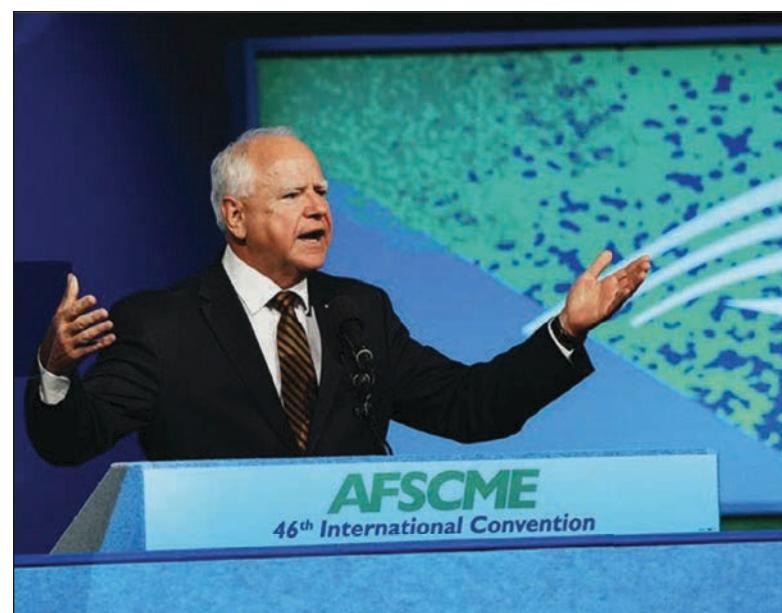


photo courtesy of AFSCME

Gov. Tim Walz made his first solo appearance as part of the Kamala Harris presidential ticket on Aug. 13 in Los Angeles.

can all enter the middle class. You believe we can all have dignity. You believe we can all thrive. But you know what? We got to fight. Because, as the next president of the United States says to me often, when we fight, we win," he said.

Walz also hosted a fundraiser in Newport Beach at Balboa Bay Resort on Aug. 13.

The art of water conservation

As a part of several Getty "PST ART: Art & Science Collide" exhibitions, Lauren Bon and Metabolic Studio are presenting "Portable Wetland for Southern California," a conceptual artwork and experimental proposal for ecological remediation at Brackish Water Los Angeles. Located on the California State University, Dominguez Hills campus in South Los Angeles, where local rivers have been transformed into concrete channels, and where industrial contamination and ecological racism have plagued surrounding communities for generations. The exhibition considers issues of access, inclusion, ecological racism and cultural/class system interchanges along Los Angeles' waterways.

Portable Wetland for Southern California was initially developed by Bon and her studio as part of Bending the River, their ongoing infrastructural artwork that utilizes adaptive reuse and reconnects the city of Los Angeles with its original source of water, the Los Angeles River.

"By capturing the recycled water and urban runoff that travels in the river's low-flow channel and returning it to the watershed by using it to irrigate the adjacent L.A. State Historic Park, we are rescuing a precious resource that would otherwise flow out to sea," Bon said.

Wetlands are one of the most sophisticated water treatment systems that nature has ever created. They feature some of the highest levels of biodiversity found on earth and can remove many contaminants of concern, including met-

als, nutrients and bacteria. While wetlands are now protected by federal law, they have historically been undervalued and many natural wetlands were overtaken and destroyed by urban development – "Bending the River" aims to bring them back.

While traditional water treatments are still being used, this project presents a rare opportunity. Integrating a wetland component to the process mimics the wetlands that flourished on the historical floodplain of the L.A. Basin, while also taking advantage of native plants that have bio-adapted to thrive in oxygen-poor wetland soil. As the holder of the L.A. River's first private water right, Bon has a responsibility for the stewardship of that water.

"When the river water passes through water treatment at Metabolic Studio, we can conduct real-world experiments, and demonstrate new ways to look at water conservation," Bon said.

While Portable Wetland for Southern California is a conceptual artwork, it is also a scientific study. "We know that there is growing interest in dry-weather runoff capture and use, from the L.A. River and across California, and we hope that our exploration of biomimicry and habitat replication will show a way forward in a landscape irreversibly changed by climate change and industrialization," Bon said.

For information, visit metabolic-studio.org.

CSU Dominguez Hills campus is located at 1000 E. Victoria St., Carson.



"Portable Wetland for Southern California" combines science and art work to explore methods of water reuse.

TV City invites local children's camps to tour studio



photo courtesy of Television City

Campers met actor Jason Thompson of "The Young and the Restless" during a tour of Television City.

Television City hosted 65 young campers from A Time for Dance and Creative Artists Camp on July 31 for tours of the studio. During one of the tours, children met actor Jason Thompson, who portrays Billy Abbot on the CBS soap opera "The Young and the Restless." A Time for Dance and Creative Artists Camp offer arts-centered learning for children. Television City, located at Beverly Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue, is owned and operated by Hackman Capital Partners. The tours are part of an initiative to inspire and educate young people about jobs at film and television production studios. For information, visit televisioncityla.com.

Schools compete to register student voters in Ballot Bowl

The California University and College Ballot Bowl has officially opened, launching a competition to register voters ahead of the Nov. 5 general election.

Hosted by the California Secretary of State Students Vote Project, the Ballot Bowl is a friendly competition in which California community colleges, California State Universities, University of

California campuses and independent colleges and universities compete to register the most students to vote and showcase civic engagement efforts.

The California Secretary of State Students Vote Project increases civic engagement and voter participation among college students across California, particularly those between the ages of 18-25. The

Ballot Bowl competition ends on Election Day, Nov. 5.

"Students are a powerful force in the state of California," Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber said.

Results are tracked throughout the competition and are updated weekly at caballotbowl.sos.ca.gov. For information about the Ballot Bowl competition, visit ballotbowl.sos.ca.gov.



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photo courtesy of Sharona Nazarian

Beverly Hills Vice Mayor meets Cannes Vice Mayor

Beverly Hills Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian met with the Vice Mayor of Cannes, France during her recent trip. Nazarian sought to revitalize the sister city relationship with Cannes.

"The meeting with the vice mayor of Cannes came about through a series of communications initiated by our respective offices and as a result of our recent Bastille Day celebration," Nazarian said. "We have a longstanding sister city relationship with Cannes, and there was mutual interest in exploring ways to strengthen our ties. The Vice Mayor of Cannes, responsible for international relations, tourism and events, decentralized cooperation and casinos, is Thomas de Pariente. He was very welcoming, and we had a productive discussion at the City Hall of Cannes."

L.A. County Parks announces new Aquatics Agency

The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation is creating a new Aquatics Agency that is a key departmental realignment of its vast network of swimming pools, lakes, lake swim beaches and water-related facilities and activities. The historic reorganization of L.A. County Parks' extensive and popular aquatics programs and assets into one unit positions it to address future needs of local communities; operations growth; boating, lake swim beach and pool safety; and lake maintenance and environmental compliance as the region becomes hotter for longer periods of time.

Across an expansive region, L.A. County Parks manages 14 lakes with three lake recreational swim beaches that are accessible to residents and boaters who live far from ocean beaches, 41 swimming pools and 23 splash pads. L.A. County Parks hosts more than 27,000 yearly boat lake launches, teaches 100,000 swim lessons annually, and employs nearly 900 employees, including hundreds of youths.

"With a warming climate and more heat waves, L.A. County Parks is focused on improving and safeguarding our incredible aquatics facilities and programs to help families cool off and enjoy the outdoors," said Norma E. García-González, director of L.A. County Parks. "Across our huge county, residents can swim, play, go boating, splash, kayak or visit one of our many pools, lakes, swimming beaches and splash pads. Establishing this Aquatics Agency opens a new chapter on meeting the



photo courtesy of L.A. County Parks

The new agency will oversee safety in bodies of water located within county parks.

challenges of climate change, continuing our priority on water safety, and providing water recreation activities and programming serving millions of visitors annually."

The new Aquatics Agency will be led by Hugo Maldonado, deputy director, and Joseph Goss, regional operations manager. Maldonado and Goss bring decades of aquatics, lifeguarding, boating and safety leadership to their new roles.

L.A. County Parks offers a

diverse range of Aquatics programs countywide, including boating, swimming, fishing, wakeboarding, kayaking, jet-skiing, sailing and windsurfing. Community activities include swimming, diving, and water polo teams; youth fishing derbies and equity-focused programs such as Every Body Swims, low-cost swim lessons and senior water exercise classes.

For information, visit parks.lacounty.gov.

WeHo hosts annual Rec Expo

The city of West Hollywood's recreation services division will host its annual WeHo Rec Expo on Saturday, Aug. 24, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the West Hollywood Park Aquatic and Recreation Center, located at 8750 El Tovar Place.

The Rec Expo is free and open to the public. Enjoy demos, giveaways and exciting activities sure to be fun for the entire family. Attendees can

also learn more about the city's recreation programs and events for children, adults and older adults.

Join the fun at the Aquatic Center for an '80s-themed swim.

Reservations are required and space is limited. To register for the themed recreation swim, visit weho.org/pool or call (323)848-6308 or (323)848-6497 for additional information.



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

The city of L.A. is taking steps to streamline permits for film production.

Bass signs new directive to make film production easier

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass pledged the city's renewed support for L.A.'s entertainment industry by issuing her eighth executive directive on Aug. 7 to streamline and focus city processes for local film and television production.

The signing of the executive directive comes after Bass convened the inaugural Entertainment Industry Council in July to draw upon senior industry leaders' expertise in new efforts to support L.A.'s entertainment industry.

"The entertainment industry is core to our economy, and it is also core to our city's identity, and City Hall is going to do everything we can to support it," Bass said. "This executive directive is my pledge that the city is renewing its support for the entertainment industry and is expected to provide the highest level of customer service as we

work to make sure that Hollywood stabilizes."

The executive directive is expected to improve city department processes by designating staff and resources toward supporting local production and film-permitting. It requires city departments to meet with industry stakeholders at least quarterly to address production-related challenges and solutions directly with departments and designate a film liaison staff member who will participate in the quarterly meetings and be available for assistance with city processes.

It also requires departments to review internal processes and make recommendations to streamline and facilitate the permitting and review process for filming.

For information, visit mayor.lacounty.gov.

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Playful pursuit of the perfect banana split

A little about me: I'm a velvet Elvis. I'm a metaphor for metaphors.

I walk aimlessly through the suburbs, like Keats and Wordsworth, seeking beauty and sunlight through the oaks. Plus any sign of rain. Already anticipating that first sweet rain of fall.

"Let the rain kiss you," Langston Hughes once wrote. "Let the rain sing you a lullaby."

So, yeah, that kind of rain. Kissy. Melodic.

I write often of quotidian suburban life – mundane and d'elegant all at once, d'elegant being a word I hijacked from Europe, a higher form of elegance, I suppose.

D'elegance.

See, language can be playful, language can be fun, though not the way I use it. I prefer to use it functionally, like a pocketful of brass screws. Like garden twine.

And I wrap it around our little town every chance I get.

FYI, I love our town.

Our American suburb has a rhythm, a bossa nova beat. Like when the trash trucks come roaring down the cul-de-sac on Thursdays, one after another ... metal mastodons. I also like when the Budweiser trucks pull up to the 7-



by
Chris
Erskine

Eleven each morning, with their pallets of hope.

If you don't find a certain d'elegant to a 7-Eleven, do you even have a soul?

Lucky me, to be born when the suburbs were especially vibrant. I could've been born in the age of burning dirigibles – the 1930s, an era of economic misery and world war.

Instead, I was born in the 1950s. They call us Boomers. If I were a house, I'd be a mid-century modern, with long clean lines and vaulted ceilings.

One thing you can say for the Boomers: No world wars. Yet.

I'm pretty sure my own father was miserable in the suburbs. He found them to be horribly isolating, without enough human interaction.

The Scout meetings and Little League drafts didn't really appeal to him. Dad never embraced suburban joys the way I have, never

slapped the batters' helmets and yelled: "Let's go, Caitlin! Let's go!"

Back then, as now, mothers ran the suburbs. Which is probably why they're such a resounding success. Seriously, you want something done, call a PTA mom. She'll enlist her pals, Debbie and Donna. Then stand back.

"Hey PTA moms, the polar ice caps are melting, could you maybe...?"

"Done," they'd say. "We're already on it."

Donut shops? Dry cleaners? Nail salons? Name your pleasure, our little suburb has it. Sure, the phone booths have disappeared, as have the news racks. You can't buy a daily paper anymore, except at the too-big grocery store, where they have three or four in a sad little stack by the door, right where shoppers lean the wet umbrellas when it pours.

Another thing that's disappearing from the suburbs: the ma-and-pa diners. Instead, you have franchises, and I would argue that our nation's spiritual collapse began when the franchises began to take over, pushing the pawn shops and ma-and-pa diners aside.

Bye-bye, Miss American Pie ...

Where do you find Americana anymore? What if you want an old canoe oar to hang in your den? Or a tattered flag from Vermont? What then? What if you need a vintage typewriter? Or some old mason jars ... a cigar box full of duck calls?

Once in a while, I like to let the past sing me a lullaby.

So, I went to Fair Oaks Pharmacy the other day in South Pasadena, one of the greatest American suburbs of all, if only because it still supports places like Fair Oaks



photo courtesy of Fair Oaks Pharmacy

You could sail this banana split to Hong Kong if necessary.

Pharmacy, with the old soda fountain serving the sort of banana split you could sail to Hong Kong in if you had to. Stem to stern, about 52 feet.

