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

INSIDE

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- WeHo offers update on drone program pg. 7

August 28, 2025

At-risk youth find new home on Melrose Ave.

■ Facility is part of plan to alleviate homelessness

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A former board-and-care facility in the Melrose area that was vacant for years is being renovated into a facility for youth at risk of becoming homeless.

The Los Angeles City Council approved a contract with Safe Place

for Youth on Aug. 20 to operate the 60-bed facility at the northwest corner of Melrose Avenue and Alta Vista Boulevard. An opening date has not yet been scheduled, but the city and Safe Place for Youth anticipate it will open in December or early 2026.

See Facility page 22



photo by Edwin Folven

A three-story building at 7253 Melrose Ave. is being converted into transitional housing for youth.

New mural is 'Nourishing the Community'

■ Project Angel Food unveils artwork at new campus on Vine Street

BY SAM MULICK

Visitors to Project Angel Food's new headquarters will be welcomed by a mural featuring the hands and faces of community members at the heart of the organization's lifesaving service. The mural was unveiled at a special ceremony on Aug. 27.



photo by Rance Collins

"Nourishing the Community" by Robert Vargas features images of chefs and drivers who volunteer at Project Angel Food.

Project Angel Food, a nonprofit that cooks and delivers more than 1 million meals annually to people suffering from critical illnesses, unveiled the mural at the Chuck Lorre Foundation Campus, a new \$51.5 million facility. The renovated campus is set to open in December and will allow the organization to triple the number of meals it delivers each year. The mural, titled "Nourishing the Community," was completed by internationally renowned artist and Boyle Heights

native Robert Vargas. It depicts four Project Angel Food volunteers reaching out and welcoming the community.

Vargas spent the hottest days of the summer outside painting the mural and bringing the volunteers who make and deliver food to Los Angeles' most vulnerable citizens to life.

"I went into the kitchen firsthand to see the work that they do, and selected several volunteers and staff to participate and be a part of this mural, to truly be authentic to what they do," he said. "These are the real angels that are making this happen and providing these meals to the community."

Vargas started on Aug. 14 with 30 paint cans and worked completely freehand – without any projections or grids – to paint the faces of chef Veniece Hobby, lead driver Carla Ozuna, volunteer Mia McGovern and volunteer liaison Laura Martin-Marsh for anyone passing by on Vine Street to see. The quartet was present at the Aug. 27 unveiling. At the mural's center is a Mexican matriarch, not based on any real person, meant to emphasize the significance of the Latino community in Los Angeles amid ongoing U.S.

See Mural page 21

BHUSD schools will display flag of Israel

■ Board votes 3-2 in support of resolution

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education narrowly approved a resolution on Aug. 26 that requires all schools to display the flag of the state of Israel on campuses during the month of May. The resolution, titled "Combating Antisemitism through Education, Awareness, Remembrance and Support," recognizes May as Jewish Heritage Month, commemorates International Holocaust Remembrance Day in January, designates Oct. 7 as a day of remembrance, adopts the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism and provides professional development for staff and educational opportunities for students to learn Jewish history and prevent antisemitism. The resolution was created with the assistance of BHUSD's legal counsel.

Board Member Russell Stuart said that BHUSD schools will not



photo by Edwin Folven

The resolution was supported by Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian and Vice Mayor John Mirisch.

fly the flag of Israel on flagpoles. However, the resolution does not specify how the flags will be displayed.

Board President Rachelle Marcus and Board Member Amanda Stern voted against the resolution, echoing concerns from the community over the display of the Israeli flag.

Marcus said that she wholeheartedly supported the intent of the resolution in combatting antisemitism and creating an inclusive environment for Jewish students, but felt that the display of Israeli flags would make the schools a target for increased hatred.

"I would pass this resolution

See BHUSD page 21



photo by Jon Viscott

Block by Block security ambassadors will be replaced by new unarmed ambassadors employed by Allied Universal.

WeHo ditches Block by Block for Allied Universal

■ New vendor will offer same services

BY SAM MULICK

The West Hollywood City Council unanimously approved an agreement on Aug. 18 with a new security ambassador service, ending the city's partnership with Block by Block.

A 20-month, nearly \$10.1 million agreement with Allied Universal Security Services was approved to take the place of Block by Block, which has provided security ambassadors to the city since 2013. Security ambassadors conduct unarmed security patrols by foot and bicycle, assist with special events and are stationed at kiosks throughout the city.

See WeHo page 22

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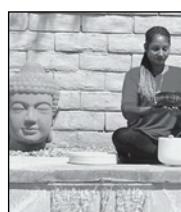
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'Fernandomania'

CASA 0101 Theater presents "Fernandomania," A 10-minute play festival celebrating the life and legacy of world-renowned Major League Baseball pitcher Fernando Valenzuela, from Friday, Aug. 29, through Sunday, Sept. 21. "Fernandomania" is part of CASA 0101 Theater's 25th anniversary season, presented by founding artistic director Josefina López and executive director Emmanuel Deleage. Twelve world premiere plays celebrate the phenomenon of how Valenzuela, a 20-year-old pitcher from Mexico, changed Major League Baseball and the lives of many Angelenos. The show, in English and Spanish with subtitles, features 16 actors performing 57 roles. 2102 E. First St. casa0101.org.

**Virginia Robinson Gardens**

The Virginia Robinson Gardens is holding a "Sound Bowl Meditation" with Devon Cunningham" on Saturday, Aug. 30, from 10-11:30 a.m. Participants are invited to embark on a meditative journey that consists of pure relaxation through sound bowl healing meditation. The sound bowls activate and energize chakras within the body and work with each person's individual needs and intentions to

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CALENDAR

align and create a deeper connection. Sound bowl healing meditation helps relieve stress, anxiety and insomnia. The cost is \$35. 1008 Elden Way. Robinsongardens.org.

'The Exiles' at The Broad

Go inside 1960s Downtown Los Angeles with The Broad, which is showing the film "The Exiles" (1961) on Saturday, Aug. 30, from 2:30-4 p.m. in Oculus Hall. "The Exiles," a gritty, realistic, beautifully photographed film that captures a night in the lives of young Native Americans in Downtown Los Angeles, features a rock 'n' roll score by Norman Knowles and The Revels. The film is based on interviews with the participants. After the screening, join Edgar García, interim general manager of El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, and Adam Piron (Kiowa and Mohawk), a filmmaker, writer and curator, for a post-film conversation about the Native migration to Los Angeles and Bunker Hill, and the Native influence on culture and nightlife. Admission is \$15 and includes access to the exhibition "Jeffrey Gibson: the space in which to place me." 221 S. Grand Ave. thebroad.org.

Haitian art

Hollywood based Galerie Lakaye is hosting "The Revolution Is At Hand!," a group exhibition of Haitian artists and afternoon of events on Saturday, Aug. 30, from 4-9 p.m. The event will feature a Haitian Tarot card reader, ceramics installation, screenings of short films, a live jam session, Konpa dance class and a full Haitian meal with rum cocktails. General admission is \$25. Space is limited. RSVP required by emailing galerie@galerielakaye.com.

Porsche Car Cruise-in

The Petersen Automotive Museum is holding the annual Porsche Car Cruise-In on Sunday, Aug. 31, from 9 a.m.-noon. Celebrate the legacy and passion of all things Porsche. From the iconic 356 to the high-performance GT series, experience the full spectrum of Porsche excellence with fellow enthusiasts. View hundreds of stunning Porsches, enjoy complimentary coffee and bagels and take home an exclusive event poster. The event offers a can't-miss opportunity for all Porsche lovers. General admission is \$25. 6060 Wilshire Blvd. petersen.org.

'Queer Lens' at the Getty

The Getty is hosting a screening of "The Watermelon Woman" on Sunday, Aug. 31, at 4 p.m. at the Getty Center. The film is shown in conjunction with the exhibitions "\$3 Bill: Evidence of Queer Lives" and "Queer Lens: A History of Photography," both open through Sept. 28. "The Watermelon Woman" (Cheryl Dunye, 1996), a romantic comedy, explores long-standing constructions of race and sexuality on-screen. Dunye stars as a documentary filmmaker trying to identify an unnamed actress who plays a stereotypical character in a 1930s plantation drama, a role that many Black actresses in Hollywood were relegated to at the time. The event is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts. 1200 Getty Center Drive. getty.edu.

LA Phil

The Los Angeles Philharmonic invited classical music fans to "Márquez's

"Fandango & Shostakovich's Fifth" on Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 8 p.m. at the Hollywood Bowl. Christian Vásquez conducts the orchestra and violinist Anne Akiko Meyers is the featured soloist. Winner of the 2024 Latin Grammy for Best Classical Contemporary Composition, "Fandango" is a love letter to Spanish dance and its New World progeny written for Meyers. Márquez's irresistible Danzón No. 2 kicks off the concert, and the evening culminates in Shostakovich's grand Fifth Symphony. 2302 N. Highland Ave. hollywoodbowl.com.

Solo art exhibits

TAG Gallery presents a series of exhibitions from Wednesday, Sept. 3, through Friday, Sept. 26. The exhibitions highlight distinguished solo artists Oxana Akopov and Pam Douglas in collaboration with Raya Yarbrough, Kathryn Pitt and Barbara Tevarotto. From intimate reflections on the human condition to poetic meditations on identity, memory, healing and belonging, each solo exhibition invites viewers into deeply personal yet universally resonant experiences. A reception will be held on Sept. 6, from 5-8 p.m. 5458 Wilshire Blvd. tagallery.net.

**Leica Gallery**

Enjoy "Mona Kuhn: Moonstruck," an exhibition of photographs inspired by musical improvisations running from Wednesday, Sept. 3, through Sunday, Nov. 2, at Leica Gallery Los Angeles. For more than 25 years, Kuhn has used photography to reexamine the human form and its place in visual culture. Kuhn takes a new direction into abstraction in her latest series "Moonstruck." The photographer used a Leica SL3 for the body of work. An opening reception will be held on Sept. 3 from 6-8 p.m. 8783 Beverly Blvd. (424)777-0341, leicagalleryla.com.