Honestly, this thing should come with a mast.

Some day I hope to open a shop that only offers the stuff that has gone completely out of style ... vinyl records, spats, juke boxes, egg creams and those little candy dots that come on long ribbons of paper.

In this shop, no one would ever buy anything. They'd just walk around and gawk. Grandmas would bring the grandkids (Zoe and Munch) and explain, "That's an Easy Bake Oven" or "That's a popcorn machine, everyone used to have them."

I'd look up from my book to answer questions. "Do you have

any Greenie Stickum Caps? Where would I find the fondue forks?"

And in the back, through a door with beads, would be a replica bedroom from the 1970s, with shag carpet, black lights and a Farrah Fawcett poster. Pink Floyd would be playing from giant speakers, tall as Jabbar.

When you cranked it, the windowpanes would crack and the walls would crumble.

"Those were the days," Grandma would say. "That was my happy place..."

The Gin & Tonic Society of Los Angeles is proud to report that the Aug. 24 cocktail gig near the Rose Bowl is almost sold out. A few places remain for the free event. To RSVP, please go to Letters@ChrisErskineLA.com.

KCCLA presents storytime event on 'Finding Family' for adoptees

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles will host the Korean American Adoptee Storytime event "Finding Family" on Monday, Aug. 19, at 6 p.m. in Ari Hall.

Co-hosted with 325KAMRA, a global nonprofit dedicated to reuniting Korean families through DNA testing, the event will feature six Korean adoptees sharing excerpts from their stories published in "Together at Last," a first-of-its-kind anthology. They will convey the frustrations, anger, healing and hope experienced in their journeys of adoption and discovering their roots. All the adoptees were born in Korea and adopted into American families. They will share their unique adoption story and the experience of searching for and finding their birth family through DNA.

Additionally, scenes will be shown from "Relative Strangers," a forthcoming documentary by Emmy Award-winning director Deann Borshay Liem. The documentary follows a group of mixed-race adopted Koreans – the adult children of U.S. servicemen and Korean women – as they join search experts and DNA specialists in their decades-long quest to find their first families. Liem, a Korean adoptee, is known for her documentaries that explore themes of war, memory, family and identity. Her notable works include "First Person Plural," "In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee" and "Geographies of Kinship." She has also directed films about the Korean War, including "Memory of Forgotten War and Crossings." The event is open to anyone

interested in the stories of Korean adoptees and the diversity of family experiences. Attendees will also have the opportunity to learn about using DNA as a birth search tool and will have access to free DNA testing kits.

"After the Korean War, many Korean adoptees were dispersed abroad, with a significant number moving to the United States," KCCLA director Sangwon Jung said. "We hope this inspiring event offers a heartfelt and moving experience through written and visual storytelling that convey the hope of Korean adoptees while addressing the healing of Korean adoption's painful history."

KCCLA is located at 5505 Wilshire Blvd. RSVP is required for the event and can be made by visiting kccla.org.

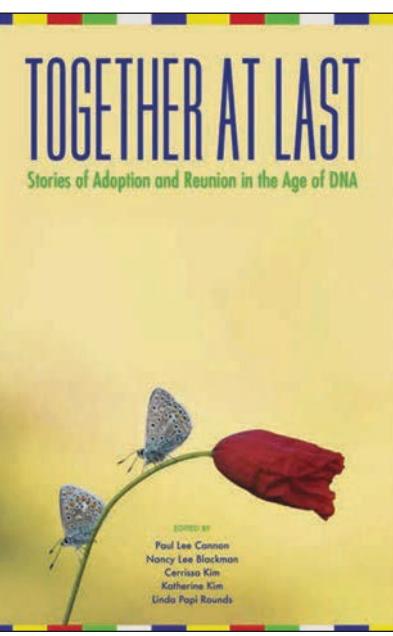


photo courtesy of KCCLA

Six Korean adoptees will share their experiences, as published in the anthology "Together at Last."

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Crews make more progress on Metro D Line project

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority has announced more construction plans along Wilshire Boulevard for the D Line Subway Extension project.

At the eastern end of the project, street restoration work continues near the Wilshire/Western subway station construction yard. Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction between Oxford Avenue and Saint Andrews Place. A K-rail work zone is in place along the north side of Wilshire Boulevard.

Street restoration work is also ongoing near the Wilshire/La Brea station. Intermittent closures will be implemented on Detroit Street at Wilshire Boulevard to support street restoration work through October. A K-rail work zone is in place on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard between La Brea and Mansfield avenues, and lane reductions are in place on Wilshire Boulevard between Detroit Street and Highland Avenue.

South Sycamore Avenue will be closed at Wilshire Boulevard from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. through August. The temporary traffic control supports street restoration on Sycamore Avenue.

Through October, a K-rail work zone is located in the middle lanes of Wilshire Boulevard between Fairfax and Spaulding avenues for street restoration and traffic switch work. Wilshire Boulevard will be

reduced to two lanes in each direction.

Farther west, Wilshire Boulevard will be intermittently reduced to a single lane in each direction between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards during weekend and off-peak hours through September. Access to side streets may be reduced intermittently. Weekend work hours are generally 8 p.m. on Friday through 7 a.m. on Monday. Off-peak hours include weeknights from 8 p.m.-7 a.m. the following morning.

Water line utility work is also scheduled along Wilshire Boulevard between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards. Properties between La Cienega and San Vicente boulevards, and Gregory and Clifton ways, may experience overnight water service disruption.

Crews plan to implement a full closure of Cañon Drive south of Wilshire Boulevard in early September until the holiday work moratorium begins in November. The closure supports decking removal and street restoration. Potholing on Wilshire Boulevard for future piling work is anticipated to start in September.

In Century City, crews are pouring structural concrete 24 hours through September at the new subway station. Work zones and partial traffic lane closures will be in place on Avenue of the Stars. Left turns will be restricted from northbound

Avenue of the Stars onto westbound Constellation Boulevard. Nightly closures on Constellation Boulevard will support the placement of structural concrete for the subway station.

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



photo by Edwin Folven

Lane closures are in place near Wilshire/La Brea and Wilshire/Detroit to accommodate street restoration work.

National recognition shows Cedars-Sinai CARES

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently selected the Cedars-Sinai CARES (Care Management/Alzheimer's Expertise/Resources/Education/Social Support) Program for dementia patients and their caregivers as a Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model site. The Cedars-Sinai CARES Program is among 14 established programs in California, and it is one of only two in Los Angeles selected by CMS for the established program track.

Additionally, the medical center's comprehensive outpatient geriatrics program for people 65 and older, along with its bone health coaching program, recently received "Age-Friendly Health System Committed to Care Excellence" recognition from the John A. Hartford Foundation and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, in partnership with the American Hospital Association and the Catholic Health Association of the United States. Cedars-Sinai also is among 30 hospitals nationwide recently selected to join the new Age-Friendly System-Wide Spread Collaborative, which aims to accelerate adoption of evidence-based, high-quality care for older adults across all the medical center's sites and care settings.

"Cedars-Sinai cares for more patients over 80 than any other academic medical center in the country, so operating under an age-friendly healthcare model is critical to our continued ability to serve our growing community of older adults," said Bryan Croft, the hospital's executive vice president and chief operating officer. "In just over a decade, the U.S. will have more people over age 65 than children,

for the first time in history. An aging population has unique care needs, and these recognitions further demonstrate that Cedars-Sinai is the premier institution to provide this level of outstanding care."

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center first received the "Age-Friendly Health System Committed to Care Excellence" designation in 2020.

Age-Friendly Health Systems integrate the "four m's" of care: what matters most to each patient, medication safety, mobility and mentation, or mental functioning.

"Integrating the 'four m's' framework into models of care for older people is about providing optimal care and measures of safety while addressing what's most important to each individual patient," said Dr. Sonja Rosen, chief of Geriatric Medicine. "You can't assume that everyone's goals and preferences are the same. At Cedars-Sinai, we strive to help people live as healthy and high-functioning as possible for as long as possible and at the same time, achieve their goals."

The CARES Program at Cedars-Sinai provides comprehensive dementia care management for patients with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias as well as support and training for their family caregivers.

With the CMS selection of the CARES Program as a GUIDE Model site, eligible Medicare patients in the program can access \$2,500 annually for adult day care, in-home care and facility care expenses when they need additional help – for example, after a hospital stay or during times of decreased caregiver availability.

For information, visit cedars-sinai.org.

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

LOCATIONS:

**8850-8878 Sunset Boulevard,
West Hollywood, California; and
1025-1029 N. Larrabee Street,
West Hollywood, California**

REQUEST:

The City Council will hold a public hearing to consider a request to redevelop a 0.92-acre site with an eleven-story, approximately 269,263 gross-square-foot and up to 161-foot tall, mixed-use hotel and residential development with billboards and 251 underground parking spaces. The commercial component includes 90 hotel guestrooms, meeting/event rooms, outdoor pool and spa, four restaurant spaces, bar/lounge, personal services spa, retail space, and a night-club (Viper Room). The residential component includes 78 rental apartments (including 16 affordable units), an amenity room, and an outdoor pool with terrace.

PERMIT(S):

Administrative Permit, Conditional Use Permits, Demolition Permit, Development Permit, Minor Conditional Use Permit, Sign Permit, Specific Plan Amendment, Subdivision Permit, Zoning Map Amendment, Development Agreement, and any other required permits.

APPLICANT(S):

Silver Creek Commercial Development, LLC

**TIME/PLACE
OF HEARING:**

**Monday, August 26, 2024
at 6:00 p.m.**

West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers
625 N. San Vicente Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069

ZONES:

SSP (Sunset Specific Plan)

**ENVIRONMENTAL
STATUS:**

Environmental Impact Report

Complete digital agenda packets will be available on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, and additional information regarding participation options can be found on the posted agenda or the calendar page on-line at www.weho.org

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

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

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

For further information regarding this item, contact Doug Vu, Senior Planner at (323) 848-6318 or via email at: dvu@weho.org

Melissa Crowder, City Clerk

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

RESTAURANT NEWS

Keys brings nightlife back to the Sunset Strip

The nightlife scene is alive and well on The Strip with Keys officially open under the H.Wood group. Keys is an ode to the iconic Key Club that was on The Strip from 1998-2013. Located at 9039 Sunset Blvd and open from Thursday-Saturdays, information for the club can be found keyslosangeles.com or by calling (323)767-5397.

Starbird welcomes kids back to school

As students and families prepare for a new school year, Starbird, the nation's first super premium fast-food brand, is launching several community-focused initiatives. The Starbird team is dedicated to celebrating the amazing teachers who make learning joyful and inspiring with initiatives including a catering giveaway, discounted family meals and fundraising events. Starbird is giving away 10 catering orders for an unforgettable class party. More info on how to enter the giveaway can be found at starbirdchicken.com/starbird-chicken-back-to-school. Additionally, customers can receive \$5 off the Starbird Family meal every Friday with code "family." The Starbird

Family meal includes 12 tenders, one pound of tots, two slaws and six house-made sauces. Discount available through website or app orders only. Also, non-profit organizations can host a dine and donate fundraiser with Starbird for their next event. Starbird donates 15% of all sales generated by your group back to the organization. Book an event by visiting starbirdchicken.webflow.io/starbird-chicken-fundraising. Starbird has several locations in Los Angeles, including 7150 Beverly Blvd. For information, visit starbirdchicken.com or call (323)200-9443.

'Big Belly Burgers' available at Dog Haus

Dog Haus invites diners to explore this unique collaboration with renowned chef Eric Greenspan, The Big Belly Burger. The Big Belly Burger highlights include the Flavorful Composition, which is two smashed beef patties, creamy New School American Cheese, caramelized onions, diced onions, dill pickles and a secret sauce, all on a grilled Big Marty's sesame seed potato roll. The Beverage Pairing allows guests to enjoy a refreshing Pilsner like Trumer Pils or an Amber Lager such as Shiner Bock. In support of No Kid Hungry, Dog Haus donates \$1 from every Big Belly Burger

sold in August to help end childhood hunger. Dog Haus has several locations in Los Angeles, including at 615 N. Western Ave. For information, visit doghaus.com or call (323)454-8986.

Summer blazes at NORMS

NORMS newest limited time menu is now live and is sure to tantalize taste buds this summer through the fall season. NORMS has remained SoCal's favorite diner for the last 75 years, beloved for its flavor-packed menu and hearty portions of classic eats, all served at an unbeatable value. The latest example of that is the concept's newest LTO menu, which puts an emphasis on bold flavors, trendy ingredients and mouthwatering dishes at affordable prices that the entire family can enjoy. From cold foam cold brew (\$3.99) to finger-licking chicken wings (\$8.99 for six and \$13.99 for 10) and porterhouse steaks (\$22.99), NORMS new LTO menu is available now through Oct. 26 and breakfast, lunch or dinner. NORMS West Hollywood is located at 470 N. La Cienega Blvd. For information, visit norms.com or call (310)657-8333.

Thai staple celebrates 20th anniversary

Ayara Thai, known among LA foodies for its home-cooked



photo courtesy of Caruso

Bourbon Steak opened in 2014 in Glendale.

Bourbon Steak celebrates 10 years

The Americana at Brand is celebrating Bourbon Steak's 10th anniversary this year. Bringing the finest ingredients, expert craftsmanship and vibrant culture to the city of Los Angeles, Bourbon Steak L.A. celebrates a decade of culinary excellence with a special ticketed four course dinner on Thursday, Aug. 15 at 6 p.m. hosted by Chef Michael Mina, with proceeds supporting the Jessie Rees Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to helping children fight cancer around the world.