**Theatricum
Botanicum**

Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum's annual Under the Oaks salon series returns to Theatricum's outdoor stage. On Thursday, Sept. 4, at 7:30 p.m., Under the Oaks presents a one-night-only performance of the award-winning play "What the Constitution Means to Me" by Heidi Schreck. Fifteen-year-old Heidi earned her college tuition by winning Constitutional debate competitions. In the hilarious and hopeful play, she resurrects her teenage self to trace the profound relationship between four generations of women and the founding document that shaped their lives. The production stars Robyn Cohen, Timothy Thomas Brown and Tia Laulusa. Tickets start at \$25. The Under the Oaks series continues every Thursday in September. 1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd. (310)455-3723, theatricum.com.

Cage the Elephant

Don't miss Cage the Elephant on Friday, Sept. 5, at the El Rey Theatre. The American rock band formed in 2006 in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and has released the albums "Melophobia" "Thank You Happy Birthday" and "Neon Pill." Doors open at 8 p.m. 5515 Wilshire Blvd.

Young woman sought after disappearing on Aug. 21**BY EDWIN FOLVEN**

A 20-year-old woman from Northridge went missing on Aug. 21 after visiting the Koreatown area. Her mother is asking for the public's help in locating her daughter.

A report was filed with the Los Angeles Police Department's Missing Person's Unit, which is also actively searching for the missing woman – Jordan Pierce. Her mother, Alyze Pierce, said Jordan suffers from schizophrenia and does not have her medication. "I am very concerned because when she's not on her medication, it makes her disconnected and delusional," Pierce said. "She's not in a good state of mind and not thinking clearly. It's very concerning."

Pierce said Jordan was released from a psychiatric hospital approximately two months ago and underwent outpatient treatment. Pierce said her daughter's mental health was improving. On Aug. 20, Jordan went to Koreatown to visit a friend. Police said the missing woman's last known whereabouts were near Vista Hermosa Park, near First and Toluca streets east of the Koreatown area.

Pierce posted information about her daughter's disappearance on social media, asking for the public's help. An unidentified person reported seeing Jordan on Aug. 23 at a gas station at Washington Boulevard and Comey Avenue in Culver City, but the report could not be corroborated, Pierce said.



photo courtesy of Alyze Pierce

Jordan Pierce, 20, was last seen after visiting a friend in Koreatown.

When reached on Aug. 27, Pierce said her daughter is still missing and could be anywhere, including the Hollywood or Wilshire areas.

"I'm really concerned about her safety," Pierce said. "I don't know where she's headed or what's going on."

Jordan Pierce, who goes by the nickname "Shy," is white, 5-feet-3-inches tall and 110 pounds. She has a small tattoo of a dolphin under her left eye and a tattoo of black bars resembling "111111" on her neck.

Pierce asked that anyone with information text her at (310)883-5690. The LAPD's Missing Person's Unit can be reached at (213)996-1880.

Lawmakers seek answers on agents at press conference

and Customs Enforcement Associate Director Thomas Homan. "Clear answers in this matter are vital to maintaining that trust."

The lawmakers requested specific information about who authorized the deployment, the operational justification for its scale, whether the governor's remarks influenced the decision and the two arrests made. In addition to Padilla, Schiff and Friedman, the letter was signed by U.S. Reps. Ted Lieu, Nanette Barragán, Judy Chu, Gil Cisneros, Robert Garcia, Jimmy Gomez, Sara Jacobs, Zoe Lofgren, Kevin Mullin, Luz Rivas, Brad Sherman and Juan Vargas.

Padilla has been a leading voice in opposition to President Donald Trump's indiscriminate mass deportation agenda, including his unprecedented militarization of Los Angeles with the deployment of National Guard troops and active-duty U.S. Marines in response to overwhelmingly peaceful protests. He recently introduced the VISIBLE Act to require immigration enforcement officers to display clearly visible identification during enforcement actions. For information, visit padilla.senate.gov.

The media reported that approximately 100 federal agents – many in tactical gear and masks – were deployed directly outside the governor's public event. Two individuals were reportedly arrested, raising concerns about the intent and proportionality of the operation.

"The American people must be able to trust that Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Border Patrol and related federal agencies will never use their authority to intimidate civilians on the basis of political or policy differences," the lawmakers wrote in a letter to DHS Secretary Kristi Noem, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Acting Director Todd Lyons, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Chief Patrol Agent Gregory Bovino and U.S. Immigration

BHUSD OKs partial demolition of KBEV studio

■ Contract includes \$190,000 to tear down walls, ceiling

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education on Aug. 26 unanimously approved a \$190,000 contract with Integrated Demolition and Remediation, Inc. for the partial demolition and hazardous abatement of the KBEV studio on the Beverly Hills High School campus. KBEV, the school's broadcast journalism program, was founded in 1969.

According to the district, hazardous materials containing lead and asbestos were found within the ceiling and walls of the studio. The demolition will include the removal of the dropped ceilings, doors, non-load-bearing walls, windows and existing partitions. Studio features such as rigging systems, theatrical lighting systems and all structural steel elements will remain in place.

The construction will begin immediately and is expected to complete within three weeks. Following completion of the demolition, a plan for the updated design of the studio will appear before the board for discussion.

BHUSD Board members praised the project at the meeting on Aug. 26.

"At some point last year, our community was thinking that we are moving away from the Career

Technical Education programming, and I think it's great that we just keep showing them that we are reinvesting and reinvesting into these experiences and programs," Board Vice President Judith Manouchehri said.

"From the equipment, which is completely outdated, the style and layout which is completely outdated, we have not been giving our kids the abilities to learn the latest and greatest techniques in film and television," Board Member Russell Stuart said. "It's been neglected."

Although the district approved the demolition on Aug. 26, KBEV students and parents had previously raised concerns over the renovation, which appeared to begin earlier this summer. In July, students photographed items including furniture and equipment being removed from the studio before a renovation had been announced. Journalism students and parents were distraught over the retirement of Romeo Carey, the longtime director of KBEV who left the district earlier this year.

While KBEV previously provided live broadcasts of board meetings, in which students would operate cameras and recording equipment, gaining real-life broadcast experience, the board eliminated KBEV's role in the public meetings upon Carey's retirement. Live recordings of the meetings are now overseen by a district employee.

Additionally, on Aug. 5, the BHUSD Board of Education

approved a policy that expands district oversight of district-affiliated social media pages, including KBEV. The resolution prohibits "personal opinions or commentary."

Several alumni who were KBEV students in high school are worried about the future of the program.

"Without giving students the freedom and the rights to create the content, you're sending a message that their speech, that their thoughts, that their ideas are no longer allowed to be broadcast," class of 2010 graduate Nikkie Sedaghat said.

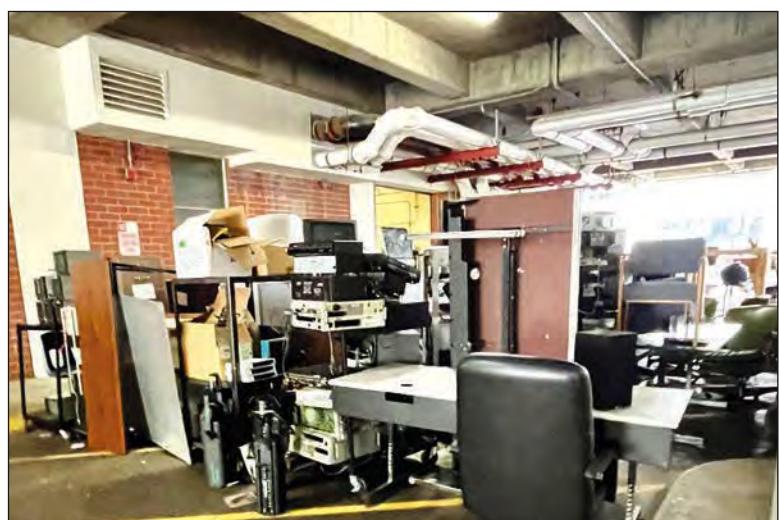


photo courtesy of a KBEV student

The district began removing furniture and equipment from the studio earlier this summer.

Margot McKinney.

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photo by Edwin Folven

The policy will return to the BHUSD Board of Education on Sept. 9.

BHUSD considers limiting tutoring

■ Policy would prohibit teachers from tutoring their own students

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education will consider limiting the ability of teachers to tutor their students.

The proposal is an amendment to Board Policy 4136 on non-school employment, which outlines paid activities incompatible with district employment. The proposed amendment adds that "district teachers may not tutor students currently enrolled in any of their classes." Additionally, it states that district teachers are prohibited from tutoring — whether paid or unpaid — any students currently enrolled in the district "if such tutoring involves the disclosure and/or use of

information not equally available to all students."

The policy also prohibits teachers from organizing or conducting group tutoring sessions for students enrolled in the district. It permits teachers to tutor students not enrolled in the district, "provided that no district resources, facilities or instructional materials are used, and provided further that such tutoring does not conflict with the employee's duties or responsibilities to the district."

The board approved the first reading of the policy. However, Board Member Dr. Amanda Stern said she would like to discuss the policy further before a final approval.

BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss instructed board members to email him with their possible concerns. Cherniss indicated that he will incorporate any

See District page 22



Burglars shattered the door of the Urbn Leaf West Hollywood Cannabis Dispensary in the early morning of Aug. 25.

Urbn Leaf Dispensary on Sunset Strip burglarized

■ Deputies confirm business was targeted four times this year

BY SAM MULICK

The Urbn Leaf West Hollywood Cannabis Dispensary was burglarized on Aug. 25 for the fourth time this year.

The door of the dispensary, located at 8477 Sunset Blvd., was shattered around 4:34 a.m., setting off the store's alarm.

However, sheriff's deputies did not locate anyone inside and made no arrests, Lt. Ashley Turner of the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station said. Additionally, nothing appeared to have been stolen, Turner added.