Bourbon Steak L.A. has brought a touch of glamour and culinary excellence to the heart

of the City of Angels since 2014, when head chef Michael Mina opened his restaurant in the heart of Glendale at The Americana at Brand. Recognized as the best steakhouse in Los Angeles and considered by many to be more than just a meal, Bourbon Steak L.A. offers an immersive dining experience that blends the finesse of high-end American steakhouse dining with the innovative spirit of Southern California.

For information or visit bourbonsteak.com/location/los-angeles. Bourbon Steak is located at 237 S. Brand Blvd., Glendale.

Thai food with an Angeleno twist, unmatched hospitality, elevated desserts and buzzworthy collaborations is proudly celebrating its 20th anniversary. While much has changed since 2004, Ayara has held true to quality, its family Thai recipes and innovation, which have made it a westside destination for Thai-food lovers and, due to their proximity to LAX, travelers. In August 2004, after opening and closing several restaurants over the

years, chefs Andy and Anna Asapahu opened Ayara Thai, mindfully entering into what would be their final endeavor in the food space. Growing up "restaurant kids," their daughters Vanda and Cathy never thought they'd go into the family business, but after college, postgrad, living in other cities in their 20s and pursuing different careers for a time, they ultimately returned to Ayara to carry on the torch of the family business. Their

New Zealand Rack of Lamb

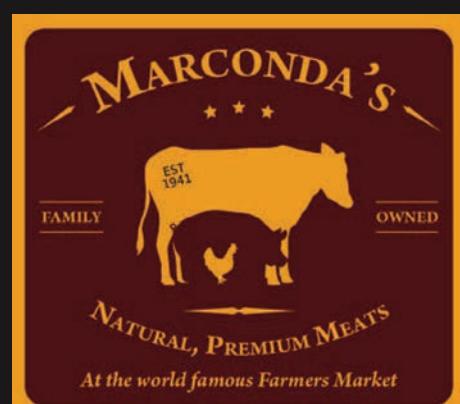


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brother, Peter, a PGA Golf Pro, lends a hand on occasion for events and busier periods.

Join the Asaphus and Team Ayara for a two-day Thai brunch experience Aug. 17-18 (a departure from its usual offerings) as Vanda and Cathy fuse their Thai heritage with their Angeleno upbringing across the menu – a mix of dishes inspired by the vibrant flavors of Thai, American and Angeleno cuisine. To make reservations, visit opentable.com/r/ayara-thai-los-angeles. Ayara Thai is located at 6245 W. 87th St. For information, visit ayarathai.com or call (310)410-8848.

Seasonal specials debut at Linden

Linden in Hollywood is now offering three new seasonal specials. Since opening at the beginning of this year, Linden has been providing a melting pot of flavors, blending the diverse cultures and cuisines of New York, the Caribbean, and Jewish traditions based on chef Jonathan Harris' personal experiences. Now, Harris has created three new dishes that nod towards East Coast and Southern cuisine. Although they are specials now, they may be added to the offi-

cial dinner menu. The dishes include: Southern Summer – a crispy fried catfish pinwheel with zesty pickled celery tartar, paired with savory fried okra and a vibrant tomato corn succotash; Crab(acado) Toast – herbed lump crab atop smooth avocado mousse, finished with a drizzle of Old Bay garlic aioli; and Jones Beach neck clams swimming in a Pinot and parsley emulsion, topped with crispy chorizo croutons for an added crunch. For information, visit lindenlosangeles.com or call (323)244-2700. Linden in Hollywood is located at 5936 Sunset Blvd.

Beverly Hills hosts fall gardening series at Greystone

The city of Beverly Hills Community Services is offering a new four-part adult gardening series

at Greystone Mansion & Gardens' Demonstration Garden at 905 Loma Vista Drive, beginning Sunday,

Sept. 8. The classes run through November 3, and are taught on Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Greystone Demonstration Garden is a dedicated outdoor area at Greystone Mansion and Gardens where people can come together to learn about and promote the benefits of locally grown, organic food that is sustainable and cost effective.

The four-part gardening series for adults includes the following workshops: How to Grow a Winter Vegetable Garden, Sept. 8; How to Grow an Herb, Spice and Tea Garden, Sept. 22; Indoor Gardening – How to Take Care of Your Houseplants, Oct. 27; and The Birds of Greystone, Nov. 3.

Attendees who sign up for the four-part series will get the four classes for the price of three. Individual classes are \$19 each, or \$15 for Beverly Hills residents. Additionally, there is still space



photo courtesy of HATCH

Enjoy creative plates every day at HATCH.

Japanese cuisine 'HATCHes' at The Bloc

HATCH is a modern Japanese restaurant that celebrates yakitori, creative plates and curated drinks. Japanese cooking methods are fused with bold international flavors and presented in a fun dining experience. The beverage program includes handcrafted cocktails, a wide array of sakes and

rare Japanese whiskies. Located at The Bloc in DTLA, by the outdoor courtyard, HATCH has parking and validates for The Bloc parking garage, \$4 for up to 3 hours. The Bloc is located at 700 W. 7th St., Ste. G600. For information, visit hatchyalater.com or call (213)282-9070.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn gardening skills at the historic Greystone Mansion & Gardens.

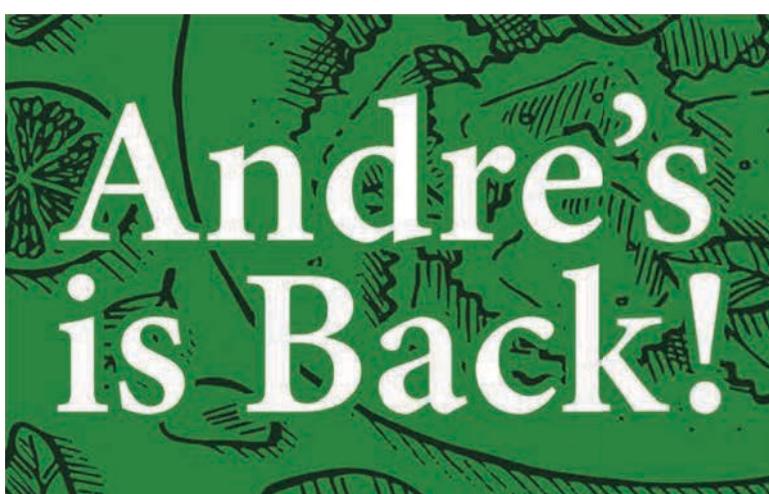
available in the final summer gardening class, How to Grow a Pollination Garden, on Aug. 25. Come and meet others who have an interest in gardening or bring a friend or family member and make it fun learning project.

For children, there is a Children's Gardening Workshop on Sunday, Oct. 6. Children will learn basic gardening, including seasonal activities such as seed starting, soil prep, transplanting and harvesting

fresh produce.

Join Community Services for its Saturday Morning Garden Club on Nov. 2, at 8:30 a.m. Volunteers will help with garden and grounds maintenance, which includes giving a little love to Pollinator Hill.

Registration is required to volunteer at the Demonstration Garden, and for all gardening classes. To register, visit beverlyhills.org/bhrec, and click on the Greystone Park tab.



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'Happy Fall' premieres at Renberg

Romance, stunts... and puppets. Rogue Artists Ensemble, celebrated for creating original, immersive, multi-dimensional experiences known as "hyper-theater," has announced details for its summer co-production with the Los Angeles LGBT Center and Contemporary American Theater Festival. The world premiere of Rogue Artists Ensemble's "Happy Fall: A Queer Stunt Spectacular," written by Lisa Sanaye Dring with Rogue Artists Ensemble and directed by Sean Cawelti, will premiere Aug. 17 at the Los Angeles LGBT Center's Renberg Theatre in the Lily Tomlin/Jane Wagner Cultural Arts Center, where performances will continue through Sept. 8.

David Ellard, Kurt Kanazawa and Amir Levi star in a story about the professional and romantic rise and fall of two queer, closeted stuntmen in the Hollywood world of faux masculinity. Placing the intoxication of film trickery and its toll on the body and psyche center stage through life-size and miniature puppetry, live video, cinematic illusions and heart-pumping physical acts, this exuberant production is a joyful tribute to the resiliency of the LGBTQIA+ community. Based on true-life stories and direct testimonies, "Happy Fall" illuminates issues of racial and cultural identity in the industry and uncovers the real price of a love story, unmasking the importance – and danger – of being true to oneself. Rounding out the cast are ensemble members Lucas Brahme, Carlos R. Chavez, Gabriel Croom, Kelsey Kato, Maia Luer,

WeHo presents free production of 'Cinderella'

West Hollywood's Free Theatre in the Parks program presents a mashup opera of Jules Massenet and Gioacchino Rossini in "Cinderella Story" from Sept. 7-22, in Kings Road Park.

The free theater experience is presented by Pacific Opera Project and West Hollywood's Arts Division. Taking the best music and funniest scenes from Massenet's "Cendrillon" and Rossini's "Cenerentola," Pacific Opera Project's "Cinderella Story" tells a young girl's whirlwind love story from housemaid to princess.

Founded in 2011, Los Angeles's Pacific Opera Project provides opera productions that are accessible, affordable and entertaining.

Kings Road Park is located at 1000 N. Kings Road. Attendance is free; seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. RSVP is requested by visiting cinderella-weho2024.eventbrite.com.

Letters to the Editor

Beverly Press staff is 'terrific'

Re: "Beverly Press takes home 5 awards at CNPA ceremony"

Congrats on your shelf of awards you took home from the CNPA. Very proud of my guys at the Beverly Press.

You and your colleagues are absolutely terrific.

Andrea Grossman
Beverly Hills

Candy Pain, Tiana Randall-Quant and Kody Siemens.

"As a lover of cinema and how movies are made, I've had a life-long fascination with stunt shows," Cawelti said. "Their mix of humor, strong men and audience participation was a formative theatrical ingredient in my youth, perhaps one that also titillated my dormant queerness. As a young kid, I used to create mini stunt shows with special

effects and puppets and tell wild stories. For me, the daring fearlessness of the stunt performer is akin to what it felt like when I was navigating coming out and understanding my own authenticity. This play has truly been a labor of love and is a very personal piece to me."

The Los Angeles LGBT Center's Renberg Theatre is located at The Village at Ed Gould Plaza, 1125 N. McCadden Place. Tickets start at \$39. For information and to purchase tickets, visit bit.ly/happy-fall24.



photo courtesy of the Los Angeles LGBT Center

"Happy Fall: A Queer Stunt Spectacular" will open on Aug. 17.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO CIRCULATE PETITION

Notice is hereby given by the persons whose names appear hereon of their intention to circulate the petition within West Hollywood for the purpose of adopting an initiative that will reenact certain rules restricting the use of residential property for vacation rentals, and promote the health, safety, and welfare of West Hollywood's residents by ensuring that short-term vacation rentals do not contribute to the housing crisis in the City.

A statement of the reasons of the proposed action as contemplated in said petition is as follows (up to 500 words):

The affordable housing and homelessness crisis is one of the greatest challenges facing the City of West Hollywood. This is an initiative to protect the welfare of residents of West Hollywood by regulating short-term rentals that worsen housing scarcity.

The purpose of this initiative is to reenact certain existing vacation rental and home share regulations in full through the popular vote. Reenacting these regulations through the popular vote is intended to ensure that city councils cannot repeal or amend these regulations without the consent of the voters. The initiative will allow a city council to amend the vacation rental provisions of the ordinance only to strengthen the restrictions on the use of residential property for vacation rentals that are set forth in the initiative. Specifically, the initiative will reenact provisions that include the following:

- Prohibitions on offering vacation rentals to transients, to ensure that these units are not taken out of the housing market, which worsens housing scarcity.

- Prohibitions on advertising vacation rentals prohibited by the initiative, as well as on advertising vacation rentals that show the location as within West Hollywood, but where the actual vacation rental is located outside of the City. This protects consumers against deceptive practices.

- Requirements that hosting platforms not complete any booking transactions for vacation rentals in the City if they receive a fee for such booking transactions and that hosting platforms not receive or collect fees for services ancillary to a vacation rental such as concierge services, catering, restaurant bookings, tours, guide services, entertainment, cleaning, property management, maintenance of the dwelling unit, and insurance. These provisions protect consumers, support local businesses, and remove incentives for hosting platforms to facilitate the removal of residential units from the housing market.

- An exemption for home sharing, so long as it takes place in accordance with Chapter 5.66 of the West Hollywood Business License Code. This permits existing, permissible home sharing, an approach that

increases the availability of housing.

- Home share regulations, including limitations on home sharing and advertising, operating, and recordkeeping requirements. This helps ensure that home sharing is conducted in a way that is beneficial to the community.

- Definitions for short-term vacation rentals, booking transactions, hosting platforms, and other related terms for the regulation of home sharing.

- Administrative and criminal remedies against individuals and host platforms who facilitate, attempt to facilitate, or advertise short-term vacation rentals in West Hollywood.

Signature: /s/

Print Name: Danielle Wilson

Address: [street address omitted for privacy reasons]

West Hollywood, CA 90046

Signature: /s/

Print Name: Jorge Seperak

Address: [street address omitted for privacy reasons]

West Hollywood CA 90046

Signature: /s/

Print Name: Vincent Voss

Address: [street address omitted for privacy reasons]

Los Angeles CA 90046

AN INITIATIVE MEASURE PROPOSING TO REENACT THE CITY'S EXISTING VACATION RENTAL REGULATIONS AND REENACT THE RECENTLY EXPIRED HOME SHARING REGULATIONS TO PREVENT THEIR FUTURE AMENDMENT WITHOUT SUBSEQUENT VOTER APPROVAL

Over the last several years, the West Hollywood City Council has added Chapter 5.66 and Sections 19.36.331, 19.80.120 and 19.90.020 to the Municipal Code regarding vacation rentals and home sharing, which provide as follows:

- Except for "home sharing", leasing, renting, offering or advertising a vacation rental to any transient (a stay of 30 consecutive days or less) is prohibited in West Hollywood.

- Hosting platforms are prohibited from booking vacation rental transactions or receiving a fee to facilitate vacation rentals, and from collecting a fee for ancillary vacation rental services, including concierge services, tours, entertainment, cleaning, property management, or maintenance of the dwelling unit, subject to certain "safe harbor" provisions.

- Until the ordinance recently expired in April 2024, "home sharing" was allowed, with a license and upon payment of applicable Transient Occupancy (Hotel) Taxes on home sharing stays as provided by the Municipal Code. Home sharing was subject to certain restrictions, including:

- The activity is limited to renting a room or part of a room for 30 days or less while the owner/leaseholder resides in the unit during the guest's stay;

- The property is approved for residential use;

- The property is not a rental unit, inclusionary housing or other income-restricted housing unit;

- The property owner resides there as a primary residence for at least 270 days per year.

- Home sharing is also subject to certain operating requirements, such as (i) prompt response to complaints, (ii) guest information to be included on-site, (iii) safety standards such as smoke/CO detectors, prominent display of emergency exit routes, fire extinguisher equipment, occupancy and parking limits.

- Violations are subject to criminal and administrative penalties, civil remedies, reimbursement of the City's enforcement costs including attorney's fees and revocation/non-renewal of a home sharing business license.

- The City is authorized to subpoena documents from responsible parties, including hosting platforms, to verify compliance with these regulations.

This initiative does not alter these substantive provisions. Rather, it seeks to reenact them as an initiative measure and repeal the home sharing ordinance's April 17, 2024 sunset. Under State law, if this initiative secures sufficient resident voter signatures to qualify for the ballot, and if either (i) the City Council adopts this initiative as an ordinance without an election or (ii) the City Council places it on the ballot and a majority of West Hollywood voters approve it, the provisions outlined above could not be amended by a future City Council, except as provided by the initiative measure itself.

This initiative measure permits the City Council to make limited amendments without an election, provided the amendments increase, enhance or expand upon the restrictions provided therein. Otherwise, the City could not amend these provisions without subsequent majority voter approval.

/s/ Lauren Langer, City Attorney

Natural History Museum will debut the Commons in Nov.

The Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County announced on Aug. 13 that NHM Commons – its new wing and community hub on the southwest side of the Natural History Museum campus in Exposition Park – will open on Nov. 17. Celebratory grand opening events will include a free block party on opening day, activating NHM Commons' new indoor and outdoor spaces with live music, special performances and food and drinks from South LA Café. Additionally, NHMLAC provided further details about new exhibitions, programming and design elements created in collaboration with the NHM Commons Advisory Coalition and NHM Commons Native American Advisory Council, which will inaugurate the new wing's galleries and programmed spaces. Highlights

include an exhibition devoted to community science, the debut of a new 3D T-rex film produced by D3D and landscape design features for outdoor spaces.

"It's exciting to look ahead to opening NHM Commons this November when we will welcome everyone to connect with our research and collections and enjoy special indoor and outdoor experiences in this new destination for Exposition Park," NHMLAC President/Director. Dr. Lori Bettison-Varga said. "We are grateful to our advisory groups and community partners for collaborating with us to envision innovative ways we can continue to be a resource for our community. We can't wait to share some of what Angelenos and our visitors from around the world will see as we open new doors to experiencing natural history, com-

munity science and culture."

The transformative \$75 million NHM Commons expansion and renovation project, designed by Frederick Fisher and Partners, with landscape architecture by Studio-MLA and new experiences designed by Studio Joseph, comprises approximately 75,000 square feet of renovated space and new construction. NHM's new wing will include accessible outdoor spaces, and is designed with a transparent glass façade, enabling the public to see into the museum and linking NHM Commons to Exposition Park. Inside, the Commons Theater – an up-to-400-seat multi-purpose theater – and additional spaces will allow NHMLAC to expand its community-centered, co-created programming and connect the public with science, nature, culture, heritage and community while creating opportunities for people to come together to experience NHM, with or without a ticket. NHM Commons will also feature a new café from South LA Café and specialized retail offerings from L.A. artisans. Previously announced



photo courtesy of NHMLAC

The new commons expansion will connect the Natural History Museum with the surrounding Exposition Park and include publicly accessible spaces and exhibitions.

highlights for permanent display in NHM Commons' Judith Perlstein Welcome Center include L.A. artist Barbara Carrasco's 80-foot landmark 1981 mural "L.A. History: A Mexican Perspective" and the new 75-foot dinosaur skeleton Gnatale – the most complete sauropod skeleton on the West Coast, and the first green dinosaur fossil to be mounted for display worldwide.

"The Natural History Museum has created an inclusive community space that will serve Angelenos

with free and accessible exhibitions, programs and expanded educational opportunities," L.A. County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell said. "I am proud to support NHM's work to bridge nature, science and the arts and to bring these enriching experiences into the community."

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is located at 900 Exposition Blvd.

For information, visit nhm.org/nhm-commons.

L.A. Public Library presents 'No Prior Art: Illustrations of Invention'



photo courtesy of Los Angeles Public Library

Interdisciplinary artist Shervone Neckles' monumental sculpture "BEACON," created with Beam Center and Lewis Latimer House Museum in 2021, will light the path into the exhibition.

The Library Foundation of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Public Library present "No Prior Art: Illustrations of Invention," an ambitious exhibition and program series inspired by and drawing from the LAPL's patent and intellectual property resources and ultimately exploring the broad nature of human creativity. No Prior Art delves into creators' unexpected stories and diverse perspectives with the work of more than a dozen artists and makers at the intersection of art, science and social impact.

"We are thrilled to participate in PST ART: Art & Science Collide with No Prior Art, a dynamic initiative that celebrates the universal impulse for creation, shining a spotlight on unique stories of interdisciplinary ingenuity and lesser-known inventors," said Stacy Lieberman, President and CEO of the LFLA. "This landmark exhibition and exciting range of public programs at libraries across the city will help more Angelenos connect with the free access to information, cutting-edge technology, and endless inspiration that the Los Angeles Public Library provides."

On view from Sept. 14 through May 11, 2025 at LAPL's Central Library, No Prior Art features approximately 150 sculptures, photographs, drawings, models, inventions and new commissions, highlighting the imaginative spirit of creators throughout American history. The exhibition title, No Prior

Art, is a play on a legal term integral to the patent application process indicating that the claims of the invention must be unique and have no obvious precedent in existing patents.

"From our extensive patent and intellectual property resources to makerspaces in Central Library's Octavia Lab and the Koreatown Media Lab at Pio Pico-Koreatown Branch Library, the Los Angeles Public Library is an essential resource for inventors and entrepreneurs of all ages," City Librarian John F. Szabo said. "No Prior Art and the dynamic citywide schedule of public programs will wonderfully showcase how our libraries empower creators and support innovation."

"No Prior Art aims to dispel the myth that only exceptional geniuses can invent, while highlighting the communal and collaborative nature of creation," said Todd Lerew, exhibition curator and LFLA director of special projects. "Through an eclectic range of compelling stories and artworks, the exhibition reveals the experimental and inventive process common to creative advancements in the arts as well as in sciences and beyond."

The exhibition will be on view in the Getty and Annenberg Galleries on the second floor of LAPL's Central Library. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

Los Angeles Central Library is located at 630 W. 5th St.

For information, visit lapl.org/no-prior-art.

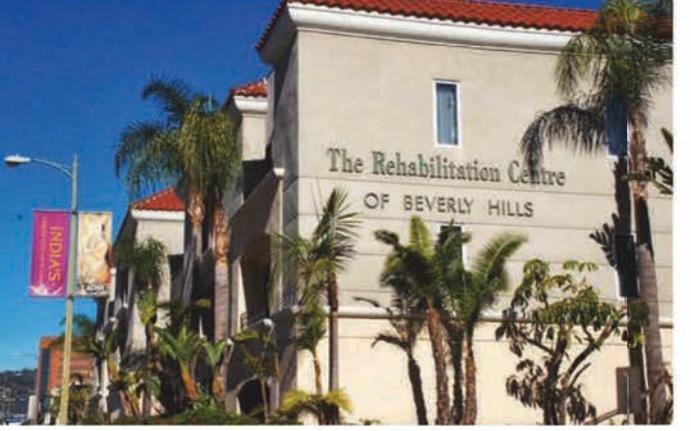


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POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD's Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Aug. 2 and Aug. 10. 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

Aug. 4

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Crescent at 8:57 a.m.

At 4:18 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 200 block of N. Rodeo.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8300 block of Wilshire at 5:45 p.m.

At 8:55 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of N. La Cienega.

Aug. 5

At 11:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9400 block of Olympic.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9400 block of Olympic at 12:07 p.m.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Crescent.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of N. Rexford at 5:24 p.m.

At 5:45 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 400 block of Doheny Road.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of N. Rodeo at 7 p.m.

At 7:09 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of Elm at 7:45 p.m.

At 8:30 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 100 block Arnaz.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of Elm at 9:30 p.m.

Aug. 6

At 1:30 a.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Crescent and Carmelita.

An unknown suspect committed a

petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 12:56 p.m.

Aug. 7

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of N. Rodeo at 6 p.m.

At 6:40 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 9500 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 7:44 p.m.

At 8:05 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of S. La Cienega.

Aug. 8

An arson fire was reported near Wilshire and Palm at 6:29 a.m.

At 1:08 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported near Sunset and Bedford.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9500 block of Wilshire at 1:35 p.m.

At 2:06 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of N. Rodeo.

Aug. 9

At 10:47 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9400 block of Olympic.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9500 block of Wilshire at 4:15 p.m.

At 5:56 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of N. Rodeo.

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

Aug. 4

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of Havenhurst at midnight.

At 12:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

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

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 600

block of N. Robertson.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1300 block of N. Martel at 10:45 a.m.

At 5:33 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 900 block of N. Sierra Bonita.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9000 block of Sunset at 11:30 p.m.

Aug. 5

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8400 block of Sunset at midnight.

At 10:03 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7500 block of Santa Monica.

Aug. 7

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8400 block of Sunset at 1:25 a.m.

At 7:31 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8400 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of N. Genesee at 10 p.m.

Aug. 8

At 2:05 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 900 block of N. Sierra Bonita at 7:45 p.m.

Aug. 9

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

An unknown suspect burglarized a locker in the 8600 block of Santa Monica at 5:30 p.m.

At 11:20 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8300 block of Sunset.

Aug. 10

At 6:19 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8100 block of Santa Monica.

Los Angeles Police Department

Aug. 2

At 12:03 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of N. Ridgewood.

A petty theft was reported near Wilcox and Sunset at 1:20 a.m.

At 1:25 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5200 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 7000 block of

Hollywood at 1:35 a.m.

At 10:35 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1500 block of N. Vine.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 5800 block of Pico at 11:20 a.m.

At 11:40 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6800 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1400 block of N. Ivar at 12:20 p.m.

At 2:20 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 5800 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of The Grove at 8:25 p.m.

Aug. 3

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 5700 block of Virginia at 1 a.m.

At 11 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6200 block of Santa Monica.

Aug. 4

At 1:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1500 block of N. Wilcox.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1400 block of N. Orange at 10 a.m.

At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5500 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 400 block of S. Detroit at 4:30 p.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of N. Sierra Bonita.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near Hilcrest and Franklin at 9:30 p.m.

At 10:10 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 600 block of N. Vista.

Aug. 5

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of S. Curson at 1 a.m.

At 8 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 400 block of N. Norton.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. La Cienega at 10:03 a.m.

At 12:01 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 800 block of N. Vine.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Beverly at 4:17 p.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of S. Holt.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 400 block of S. Curson at 8 p.m.

At 8:45 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 6400 block of Selma.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Curson and Colgate at 10 p.m.

Aug. 6

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near Wilshire and Hauser at 7:45 a.m.

At 12:20 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 6800 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1700 block of N. Sycamore at 6 p.m.

At 9:30 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1600 block of N. Cherokee.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 300 block of Ridgewood Place at 11:45 p.m.

Aug. 7

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 7600 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of S. Bedford at 4 a.m.

At 4 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of N. Ivar.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 800 block of S. Cochran at 10:10 a.m.

At 4:20 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. La Cienega

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1400 block of Tamarind at 8:40 p.m.

At 11:46 p.m., a petty theft occurred in the 400 block of S. La Brea.

Aug. 8

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 6300 block of Santa Monica at 8:30 a.m.

At 10 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 700 block of Vine.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 6700 block of Hollywood at 2:30 p.m.

At 2:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of S. Cloverdale.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of Hauser at 3 p.m.