"At the time of the report, the person at the location associated

with the business did not believe anything had been taken," she said.

The store, which was the first cannabis dispensary on the Sunset Strip, was broken into three previous times this year, with burglaries occurring on Jan. 9, Feb. 6 and April 20. A separate burglary was reported at The Woods WeHo in May, a cannabis dispensary on Santa Monica Boulevard in West Hollywood owned by comedian Bill Maher and actor Woody Harrelson.

Deputies do not have information on any suspects. Anyone with information regarding the burglaries is asked to contact the West Hollywood Sheriff's station at (310)855-8850.

Representatives from the Urbn Leaf West Hollywood Cannabis Dispensary declined to comment.

Menendez brothers denied parole

■ Decision comes after resentencing hearing in May

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Brothers Erik and Lyle Menendez were denied parole on Aug. 21 and 22, respectively, following separate hearings that each lasted over 10 hours.

The brothers were sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole in 1996 for the double murder of their parents, Jose and Kitty Menendez, which took place in their family home in Beverly Hills. In May, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael Jesic resented the brothers to 50 years to life in prison with the possibility of parole, opening the door for the August review by the parole board.

However, the separate hearings found that the brothers were not suitable for parole for several reasons. Board commissioners said that Erik was not rehabilitated because he possessed a cellphone, associated with a prison gang and was involved in a tax fraud scheme. They noted his behavior as "selfish" and raised concerns about his actions.

Parole Commissioner Julie Garland said that while Lyle outwardly displayed signs of rehabilitation, he still showed "antisocial personality traits like deception, minimization and rule breaking that lie beneath the positive surface." Lyle also possessed an illegal cell phone while in prison.

Erik and Lyle Menendez can reapply for parole in three years. However, with good behavior, they may appear before a parole hearing in as little as 18 months.



The brothers were convicted of the 1989 murder of their parents in their home in Beverly Hills.

Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman praised the parole board's decision in a statement.

"The parole process is guided by evidence and public safety, not by spectacle, shifting public opinion or personal agendas," Hochman said. "After weighing the facts, the board's analysis was consistent with that of our office – both Menendez brothers remain unsuitable for release. Independent psychological evaluations further classify them as presenting a moderate risk."

The family of the Menendez brothers – who have been supportive of their potential release from prison – released a statement following the parole decisions stating that they were "disappointed" but "not discouraged."

"The process for parole is exceptionally rigorous, but we are incredibly proud of how Erik and Lyle showed up – with honesty, accountability and integrity," the statement

read. "This is not the end of the road. Both will go before the board again, and their habeas petition remains under review. In the meantime, we know they will take time to reflect on the board's recommendations and will continue to lead, mentor and build programs that support rehabilitation and hope for others. We know they are good men who have done the work to rehabilitate and are remorseful. We love them unconditionally and will continue to stand by them on the journey ahead."

In addition to future parole hearings, the brothers have two other possible pathways to freedom. Gov. Gavin Newsom can grant clemency at any time in the form of a commutation, which would reduce their sentence, or a pardon. Additionally, the brothers submitted a habeas corpus petition in 2023 which seeks a new trial based on evidence that was not previously presented in court. The petition is currently under review.

Burglary crew linked to Wilshire area break-ins

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Ten members of a burglary crew are in custody for a series of nearly 100 break-ins throughout the city, including in the Wilshire area. Los Angeles Police Department Chief Jim McDonnell, Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman and Mayor Karen Bass made the announcement on Aug. 25.

The suspects are all gang members, authorities said. The group, nicknamed the "Rich Rollin Burglary Crew," targeted residences for luxury goods such as jewelry and handbags. Police linked the suspects to at least 92 burglaries in Los Angeles since 2022, with most of the break-ins reported in 2024 and 2025.

Seven suspects were arrested in an extensive operation on Aug. 20. They are identified as Devon Collier, 37; Tyrone Tisby, 47; Frank Tisby, 38; Jeremy Shepard, 38; Jermaine Kimbrough, 22; Michael Lewis, 20; and Marquell Lewis, 26.

They were booked on burglary charges and possession of controlled substances while armed. Eric Cannon, 40, also accused of being part of the crew, surrendered on Aug. 22. Defendants Anthony Leslie and Shawn Quinney, both 36, were already in custody on unrelated charges.

"These arrests send a clear message, if you prey on our neighborhoods, we will find you and hold you accountable," McDonnell said. "What made this takedown possible

directly tied the crew to multiple burglaries.

Lt. Mark Ro said six burglaries are connected to the crew in the Wilshire Division. They occurred in Hancock Park, the Melrose area and Beverly Grove, but he did not have the exact locations or dates. Ro said investigators are still working

together to pinpoint where all of the burglaries occurred, and added that the number of incidents in the Wilshire area will likely increase.

However, he said for the first time in the three years he has worked at the station, no burglaries occurred in the Wilshire Division over a full weekend, from Aug. 23-24.

"I don't want to jinx it, but it's pretty significant that we saw no burglaries," he added.