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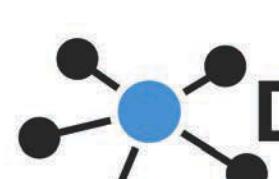
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'Borderlands' reprises the video game curse

I take it back. I take it all back. The curse of the video game adaptation never lifted. A few lucky ones just slipped through unnoticed. In 102 minutes, "Borderlands" undergoes all the progress of other films and TV series that try to elevate video game stories. It sets back the clock to "Assassin's Creed," "Doom" and any of those "Street Fighters." The curse is certainly back.

Then again, blaming some malevolence, dubbing this invisible wall an inevitability is easier than calling out the individuals who make these flops possible. Perhaps game developers share some blame. That seemed to be the case in 2016's "Warcraft," a mediocre film whose

director had to share creative control with Blizzard.

Here, that doesn't seem to be the case. The "Borderlands" premise appears hollowed out, filled with add-ons nobody asked for. Why adapt something only to make it conform with far too many sci-fi actioners, I don't know. Too bad. The premise behind so many games is often quite good, but many adaptations, like the recently canceled "Halo" series and now "Borderlands" confirm that showrunners and filmmakers don't trust the source material, instead doing their own thing, with a few nods to the source along the way.

Frankly, things go south quick when mercenary Roland (Kevin

ON SCREEN WITH TIM POSADA

Hart) performs a jailbreak to get Tiny Tina (Ariana Greenblatt) away from her evil magnate Atlas (Edgar Ramirez). A clunky fight scene ensues, followed by an abrupt character intro: the meat-headed Krieg (Florian Munteanu), rocking a pseudo Jason mask. It's all shockingly bad in execution, setting the tone for all that follows.

Next, meet bounty hunter Lilith (Cate Blanchett in quite the wig), who must return to her home world Pandora to locate her daughter. Simple enough until it all goes wrong, first when robot Claptrap (voiced by Jack Black) latches onto her for some unknown, not-at-all foreshadowing reason. Soon enough she must traverse dangerous wastelands with those fugitives, encountering familiar faces from her childhood along the way, like Tannis (Jamie Lee Curtis), who spent her life searching for a hidden alien relic on the planet known as the Vault.

At this point, I should note I have no connection to "Borderlands" video games. I tried to play the 2009 original, I didn't feel like figuring out how it worked, and I went back to shooting up the Covenant as Master Chief. So I don't see any of the film's diversions from the game



photo courtesy of Lionsgate

"Borderlands" stars Cate Blanchett, left, as Lilith, Ariana Greenblatt as Tiny Tina, Kevin Hart as Roland, Florian Munteanu as Krieg and Jamie Lee Curtis as Tannis.

as cardinal sins. Sometimes things change in the adaptation process. Remember 2008's "Wanted"? Nothing went through more revisions than that (look it up, it's wild), yet the film is still relatively solid.

But a little research on the unused plot and tone reveals a far more compelling story that goes unused here. After 15 years of anticipation for a big-screen debut, the best a ragtag group of filmmakers could do feels like *Mad Max* puked on "The Fifth Element."

Perhaps that shouldn't shock anyone considering production began in 2015, including two attached directors and around seven writers. Apparently, this bland dribble is the best that director Eli Roth ("Hostel," "Thanksgiving"), producer Avi Arad (anything "Spider-

Man") and Lionsgate could muster.

Roth knows his way around human dismemberment as a popular slasher guy, so it's hard to figure out why Lionsgate – the studio behind the horror franchises like "Saw," "The Strangers," "Sinister," "The Descent" and "Hostel" – or he would shoot for a PG-13 rating. This is one of those times that taking a chance on R would've helped.

Then again, gore can't save bad writing, clunky editing, cheap action and poor casting choices. The only thing "Borderlands" has going for it is high production value, to the tune of around \$110 million, which it will not recoup. Any plans for a sequel will likely be a redo in the next seven to 15 years, hopefully in entirely different hands.



The stellar cast in "Borderlands," which includes Cate Blanchett, left, Jack Black, Kevin Hart, Ariana Greenblatt, Florian Munteanu and Jamie Lee Curtis, fails to bring the film to its full potential.

Iris Galerie turns eyes into art at Farmers Market

The Original Farmers Market, corner of Third and Fairfax, has welcomed Iris Galerie as its newest creative and artistic vendor.

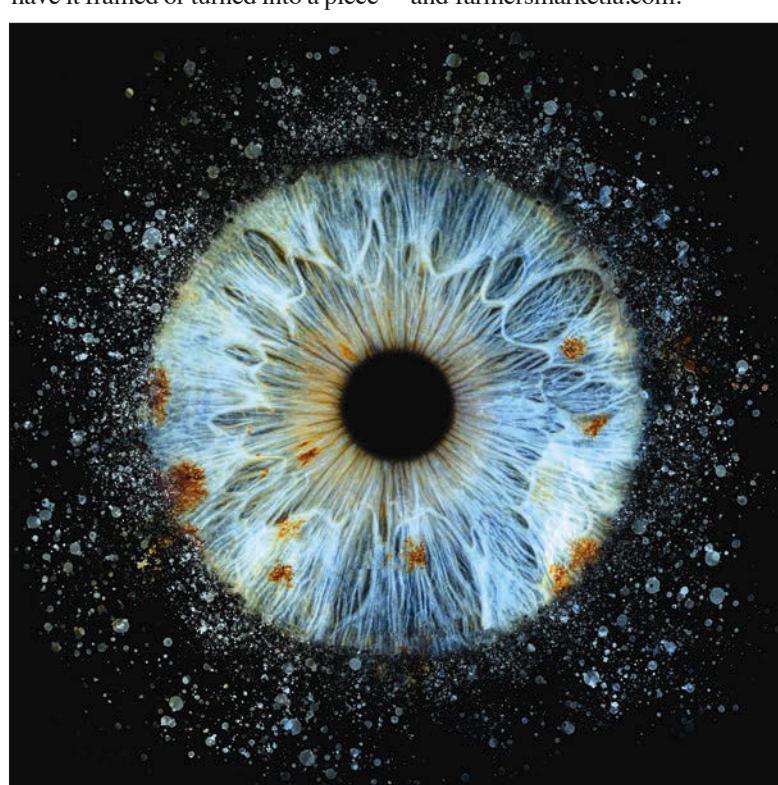
Iris Galerie, originally established in Europe, is the first gallery of its kind on the West Coast, offering a unique opportunity to photograph the iris of the eye in a way not seen before. Combining photography with high-quality printing, Iris Galerie allows people to turn their eyes into works of art and reveal the beauty of their irises on its own, as a couple, with friends and family.

A professional photographer will capture the intricate beauty of a visitor's iris who can then choose to have it framed or turned into a piece

of jewelry. Customers can also purchase a digital file and print it themselves. Iris Galerie offers worldwide shipping, allowing customers to ship their prints directly home. The entire process, from photography to the final product, takes approximately one hour per client, depending on the size of the print and the number of irises in a photo.

Iris Galerie chose the Original Farmers Market because the owners have been longtime patrons. Iris Galerie is located across from Pampas Grill.

The Original Farmers Market is located at 6333 W. Third St. For information, visit en.irisgalerie.com and farmersmarketla.com.



Iris Galerie offers customers a new way of looking at their eyes through high-quality photography.

Bring the family together at LA Zoo

Discover the magic of the Los Angeles Zoo in a whole new light with the return of family-friendly Zoo Friday Nights happening Fridays 6-9 p.m. this month.

Gather friends and family to wit-



photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Zoo

It's a party every Friday night at the Los Angeles Zoo.

ness wildlife during twilight hours to see what they get up to as the sun goes down. This fun-filled event offers an array of activities for the entire family to enjoy, including a family dance party and games, live

music, paint party and interactive education stations, plus paid add-ons like tasty treats from a variety of food trucks and a full bar for those 21-plus.

The party continues on the dance floor with live music by SoCals top tribute bands playing chart topping hits from the past few decades. Listen to the sounds of Flashback Heart Attack on Aug. 16, Upstream on Aug. 23 and Brobots on Aug. 30.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for children for non-members, and \$15 for GLAZA members. For information and to purchase tickets, visit lazoo.org/zoo_fridaynights. The Los Angeles Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive.



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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Colburn receives \$16.6 million Negaunee endowment

The Colburn School, one of the world's preeminent schools for music and dance, received a \$16.6 million gift from The Negaunee Foundation to endow in perpetuity the Conservatory of Music's Negaunee Conducting Program, led by world-renowned composer and conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen, who holds the Maestro Ernst H. Katz Chair of Conducting Studies at the School. This landmark gift ensures the Negaunee Conducting Program's continuity, providing exceptional ongoing training for aspiring young conductors under Salonen's direct mentorship, both on campus and throughout the world. The \$16.6 million gift is the largest ever made to a California institution by The Negaunee Foundation, which is based in Illinois.

"The Colburn School is honored to receive The Negaunee Foundation's transformative \$16.6 million gift, endowing our Conservatory of Music's conducting program," said Colburn president and CEO Sel Kardan. "This extraordinarily generous contribu-

tion underscores Colburn School's commitment to providing unparalleled educational opportunities. The program, led by the esteemed Esa-Pekka Salonen, ensures that aspiring conductors receive exceptional training and mentorship, both academically and through real-world experiences."

The Negaunee Conducting Program, established in fall 2018 with an initial gift from The Negaunee Foundation, enables a small, select group of students known as Salonen Fellows to nurture their craft and prepare for careers on the world's most prestigious stages, under Salonen's guidance. In the 2024-25 season, fellows will collaborate with the San Francisco Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Additionally, fellows have worked with the New York Philharmonic, NDR Elbphilharmonie, Philharmonia Orchestra, National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Berlin Philharmonic.

"For generations, artists and artisans have learned through apprenticeship, committing themselves to their craft for years at a time in order to learn through direct experience and mentorship. In doing so, they become part of a lineage of masters, each with their own schools of thought and repertoire of techniques," Salonen said. "Those distinct artistic lineages in turn ensure a diversity of expression, and with it an assurance that their field remains in a constant state of vibrant evolution. The conservatory is one of the few places where this sort of artistic mentorship is still possible, and it was something that absolutely shaped me in my youth and continues to guide me today. I am deeply grateful to The Negaunee Foundation for supporting this program from the very beginning. With this new and generous gift, we hope to make the Negaunee Conducting Program into the foremost conducting apprenticeship, finding talented individuals, regardless of their age or where they are in their studies, and nurturing that talent to share



photo courtesy of the Colburn School

The Colburn School is one of the most prestigious schools in music and dance.

with the world."

The Colburn School will also become the home to Salonen's extensive score collection, which includes more than 1,400 annotated orchestra scores from his career, including works by contemporary composers and his original compositions. This score collection will serve as a valuable resource for the Salonen Fellows and other students.

"The Conservatory's Negaunee Conducting Program provides a unique opportunity for young conductors to be mentored by one of today's foremost artists," conservatory Dean Lee Cioppa said. "The Salonen Fellows' education is not

limited to the Colburn campus but extends around the world as they travel with Esa-Pekka and gain first-hand experience. The gift from The Negaunee Foundation ensures that these immensely valuable educational opportunities will continue to be available to our students. In addition, Esa-Pekka's decision to entrust his extensive score collection to Colburn reflects his deep dedication to our institution, enriching the educational experience for generations to come."

For information about The Colburn School, visit colburn-school.edu. The Colburn School is located at 200 S. Grand Ave.

LAUSD welcomes students back for 2024-25 school year

Los Angeles Unified School District campuses welcomed students back to classrooms on Aug. 12 for the 2024-25 school year.

"This year, we are focused on shattering the gravitational pull of the status quo, eliminating the barriers that keep our students from

pursuing their dreams and defying the limits placed on us or the limits we put on ourselves," LAUSD Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho said. "We must rise to the moment. We must be the answer to an embattled world and shine a bright light on the successes in our

Los Angeles Unified community. And we will."

The district will launch numerous initiatives and programs in 2024-25 including vision care expansion, college signing day and college fairs, Transportation for All 2.0, the New Principal Academy, Port of Los Angeles Training Facility Partnership, Safe Kids Alliance, TechRefresh, the 5,000 Role Models of Excellence Project, iDREAM and Esports Mobile Labs, the Eco-Sustainability Master Plan, a Student Digital Wellness Plan and a partnership with SoLa Foundation.

"I'm thrilled to welcome our kids back for another exciting school year in L.A. Unified filled with the promise of academic progress, social-emotional support and joy," LAUSD Boardmember Nick

Melvoine said. "I'm incredibly grateful to our dedicated teachers, staff and families for their hard work preparing everything for a smooth return to the classroom. Together, we're making strides toward a brighter future, where every child in our district has the opportunity to succeed and where our schools serve as pillars of the community."

The LAUSD implemented numerous programs and initiatives during the last school year to address barriers within the school community. The district began the year having reached agreements with labor partners that provided historic compensation increases and maintained health and welfare benefits for employees, their families and retirees through 2025, with no employee contribution. The wage increases were accomplished without a reduction in workforce.

Based on preliminary data, the

district's 2023-24 Smarter Balanced Assessment scores increased across the board in ELA and math. Every grade level and almost every student demographic demonstrated improvements over the previous year.

As part of iAttend efforts, the district made more than 34,000 home visits to address the root issues of absenteeism. In 2023-24, the LAUSD decreased chronic absenteeism by more than 4%, after decreasing it by nearly 10% in 2022-23. Attendance rates also increased district-wide last year by nearly 8%, on top of a 4% increase in 2022-23.

The district also increased the arts budget from \$74 million in 2022-23 to more than \$206 million in 2023-24 and will have an additional investment of \$30 million in 2024-25, so every student has access to the arts.

For information, visit lausd.net.



photo by Edwin Folven

Students returned to LAUSD campuses on Aug. 12, including Fairfax High School.

The Walther School offers comprehensive approach to students

The Walther School in West Hollywood is accepting students for the 2024-25 school year.

The private school was founded in 1996 by Dr. Gloria Walther in a former home at 1246 N. Gardner St. It serves students from two-and-a-half to five-years-old, preparing them for kindergarten and elementary school. Forty-two students are currently enrolled, with half attending classes during morning sessions and the other half during afternoons.

The school was founded on the core value of community, creating a safe haven for children in an environment that builds trust, strong communication skills and a love of learning. Students' physical, social, emotional, cognitive and ethical needs are met by exploring the world through fun and creative play. Parents are an important component in their child's learning experience at the Walther School.

"It's a place where we respect the uniqueness of each child. We listen and find solutions together and have great respect for each other," Walther said. "It more than prepares

them for school. It prepares them for life."

The school is a nonprofit operated by the Walther Foundation, Inc. The new school year starts on Sept. 5 and runs through June. Summer school is offered each July.

For information, call (323)378-5732, or visit waltherschool.org.



photo courtesy of the Walther School
The Walther School offers fun, hands-on learning activities.

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Kids Book Festival turns its second page

The second annual Los Angeles Kids Book Festival returns to West Hollywood Park on Sunday, Sept. 8, from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The free event celebrates children's literacy and fosters a love for reading for kids of all ages, presented by the American Born Chinese Foundation, a nonprofit organization supporting children's bilingual literacy, along with the city of West Hollywood. This year's festival will continue to offer a rich array of activities suitable for children of all ages, including over 70 exhibitors, live book readings by celebrated authors, interactive storytelling sessions, musical performances, arts and crafts and other activities.

Enjoy books and interesting vendors, meet-and-greets with authors, face painting, a photo booth, dancing, games, slime making, plenty of savory and sweet food trucks and

free giveaways (including upcoming animation giveaways from Universal Pictures and DreamWorks). This year, the festival will also introduce new authors and illustrators, providing fresh perspectives and stories that captivate and inspire. Visit akidsbookfestival.com to register for tickets and receive festival updates, as well as keeping up with the complete list of exhibitors and activities.

Children of all ages will enjoy performances by The BeatBuds (Nickelodeon), Chloé and Maud Arnold from The Syncopated Ladies (Emmy Award-nominated female tap dance troupe), Sole Talks (international youth tap dance company), "Love Bug & Me," a live art installation by artist Juan Muniz, along with a special appearance from Mykal-Michelle Harris from Disney Junior's "Ariel" and

star of the upcoming "Raven's Home" spinoff "Alice in the Palace," as well as other special guests and giveaways.

Book Soup and Children's Book World have joined this year's Los Angeles Kids Book Festival to enhance the experience with author autograph sessions and book readings with popular children's authors, including Pulitzer Prize-winning author Viet Thanh Nguyen. The event promises to enrich the cultural landscape of Los Angeles by celebrating the vibrant world of children's literature and promoting literacy among young readers.

"The return of the Los Angeles Kids Book Festival marks an important day in our community calendar," said Bonnie Hyde, founder and CEO of the American Born Chinese Foundation. "Last year's festival set a high bench-



photo courtesy of American Born Chinese Foundation

Kids of all ages are welcome at the L.A. Kids book Festival on Sept. 8.

mark, and this year, we aim to exceed it, bringing even more exciting opportunities for children and families to fall in love with reading and storytelling."

The Los Angeles Kids Book

invite 16 semifinalists in each category to participate in mastery classes to gain feedback prior to their semifinal auditions. Following the semifinal auditions, The Music Center will announce two grand prize finalists and an honorable mention in each category. All participating students are invited to observe selected mastery classes.

Grand finale: Spotlight will conclude with a live grand finale evening performance featuring the 14 Grand Prize finalists at The Music Center's Ahmanson Theatre on Saturday, June 7, 2025. More details to be announced soon.

Festival is produced by Fleet Metal Media. For information on becoming a sponsor of the Los Angeles Kids Book Festival, contact Brett Glatman at brett@fleetmetalmedia.com or call (310)795-5312.

Applications open for The Music Center's Spotlight Competition

The Music Center, Los Angeles' performing arts center, invites all Southern California high school students interested in the performing arts to apply for The Music Center's 37th annual Spotlight, a longstanding, free, nationally acclaimed competition that provides more than \$100,000 in performing arts scholarships and artistic development for students each year. Applicants will gain artistic development through auditions, feedback, mastery classes taught by professional artists and arts administrators and performance opportu-

nities. Through a supportive environment, students can develop important life skills, including self-esteem, preparation and perseverance. As the West Coast's leading performing arts destination, The Music Center has provided students with over \$2.9 million in scholarships to date. Applying for The Music Center's Spotlight is free, and students of all skill levels are encouraged to apply. The application deadline is Monday, Oct. 14.

The Music Center's Spotlight is part of the performing arts organization's commitment to help all stu-

dents gain outstanding arts learning experiences in their schools and communities. It is designed to help students explore their professional goals and increase their confidence through the audition process. Spotlight alumni are performing with the world's best dance companies, top orchestras and leading jazz clubs, singing in the leading opera houses and starring on Broadway. They are also major executives working behind-the-scenes in arts schools, nonprofit institutions and businesses.

The Music Center's Spotlight process is comprised of:

First round auditions: students submit an online video audition in one or more of the following cate-

gories: acting, ballet, dance, classical instrumental, contemporary instrumental, classical voice and non-classical voice. All who apply will receive personalized written feedback from distinguished panels of judges. Spotlight merit, semifinalists and honorable mentions from the previous year will bypass online first round auditions and advance automatically to live second round auditions.

Second round auditions: students who advance to this round will audition live before distinguished panels of judges and receive personalized feedback from a panel of industry experts.

Semifinal – mastery classes/auditions: Spotlight judges will



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- Sarah Clossey

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California Credit Union Foundation funds innovative teacher projects

California Credit Union Foundation encourages Los Angeles County teachers who have an innovative class project idea to apply for a credit union grant through its Teacher Grant program. Ten grants of \$500 each will be awarded to local teachers in October for the fall program.

The California Credit Union Foundation biannual grant program is available to full-time teachers in Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino and Ventura counties, or credit union members teaching in California, looking to fund special learning opportunities for their students. The project should have clearly defined learning objectives tied to students' academic needs, display creativity and benefit a significant number of students.

The application deadline is Sept. 23. Grant recipients will be

announced in October.

Since the creation of the program in 2012, \$195,000 in teacher grants have been awarded to benefit students across Southern California. The spring grant program funded a wide range of projects, including creating a spoken word poetry program, starting a chick-hatching science project, printing a school/student newspaper and planting a school vegetable garden.

A nonprofit charitable corporation, California Credit Union Foundation focuses its resources on four key pillars of long-term community empowerment, including investing in its communities and youth, supporting educators and schools, promoting financial literacy and honoring service members.

For information and to apply, visit ccu.com/teachergrant.

WeHo adds 'Everything and Everybody' to City Hall

The city of West Hollywood, as part of its Art on the Outside program, has installed "Everything and Everybody" by artist Sarah Foelske at the West Hollywood City Hall Community Plaza, located at 8300 Santa Monica Blvd. at N. Sweetzer Ave. Community members can view the artwork during City Hall open hours, Mondays-Thursdays from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Everything and Everybody" is

an original digital artwork by Sarah Foelske printed on three vinyl banners and installed along the north-facing façade of the automated garage adjacent to City Hall. The colorful artwork creatively represents a diverse array of some of the West Hollywood community's favorite recreational activities such as sports, dancing, dining and dog-walking, which help to contribute to the health and well-being of the community. The triptych is anticipated to remain on-view at City Hall through 2026.

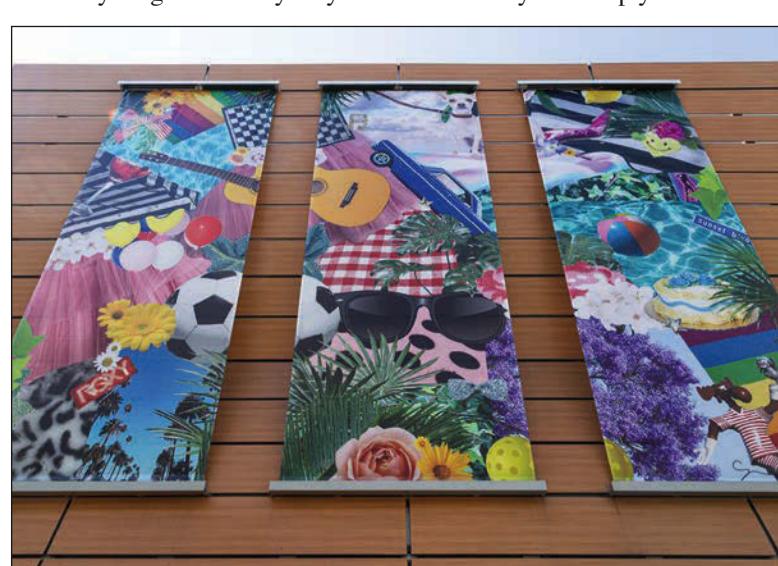


photo courtesy of the city of West Hollywood

Sarah Foelske's original digital artwork "Everything and Everybody" will be on view through 2026.

ated to remain on-view at City Hall through 2026.

The Art on the Outside Program is the city's temporary art program that installs rotating artworks throughout the city. The artworks can include sculpture, murals, digital art and other outdoor works. Most exhibitions remain on display between six months and three years. All projects are subject to the Art on the Outside program review and approval process. The program is funded through the Public Beautification & Art Fund.

The city of West Hollywood's arts division delivers a broad array of arts programs including Art on the Outside (temporary public art), arts grants, city poet laureate, drag laureate, free theatre in the parks, human rights speaker series, library exhibits, Summer Sounds + Winter Sounds, urban art (permanent public art), WeHo Pride Arts Festival and WeHo Reads.

For information about "Everything and Everybody," contact Marcus Mitchell, the city of West Hollywood's public art administrator, at mmitchell@weho.org or at (323)848-3122. For people who are deaf or hard of hearing call TTY (323)848-6496.



photo by Iwan Baan

The public can access works in the Hammer Museum's collections via a new online platform.

Hammer expands online access to artworks with new platform

The Hammer Museum at UCLA announced on Aug. 13 the launch of Hammer Online Collections, a platform for students, educators and online visitors to discover and interact with 50,000 artworks in the museum's collection.

The digital portal includes works from the Hammer Contemporary Collection, the Grunwald Center Collection, Franklin D. Murphy Sculpture Garden, Armand Hammer Daumier and Contemporaries Collections, and the Armand Hammer Collection. The new website is a milestone in a multi-year initiative to digitize the Hammer's collections, funded by grants from the Mellon Foundation and the Perenchio Foundation.

"Last year, we celebrated the culmination of our building transformation, which included new permanent galleries for works on paper as well as the largest temporary exhibition of our Hammer Contemporary Collection," Hammer Museum director Ann Philbin said.

As part of the grant initiative,

the museum commissioned new photography of many works in the collection, including nearly 300 newly digitized paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures from the Hammer Contemporary Collection and the Grunwald Center Collection. Additional works will be documented and digitized over the next two years.

Developed in partnership with U.K.-based digital agency Cogapp, Hammer Online Collections is the latest digital initiative committed to forging new ways of interacting with the community. It joins Hammer Channel, an online video library that allows users to watch, search, clip and share videos from more than 1,000 of the museum's public programs and exhibitions since 2005, and the Hammer's participation in Bloomberg Connects, a digital museum guide that features exclusive audio commentary from artists and curators, and video files.

The Hammer Museum is located at 10899 Wilshire Blvd. For information and to access the collections, visit collections.hammer.ucla.edu.

Jazz vocalist celebrates new album at Catalina Jazz Club

Los Angeles-based jazz vocalist Natalie Jacob performs in support of her recently released debut album "Sooner or Later" on Wednesday, Aug. 21, at 8:30 p.m. at the Catalina Jazz Club.

"Sooner or Later" is a collection of classics from the Great American Songbook and three bossa nova standards by Jobim produced by Grammy Award-winning Scotty Barnhart, director of the Count Basie Orchestra. The CD release

performance on Aug. 21 features many top musicians including Barnhart on trumpet, pianist Tamir Hendelman – who wrote all the arrangements – guitarist Larry Koonse, bassist Trevor Ware, drummer Clayton Cameron and percussionist Kevin Winard.