Bass said that the complex operation and arrests mark a breakthrough in addressing property crime in Los Angeles. While many of the break-ins occurred on the Westside, the crew also targeted residences in the San Fernando Valley.

"Thanks to the tireless work of our officers and detectives, this crew, which has victimized families and businesses, is no longer a threat to our neighborhoods," Bass said.

Man arrested for break-in at Lionel Richie's home

BY TABOR BREWSTER

A suspect was arrested following an attempted break-in at singer Lionel Richie's home in Beverly Hills shortly after midnight on Aug. 22, according to media reports.

While the Beverly Hills Police Department did not confirm the exact address or that the home belongs to Richie, BHPD Lt. Kevin Orth said that the department received a call at approximately 12:11 a.m. of an attempted burglary in a neighborhood adjacent to the Los Angeles Country Club.

Orth said officers located the suspect near Wilshire and Beverly Glen boulevards. The suspect was identified as 38-year-old Michael John Bond Jr.

Orth added that the investigation is ongoing, and did not confirm whether anything was taken from the house.

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TV host robbed in Beverly Hills

■ **Camille Anderson says she was attacked while walking**

BY Tabor Brewster

Camille Anderson, an actress and model known as the host of the "Selling Mega Mansions" reality television series, was assaulted and robbed on Aug. 16 while walking near Cañon Drive and South Santa Monica Boulevard in Beverly Hills.

The robbery took place at approximately 9 p.m. as Anderson was walking to a restaurant with a friend, she said.

"I was thrown to the ground very forcefully, like body slammed into the ground," Anderson said in a social media post. She said two men attacked her and stole her Yves Saint Laurent purse before fleeing

in a vehicle.

Anderson said bystanders called 911 and the BHPD responded immediately. She said officers took a report and informed her within minutes that the suspects were caught.

"The Beverly Hills Police Department did a phenomenal job. They were super fast acting," Anderson said. "They deployed everyone available. They found them quickly. It seemed like literally within 10 minutes."

BHPD Lt. Kevin Orth confirmed that the department responded to a report of a robbery in the area at approximately 9:08 p.m. on Aug. 16.

Three suspects were arrested on robbery and conspiracy charges. The BHPD identified the suspects as Razmik Papikyan, 25, Vahagn Grigoryan, 45, and Vlad

Oganisyan, 23.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's office filed felony robbery charges against Grigoryan on Aug. 19. According to the D.A.'s office, Grigoryan posted \$100,000 bail and is not in custody.

His arraignment is scheduled for Sept. 8.

"The cases against Razmik Papikyan and Vlad Oganisyan were sent back to law enforcement for further investigation," a D.A. spokesperson said.

Anderson believes she was targeted because of her designer purse and jewelry, and cautioned others not to wear luxury accessories while walking.

"I just want to get this message out there to take safety so seriously in Los Angeles," she said. "It's a really big problem. I've now been mugged in Beverly Hills, I can say. That's so sad. I've been here for a long time in this city. I love it so much, and it's just really changed."



photo by Tabor Brewster

The violent robbery occurred near the intersection of Cañon Drive and South Santa Monica Boulevard on Aug. 16.

Crash damages statue of early Hollywood icon

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The driver of a white van careened onto a traffic median and crashed into the Four Ladies of Hollywood Gazebo at Hollywood Boulevard and La Brea Avenue around 5:50 p.m. on Aug. 25 before



photo by Edwin Folven

A statue depicting actress Anna May Wong, part of the Four Ladies of Hollywood Gazebo at Hollywood and La Brea, was struck during a hit-and-run on Aug. 25.

fleeing the scene, police said. Witnesses called 911 and reported that the van was driving away, Los Angeles Police Department spokesman Kevin Terzes said. Officers were unable to locate the vehicle. A report was taken and officers determined the van also struck

another vehicle in the area, Terzes said. No injuries were reported. The 30-foot-tall Four Ladies of Hollywood Gazebo, a prominent fixture on the triangular median at the southeast corner of the intersection, was installed in 1993 as part of a redevelopment project to revitalize the western edge of the Hollywood Walk of Fame. It features statues of early Hollywood icons Dorothy Dandridge, Dolores Del Rio, Mae West and Anna May Wong, which form the pillars underneath the gazebo top.

The van struck the statue depicting Wong, widely considered to be the first Chinese American Hollywood film star. The collision damaged the statue, but the pillar supporting the gazebo remains in place and the gazebo is still standing. It is unclear whether plans are being formulated for repairs.

The driver, only described as a male, is wanted for the hit-and-run. The vehicle that struck the statue is a full-size, older model, white work van. Anyone with information is urged to call the LAPD's Hollywood Division at (213)972-2971.

Subway project keeps rolling in right direction

Crews are working at and around Metro subway station sites in late August and early September along the D Line Extension project.

New stations at Wilshire/La Brea, Wilshire/Fairfax and Wilshire/La Cienega are being completed ahead of the anticipated opening of the subway line's first segment in late 2025. Streetscape improvements continue along Wilshire Boulevard in the Miracle Mile, and on Wilshire Boulevard between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards in Beverly Hills.