Jacob has been on the Los Angeles jazz scene for many years as a member of different bands. She was the lead singer for Bluenova and a member of the Long Beach-

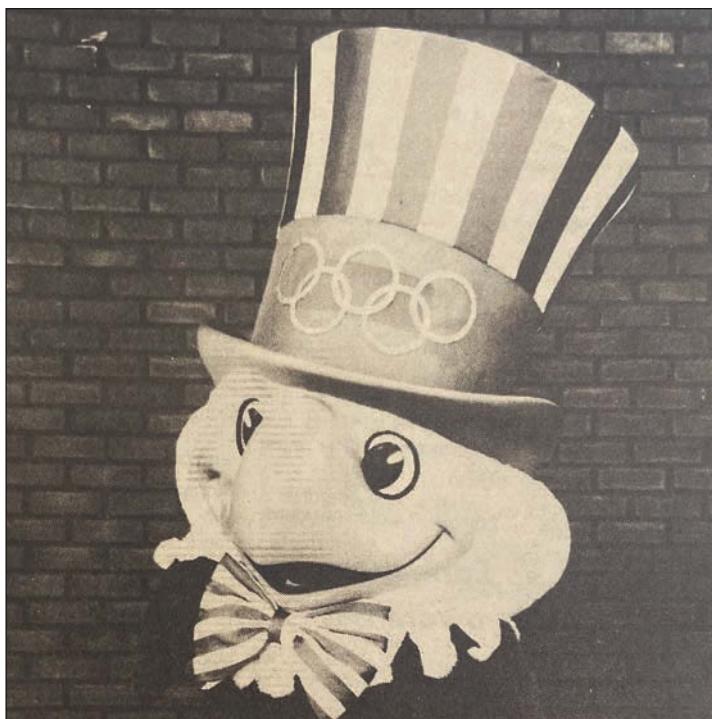
based Latin jazz band Along for the Ride. Most recently, Jacob was featured vocalist for the Paul McDonald Big Band and the bossa nova group Corcovado.

"As the producer of this project for Natalie, I wanted to surround her with the finest musicians in Los Angeles to allow her beautiful voice and sensitive interpretations to shine through," Barnhart said.

The Catalina Jazz Club is located at 6725 W. Sunset Blvd. Doors open at 7 p.m.; the show starts at 8:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$25. For tickets and information, call (323)466-2210, or visit catalinajazzclub.com.

VINTAGE
PARKLABREA NEWS

Sam the Eagle takes flight as Olympic mascot



The Aug. 14, 1980, issue of the Park Labrea News featured Sam the Eagle, who was selected that year as the official mascot of the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Sam was created by the Walt Disney Company and was a quintessential part of promoting the 1984 Olympic Games. On Monday, Mayor Karen Bass returned from Paris with the Olympic Flag, marking four years until the Olympics return to Los Angeles in 2028 – the third time the city will host the Games.

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Graffiti proliferates citywide

From page 4

contractors have gone up quite a bit."

Lt. Victor Arellano, of the Los Angeles Police Department's Hollywood Division, said officers actively look for taggers, but it can be difficult to catch them in the act. He added that graffiti is vandalism, which is considered a low-level offense compared to violent crimes, and those arrested are cited and immediately released pending court hearings. If a particular location is continuously sprayed with graffiti, officers are assigned to monitor the area and look for taggers, but much of enforcement is done based on complaints. Both Arellano and Racs said when taggers see a location where graffiti has already been scrawled, they are attracted like a magnet.

"When you hear about the broken window theory, that's where it comes from. If there is a space where they see someone has tagged, it will attract them. They want to see their names up there and now they are posting it on social media, which they feel glorifies it even more," Arellano said. "We enforce all the laws. If we see it, we will act on it. We can't be everywhere at once, but we try to be."

Government leaders in the Hollywood area and throughout the city are looking for ways to get more graffiti removal completed with resources that are available. Los Angeles City Councilman Hugo Soto-Martinez, 13th District, works with the Los Angeles Conservation Corps to augment graffiti removal in the Hollywood area. He also supports more funding for removal programs in the city budget, according to spokesman Nick Barnes-Batista.

"The L.A. Conservation Corps is a team specifically contracted by our district to supplement city services because of the funding chal-

lenge," he added.

The Hollywood Partnership, which oversees the Hollywood Entertainment District business improvement district, is an additional private provider of graffiti removal services in Hollywood.

The Los Angeles Office of Community Beautification contracts with the Los Angeles Beautification Team in the greater Hollywood area to remove graffiti. Crews respond to calls about graffiti through the 311 system and look for graffiti to cover. Executive director Sharyn Romano also stressed that the nonprofit is currently having to do more with less.

"This is a significant issue we

face," she said. "We are looking for ways to be more efficient but it's a challenge."

Graffiti is also a significant issue for Mayor Karen Bass, who is looking for ways to step up cleanup efforts.

"The Mayor's Office is working with Public Works departments to keep our neighborhoods safe and clean. Since Mayor Bass took office, we have completed approxi-

mately 2.5 million 311 service requests. The total number of closed requests includes 317,546 cases of graffiti removal," Bass' press deputy Clara Karger said. "More work obviously needs to be done and the mayor will continue to approach this issue with urgency to ensure our neighborhoods are clean, safe and welcoming for all, especially as we prepare for the 2028 Olympics."

NOTICE OF INTENT TO CIRCULATE PETITION

Notice is hereby given by the persons whose names appear hereon of their intention to circulate the petition within the City of West Hollywood for the purpose of adopting an initiative that will re-enact provisions to improve and protect the welfare of employees at hotels in the City.

A statement of the reasons of the proposed action as contemplated in said petition is as follows:

Income equality is one of the most pressing economic and social issues facing West Hollywood. By reenacting certain hotel worker protections and minimum wage ordinances, this initiative will promote the health, safety, and welfare of thousands of hotel workers by ensuring they receive fair compensation for the work they perform.

Reenacting these protections through the popular vote will ensure that future city councils cannot repeal or amend these protections without the consent of the voters. The initiative will allow a city council to amend the provisions of the ordinance only to increase or enhance the worker protections or benefits it provides. Specifically, the initiative will reenact provisions that include the following:

- Protections for hotel employees who work by themselves in guest rooms, restrooms, or in isolated locations who are vulnerable to crimes and other threatening behavior, including sexual assault. This initiative would reenact protections enabling hotel employees to protect their safety by, among other measures, requiring that hotel employers provide workers with panic buttons which they may use to report threatening conduct or other emergencies.

- Measures ensuring hotel room cleaners receive fair compensation when their workload assignments exceed proscribed limits and prohibiting hotel employers, except in emergency situations, from mandating overtime when workers' shifts exceed ten hours.

- Measures protecting hotel workers from displacement when corporate ownership or management of a hotel changes, by requiring a transitional retention period upon such changes, thereby stabilizing employment and alleviating demands on government agencies for social services.

- Measures ensuring that hotel workers who are laid-off because of a lack of business or other non-disciplinary reasons have a right to return to their positions or others for which they are qualified in order of seniority when their employer hires in the future.

- Measures ensuring that hotel workers receive training by a certified organization on their workplace rights and on best room cleaning practices to avoid the spread of disease and insect or vermin infestation and on identifying and

responding to suspected instances of human trafficking, domestic violence, or violent or threatening conduct.

- Measures ensuring hotel workers are paid wages that meet their and their families' basic needs. This includes a minimum wage for hotel workers that under current law is set at \$19.61 per hour and increases annually based on the cost of living.

- A requirement that employers provide at least ninety-six compensated hours off per year for sick leave, vacation, or personal necessity to full time hotel and other workers, to be made available at the worker's request, as well as additional unpaid sick leave when compensated time is exhausted.

- Guarantees that hotel and other workers receive any service charge a customer would reasonably believe is intended for the worker who performed the service.

Nothing in this initiative would prevent or impair a city council from enacting other measures that provide additional or different protections or benefits for hotel workers.

Signature: /s/

Print Name: Danielle Wilson

Address: [Street address omitted for privacy reasons]

West Hollywood, CA 90046

Signature: /s/

Print Name: Jorge Seperak

Address: [Street address omitted for privacy reasons]

West Hollywood, CA 90046

Signature: /s/

Print Name: Vincent Voss

Address: [Street address omitted for privacy reasons]

Los Angeles CA 90046

AN INITIATIVE MEASURE PROPOSING TO REENACT THE CITY'S EXISTING HOTEL WORKER PROTECTION AND MINIMUM WAGE ORDINANCES TO PREVENT THEIR FUTURE AMENDMENT WITHOUT SUBSEQUENT VOTER APPROVAL

The West Hollywood Municipal Code, Chapter 5.127, extends certain protections to hotel workers, including:

- Hotel employers must supply certain workers with electronic contact devices, for summoning on-scene assistance and reporting threatening conduct. Employers must provide workers with training, post notices of this practice, and must not take adverse action against a worker for using the device and reporting such conduct.

- Prohibits requiring workers to clean more than 4,000 square feet of floorspace in any eight-hour workday (3,500 square feet for hotels with 40

or more rooms), unless the employer pays twice the regular rate of pay for all hours worked. There are additional square footage restrictions for checkout and additional bedrooms.

• Prohibits requiring hotel workers from working more than ten hours in any workday unless the worker provides written consent, after being advised that he or she may decline..

• Hotel employers must offer laid-off workers, in writing, all job positions which become available for which they are qualified and offer hiring preferences to said workers according to listed priorities. This provision was tied to the COVID emergency and this recall period expired in April 2024; but, the City Council may reenact the right of recall for future emergencies by resolution.

• When a hotel changes control, the successor hotel must, for 90 days after the hotel reopens, retain/hire from among workers that worked for the previous operator, subject to exemptions.

The West Hollywood City Council also adopted Sections 5.130.020, 5.130.030 and 5.130.050, providing the following for workers:

• Sets a local minimum wage, subject to annual CPI increases and other conditions. (Currently \$19.61 for hotel employees and \$19.08 for non-hotel employees).

• Sets a minimum amount of accrued paid and unpaid sick, vacation and personal leave time.

• Requires equitable distribution of service charges to the worker(s) who performed the service(s).

This initiative does not alter these substantive provisions. Rather, it seeks to reenact them as an initiative measure (noting only the annual CPI increase for hotel employees is covered by this initiative; but, the leave and service charge provisions apply to all employees). Under State law, if this initiative secures sufficient resident voter signatures to qualify for the ballot (10% of City registered voters), and if either (i) the City Council adopts this initiative as an ordinance without an election or (ii) the City Council places it on the ballot and a majority of West Hollywood voters approve it, the provisions outlined above could not be amended by a future City Council, except as provided by the initiative measure itself.

This initiative measure permits the City Council to make limited amendments without an election, provided the amendments extend greater protections or increase the minimum wage and benefits to hotel workers beyond those provided therein. Otherwise, the City could not amend these provisions without subsequent majority voter approval.

/s/ Lauren Langer, City Attorney

Wires Only has permit denied

From page 1

Gary Ross said, shortly before voting to deny the CUP on June 26.

The denial comes after former Los Angeles Laker Spencer Dinwiddie filed a lawsuit against Wires Only. Dinwiddie alleged that the dealership reneged on a promise to help sell Dinwiddie's Ford Mustang after he purchased a \$1.05 million Ferrari from Wires Only.

While the CUP was denied, assistant director for the Beverly Hills Community Development Department Arlen Eskandari said that applicants who have the permit denied can apply again with the city.

However, he added that businesses that operate without a CUP and with multiple code enforcement violations may face consequences from the city.

"In cases where businesses repeatedly fail to comply despite guidance and support, escalation may involve the city prosecutor to ensure adherence to regulations," Eskandari said.

On Wednesday, Aug. 14, there were still cars visible in the showroom at 9030 Wilshire Blvd. However, moving blankets and other supplies were also visible.

El Rodeo School reopens in Beverly Hills

From page 1

to be completed in 2021. However, the project faced numerous challenges, namely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and was pushed back several times.

"There have been moments along the way where the road seemed endless and that the obstacles in front of us were insurmountable," Beverly Hills Unified School District Superintendent Michael Bregy said to a crowd in front of the school. "However, we remained in our steadfast commitment along with you, and I'm just overwhelmed this morning to stand here with such admiration for what we've achieved. The El Rodeo Elementary School

that you see before you today is not just a building. This is a testament to resilience, dedication and a collective effort of everybody involved – everybody that has come today. This is a place, when you look around, this is where history and modern times meet. Where every brick, every beam, every window tells a story of perseverance and hope. The completed project – albeit taking a little bit longer than we had anticipated – stands as a beacon of excellence and beauty among any school compared to in the state of California."

The school first opened in 1927 as El Rodeo de Las Aguas Elementary

School – a Spanish phrase for "gathering of the waters" taken from the area's first indigenous Tongva residents. The school's original Spanish revival architecture mirrors that of other city landmarks, like the Beverly Hills City Hall, completed five years later. The school underwent structural additions in the 1930s and later in the '60s as the city grew, with the latest project being the most significant update since then.

"El Rodeo School has been a cornerstone of our community for generations, and oh if these walls could talk. We would hear about growth, and learning and the beginning of lifelong friendships," BHUSD

Board President Dr. Amanda Stern said. "The new facilities feature state-of-the-art equipment designed to foster collaborative learning and creativity and they were built to ensure the safety and comfort of every child who walks through these doors."

The project – with a \$166 million budget – modernized facilities while maintaining and restoring the architectural elements that make the school unique, including a California Churrigueresque bell tower and a New Deal-funded Hugo Ballin mural titled "Rudimentary Education."

El Rodeo Principal Sarah Kaber highlighted the symbolic importance of the mural during the opening ceremony.

"It's a piece of art funded by the New Deal, a time in America when America invested in its people, its

future through public works and educational initiatives," Kaber said. "This mural is not just a decoration. It is a tribute to the resilience and spirit of our country during a pivotal time in history. This mural reminds us that we are connected to a legacy of perseverance, innovation and community. And as our students walk these halls, they will not only be learning about the past but also contributing to the future – poised to be part of the next chapter of American history."

All five members of the Beverly Hills City Council were also present at the ceremony to emphasize the coordination between city government and school district.

"The heart of the community is our schools," Mayor Lester Friedman said. "This beautiful El Rodeo campus is the start of a new chapter."

Meeting outlines options for K Line project

From page 1

will be held on Aug. 15.

After a presentation by Metro staff discussing the three possible alignments of the K Line expansion, roughly a dozen Lafayette Square residents spoke out in opposition to tunneling under the historic neighborhood, asking staff why main thoroughfares were not being used instead. While the majority of the proposed extensions would run along existing traffic-heavy streets, a portion of subway is currently planned to run several dozen feet underneath Lafayette Square, a diverse neighborhood with many 100-plus-year-old homes, which is bounded by Venice, Crenshaw, Washington and West boulevards.

"Your line was supposed to go up Central [Avenue], which is a public thoroughfare ... and then very recently, you guys have changed that, and there really hasn't been any notice," one Lafayette Square homeowner said. "We're all finding out about this for the first time. People are concerned about vibrations in their homes."

"The idea of boring underneath these houses and then having these trains go all day every day under

these houses is just illogical to anybody who thinks about it," resident Irving Meyers said. "I don't care [if] some engineer is going to promise me that it's only going to be minimal effect."

West Hollywood resident Nicholas Renteria disagreed with the homeowner's concerns.

"I don't have a car here. I walk to commute to work, and I think it'd be really helpful for me to get around the city," Renteria said. "I also think we live in a place with a lot of earthquakes, so shaking is something that scares you – sorry."

A Carthay Square resident mentioned that, when Metro had previously explored an above-ground rail system through the neighborhood, it hosted several meetings with homeowners.

"I encourage Lafayette Square to press on with getting the attention your neighborhood needs," resident Ann Rubin said. "My concern is the gentrification and the up-zoning and the real estate boom that this creates along the pathway. How do we get mass transit without expensive housing? It's urban renewal, and we get those consequences, and I think

we need to figure that out. It brings the tax revenue you need, but it doesn't create the affordable housing that we really need."

Metro staff did not respond to the concerns during the meeting, which was designed to hear and record public comments. The Draft EIR will be amended to incorporate community member feedback.

The three configurations of the K Line extension being considered follow the same path up to Pico Boulevard, but there the configurations divert. One would run concurrent with La Brea Avenue, another would run largely underneath Fairfax Avenue and the other would skirt through West Hollywood's Rainbow District along San Vicente and Santa Monica boulevards. Each would ultimately meet the Red Line at Hollywood Boulevard and Highland Avenue, and each also includes a potential extension that would include one additional stop at the Hollywood Bowl. No matter the alignment chosen, construction is not expected to begin until 2041.

Some younger speakers pointed out that the older homeowners taking issue with the alignment were

unlikely to ever see the project come to fruition.

"I really hope that the prospects of younger generations are really taken into account here ... I don't really see many of their faces represented in this meeting," West Hollywood resident Patrick Millk said. "Just please, if we can get this done anytime sooner, I think the city needs it. I moved here from Boston, and the public transit here is embarrassing."

"I'm looking forward to the opportunity to be able to take the Metro to LAX without having to take a car," a Hollywood resident said. "And I would love to urge ... anything that we can do to just to accelerate the timeline. Whenever I look at the 2040 completion date my heart sinks a little bit, because it just seems so far away."

One potential temporary solution was postured by a resident who suggested that a high-speed bus line be installed while awaiting construction on the subway line.

"This extension won't be completed for approximately 25 years, and some of us will be long dead by that time," a resident said. "But one of the thoughts that you had was about high frequency bus running from, let's say from the Expo Line of Crenshaw and up La Brea, and that that would have minimal [envi-

ronmental] impact. And I'd love to see that happening now."

Most public commenters focused on support for various alignments. A healthy contingent of West Hollywood residents, including West Hollywood Vice Mayor Chelsea Byers, were among the more than 100 community members present. The speakers, along with many others in the room, favored the San Vicente version of the line.

West Hollywood resident Gabe Perkins, who works as an energy and sustainability advisor, said that accelerating the timeline for the expansion is necessary to meet green energy goals.

"The climate crisis is accelerating at a pace at which we can't afford to wait 17 years to break ground on this project," he said. "If we want make meaningful progress on reducing our emissions before climate change gets out of control, we need to find whatever avenue we can to accelerate this project ahead of its current timeline."

To participate in the Aug. 15 meeting, which will be held from noon-1:30 p.m., visit us02web.zoom.us/j/87336933668 or call-in to (213)338-8477. To view the Draft EIR and for information on the K Line Extension, visit metro.net/projects/kline-northern-extension.

Mayor returns from Paris with Olympic Flag

From page 1

first to make a profit since 1948. Looking ahead to 2028, or – as it's been dubbed – LA28, Bass made the ambitious promise to hold a "no car" 10-day event. She said that she wants to "invest in the transportation improvements necessary to leave a lasting legacy in our city for generations to come."

Seleta Reynolds, Metro's chief innovation officer in the Office of Strategic Innovation, has been working toward that exact goal for years.

"It was actually part of the bid that the city put forward in order to make sure that these Games were, first of all, as sustainable as possible, but also to try and minimize the disruption and have them be safe, because there's a security perimeter around all the venues," Reynolds said. "That means that you can't have people parking, for obvious reasons, right next to where athletes are going to be competing."

Reynolds pointed out that in 1984, Los Angeles also had "car free Games," with a large network of buses helping to provide transportation.

"So, we know it can be done," she said.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th District, who attended the 2024 Games as part of the Metro delegation, said that it's "moving the crush of people immediately after an event ends" that will be the biggest challenge.

"That is something we are going to need to focus on and come up with creative solutions for," Hahn said.

Reynolds said a "huge network of buses," totaling between 2,500-3,000, from around the country will be brought in, as they were 40 years ago, to assist with transportation. Additionally, dedicated bus lanes will be set aside on freeways and major thoroughfares for Olympic travel.

"Our job is to keep everybody else moving," Reynolds said. "And if you never go to a single event, you never go to any live sites, you never go to a block party ... if you never have anything to do with the Olympics, you should still be able to get around this region to do the things that you need to do."

She added that some projects have been accelerated with the Olympics in mind.

"We've already identified those

absolutely must-have projects that we want to push hard to get done by the Games, but the other kinds of projects – that maybe were just a twinkle in somebody's eye that are definitely [now] on a more accelerated timeline – are there are simpler projects like bus-only lanes or bike lanes or pedestrian improvements," she said.

Reynolds said that major events, including Taylor Swift's Eras Tour and the forthcoming 2026 World Cup, also serve as dry-runs for LA28.

"We're trying to use all of these big events to kind of test out different strategies and ideas that we want to put in place for the big show," Reynolds added.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, 1st District, and Board of Supervisors Chair Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, were also part of the Metro delegation.

"Making LA28 carless will undoubtedly be a monumental challenge, requiring extensive planning, coordination and infrastructure development to accommodate the massive influx of athletes, spectators and staff without relying on personal vehicles," Solis said.

"However, Metro has made significant strides in preparing for this ambitious goal, with ongoing expansions to its rail system, including the extension to Pomona, improvements to existing line speed and reliability, the development of a comprehensive network of bus-only lanes across the county and plans to introduce thousands of additional buses to meet the increased demand during the events."

Beyond lessons in transportation, Horvath said that Paris offered additional experiences that will help to prepare Los Angeles for the next Games.

"We participated in so many learning sessions – learning about volunteerism, how they worked with the unhoused community, how they worked with local businesses and local community members on arts and culture experiences," Horvath said. "There were fan zones. There were all kinds of wonderful sites for people to participate, even if they didn't buy a ticket to the games. So, I'm really excited to see all the things that we will be able to incorporate into the Los Angeles experience of the Olympics."

West Hollywood Mayor John Erickson attended to observe Paris' Pride House, the LGBTQ+ hub for athletes, allies and fans.

"Pride House Paris was so well done," Erickson said. "They had activations. They had performances. They had LGBTQIA athletes who participated in the Games present, along with those that were champions before. They had such a positive, uplifting message that I think serves the world of out sports, as well as athletics and LGBTQ spaces in general. And for the first time, the International Olympic Committee sponsored Pride House. It's great to see that connection between the Olympic Committee and that organization."

For information and updates on Metro's progress for LA28, visit metro.net/2028games. For information on the Games, visit la28.org.

Answers From Page 23

A	S	H	E	B	E	L	G	M	A	C	Y
S	P	U	N	A	M	E	R	A	F	R	O
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C	A	R	T	O	G	R	P	H	E	R	S
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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

- Arthur of 1970s tennis
- Brussels is its cap.
- “Fargo” costar of McDormand
- Moxie
- The “A” in U.S.A., abbr.
- Angela Davis trademark
- Hagar’s wife, in comics
- Lindsay Lohan’s “momager”
- Midday hour
- Atlas suppliers
- Gems, slangily
- Brown ale brand
- Cosmic distance unit
- First name in linguistics
- U.N. agency
- Small ruckuses
- Louvre Pyramid architect
- Chart a course
- Breads for hummus
- Drama king?
- ‘Encore!’
- Cheek marker
- Emcees’ openers
- Where some cabins are found
- Olympic powerhouse
- Relating to region’s surface features
- “Brothers & Sisters” actor Rob
- Desktop accessory
- Fashionable tag
- Goofed up

- Salinger’s “For ____ -With Love and Squalor”

- Pie-in-the-face sound

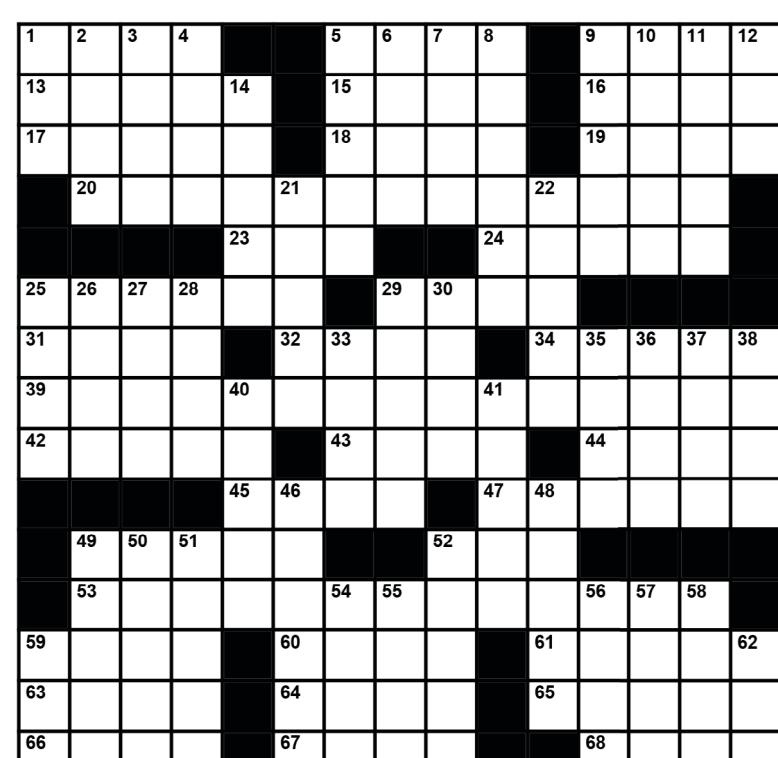
- Some cameras, abbr.

- Norse hammer thrower

- Elate

Down

- Mount St. Helens residue
- Schematic detail, briefly
- Luau exhibition
- Many a tech. sch. grad
- Sheriff’s insignia
- Qatar dignitary
- River to the Arctic Ocean
- Italian brandy
- “The Balcony” painter
- Prefix for “mentioned”
- Protection from Dracula
- Way out there, old-style
- TV host Couric
- Philosopher known for his “razor”
- Encircle
- MTV’s “__ My Ride”
- Berry for the health-conscious
- Fully attentive
- Cub with a big cudgel
- Observant individual
- Government safety org.
- Boxing gold medalist Oscar __ Hoya



52. Mich.’s ____ Peninsula

54. Unthought-out

55. Contents of some barrels

56. Headline features, briefly

57. Skillful

58. Without much fat

59. Weight abbr.

62. Inc. cousin

answers on page 22

LEGAL NOTICES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE -CHANGE OF NAME
Case Number 24SMCP00386
7/26/2024
Edward D’Abate
9024 Cynthia St.
West Hollywood, CA 90069
Superior Court of California
Los Angeles Superior Court
Santa Monica Courthouse
1725 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401
Petition of Edward D’Abate for change of name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS
Petitioner: EDUARDO D’ABATE BERRIOS
Proposed Name: EDWARD D’ABATE
THE COURT ORDER that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at a hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING DATE: 10/04/2024
TIME: 8:30 am
Dept. K
The address of the court is as noted above.
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once each week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation printed in this county: BEVERLY PRESS.
Signed Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court
Dated: July 26, 2024
Published: 8/1/2024, 8/8/2024, 8/15/2024, 8/22/2024

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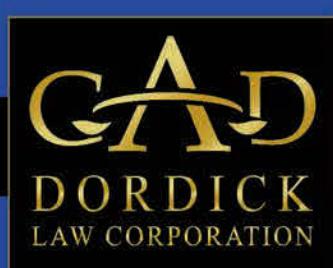
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\$900 MILLION Sexual Assault Jury Verdict

\$125 MILLION Auto Accident Jury Verdict

\$72.6 MILLION Bar Fight Jury Verdict

\$55.3 MILLION Negligent Security Jury Verdict



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