A K-rail work zone remains in place on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard east of La Cienega Boulevard, and temporary road closures are being implemented on South Hamilton and South Tower drives. Two lanes remain open in each direction on Wilshire Boulevard between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards. The traffic control supports construction of new curbs, sidewalks, pedestrian ramps and tree wells. Work may extend into night hours. Heavy equipment may be used until 9 p.m. on most nights.

Ongoing construction also continues at the Beverly Drive Station,

formerly the Wilshire/Rodeo station. Traffic lane and sidewalk closures are in place through Aug. 29 on Wilshire Boulevard between Stanley and Hamel drives and Wilshire Boulevard between Carson Road and Robertson Boulevard to support the removal of geotechnical instruments. The work occurs at night from 8:15 p.m.-7 a.m.

The south sidewalk on Wilshire Boulevard between Cañon and Crescent drive is closed through Sept. 26 for underground construction. Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction, with phased sidewalk restrictions and

pedestrian detours in place. Local access is maintained. Ferrari Beverly Hills customers can enter from the rear of the property, with valet parking available at the nearby Sixty Hotel.

Preparations are underway to remove deck panels near the Century City Station. Crews will restore Constellation Boulevard between Century Park East and Solar Way.

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

Work is ongoing at the subway station entrance and exit at Wilshire/La Brea.



Do Dogs and Cats Dream Like Us?

If you've ever watched your dog twitch, wag, or softly bark in their sleep – or your cat's whiskers flicker as if stalking invisible prey – you've probably wondered: are they dreaming? Science says yes. Dogs and cats enter the same sleep stages we do, including **REM (Rapid Eye Movement) sleep**, the phase most linked with vivid dreaming.

The Science of Pet Dreams

During REM sleep, the brain is highly active even though the body stays mostly still. Eyes flicker beneath closed lids, breathing becomes irregular, and those adorable twitches appear. Puppies and kittens spend nearly half their sleep in REM, far more than adults, because their developing brains need extra dream time to **process learning, memories, and emotions**.

Researchers believe pets often dream about everyday activities – chasing, playing, or interacting with people. Animal studies show that during REM, the brain "replays" waking experiences, almost like reviewing the highlight reel of the day.

Why Dreams Matter for Health

Dreaming isn't just cute – it's essential for brain health, emotional balance, and memory. But not all pets can enjoy good sleep. Dogs with pain, anxiety, or airway problems often have disrupted sleep cycles and may struggle to reach REM. This is especially true for **brachycephalic breeds** like bulldogs, Frenchies, and pugs, whose airway syndrome makes breathing difficult, particularly at night. Owners often notice snoring, restless sleep, and frequent waking – signs of poor rest. After corrective airway surgery, however, I've observed something remarkable: these dogs often take longer to wake from anesthesia, not because anything is wrong, but because – for the first time – they can breathe and rest deeply. For many, it may be the first truly restorative sleep of their lives, finally allowing them to experience the uninterrupted REM cycles that support a healthier body and mind.

Helping Pets Rest Better

Sleep is more than downtime – it's a vital sign of health. When dogs and cats are allowed to dream, their brains process memories, regulate emotions, and recover from daily stress. Watching them snooze peacefully is more than heartwarming – it's reassurance that their bodies and minds are recharging. If your pet snores heavily, wakes often at night, or seems restless during sleep, it may be more than a quirk – it could be a medical issue worth addressing. Talk with your veterinarian about airway health, pain management, or anxiety treatment. Better sleep doesn't just mean sweeter dreams; it can mean a healthier body and mind.

About Dr. Ameis

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

A devoted husband to Lindsay, and a proud dad to their two kids. Their family wouldn't be complete without their beloved dog Lyla – and the recently departed Rex, a vivid dreamer we will always miss.



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

Drone program awaits flight in WeHo

■ No drones have yet been used to respond to crime

BY SAM MULICK

Public safety officials provided an update on West Hollywood's drone program at the Aug. 25 Public Safety Commission meeting.

On June 23, the West Hollywood City Council approved the use of drones for emergency response while it awaits sign-off from the Sheriff's Department on the city's larger drone program. No drones have been deployed yet to respond to crimes in the city, though the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station was given one drone by the Sheriff's Department.

At the Public Safety Commission meeting, Sgt. Jason Duron of the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station said the city's drone as first responder program would allow deputies at the station to fly drones remotely to emergency crime scenes before deploying deputies to the area.

However, the Sheriff's Department's current plan only allows drones to be deployed by deputies out in the field who respond to calls that meet a certain level of emergency and then gain approval from the department's Special Enforcement Bureau before flying the drone. The instances that drones can be used include "explo-

sive ordnance detection missions, disaster response, barricaded suspects, hostage situations and active shooters."

"That drone would be in the air over the situation where the deputy on scene at the location would be able to see what's going on," Duron said. "It wouldn't be transmitted back to the station."

Once the revision to the Sheriff's Department drone policy is completed, the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station will review its own drone policy to see if significant changes need to be made before the drone as first responder program is implemented.

"We are working with the Sheriff's Department," director of community safety Danny Rivas said. "What they end up proposing to us is going to be something that's blanketed across the entire county of Los Angeles. So, what we approved and what we'll end up seeing as what their final proposal is — we don't know what that's going to look like yet. At that point as we're cross-referencing between the two, we'll identify if there are significant changes or things we need to bring back for discussion."

Any significant revisions to the program would be implemented after community and commission input, Rivas said. He added that the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station is still able to deploy a drone in life-threatening situations while waiting

for the policy revisions from the Sheriff's Department.

Public Safety Commissioner Catherine Eng also discussed potential issues adhering to a countywide public safety policy.

"It's a concern for most of us that our vibe and personality here is very different," she said. "The nature of how our city is run is different — so I do want to point that out."

Rivas added that the city will disseminate more communication on the drone program to the city. There is no update on when the Sheriff's Department policy will be completed.



Beverly Press file photo

The West Hollywood Sheriff's Station has one drone available to use while it waits for approval from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department on the drone as first responder program.

TEMPLE of the ARTS

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Sep. 22 • 8 PM

Sep. 23 • 10 AM

Yom Kippur

Oct. 1 • 8 PM

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WeHo starts annual tree trimming

The city of West Hollywood will start annual tree pruning on Tuesday, Sept. 2, with work expected to continue through February.

West Coast Arborists will start the pruning work along Sunset Boulevard, taking measures to avoid disruptions to westbound traffic lanes before 10 a.m. to minimize the impact on morning commuter traffic. During the coming weeks, crews will move to Santa Monica Boulevard, Beverly Boulevard and main streets in West Hollywood. After trimming in commercial areas is complete, trimming will commence on residential streets. Work hours are 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

The city will use several methods to notify residents, businesses and motorists in advance of pruning work. "No parking" signs with information about scheduled trimming activities for each day will be placed a minimum of 24 hours in advance of work. Door hangers and signs posted on trees will be placed

a minimum of 72 hours in advance of residential tree trimming activities. Electronic message boards at strategic locations will notify the public several days before trimming and during trimming work. Information will also be posted on the city's social media pages and at weho.org.

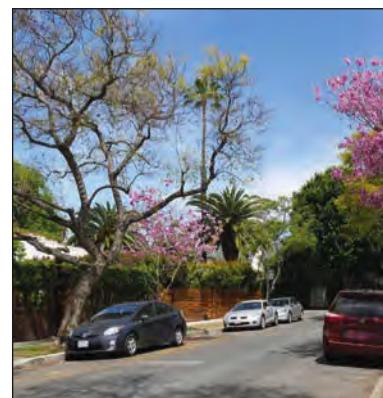


photo courtesy of the city of West Hollywood
West Hollywood will provide advance notice before trees are trimmed on residential streets.

Notable Quotes

"But when I'm finished with a job I'm really into resting. I go to bed for a long time and barely move. I'm so exhausted. I completely stop. I don't even move in my bed at all."

Jennifer Coolidge (b. 1961)

"The White Lotus," "Legally Blonde" and "American Pie" star's post-production regiment works very well for Labor Day weekend. Enjoy the time off, readers.

*source: The Times of London

WeHo Library installs new temporary art

The city of West Hollywood's Arts Division has installed two new temporary art exhibitions at West Hollywood Library on Aug. 7.

"Angel of Compassion" is a series of seven mixed-media paintings by artist S.P. Harper and "Cacti" is a trio of ceramic and metal sculptural totems by artist Dustin Gimbel. The exhibitions are available to view during regular library hours.

"Angel of Compassion" is a series of seven paintings by artist S.P. Harper featuring images of jewels that were originally owned by Elizabeth Taylor and sold by her estate to benefit the Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation after her death. Prior to their auction in 2011, these jewels were displayed on a four-stop worldwide tour, including at the Pacific Design

Center gallery space across the street from West Hollywood Library. Taylor was one of the first celebrities to participate in HIV/AIDS activism. She helped to raise more than \$270 million for the cause and received the Presidential Citizens Medal in 2001 for her philanthropic efforts.

Harper paints and sculpts abstract geometrics using recycled materials. What begins as refuse is repurposed, transforming base materials into noble objects.

"Cacti" ("Euphorbia," "Monstrosus" and "Mod Cactus Trio") is a trio of ceramic and metal sculptural totems by artist Dustin Gimbel. These totems stand as a reflection on xeriscaping, a practice that embraces drought-tolerant landscapes to conserve water in an era of increasing scarcity.

Gimbel is a sculptor and designer whose work is deeply influenced by his fascination with plants and the natural world but also manmade forms, often exploring the intersection between the two.

Other current exhibitions at the West Hollywood Library include "Remembering Beverly Park," a display of historic photographs of the children's amusement park formerly located just outside the border of West Hollywood; "Historic WeHo, Architectural Details," a selection of architectural details of West Hollywood's historic buildings as taken by Tony Coelho; "West Hollywood Park," a painting by Jay Lynn Gomez highlighting invisible labor forces and "Platanus Bibliotechalis," a permanent, site-specific sculpture of an imaginary sycamore tree by

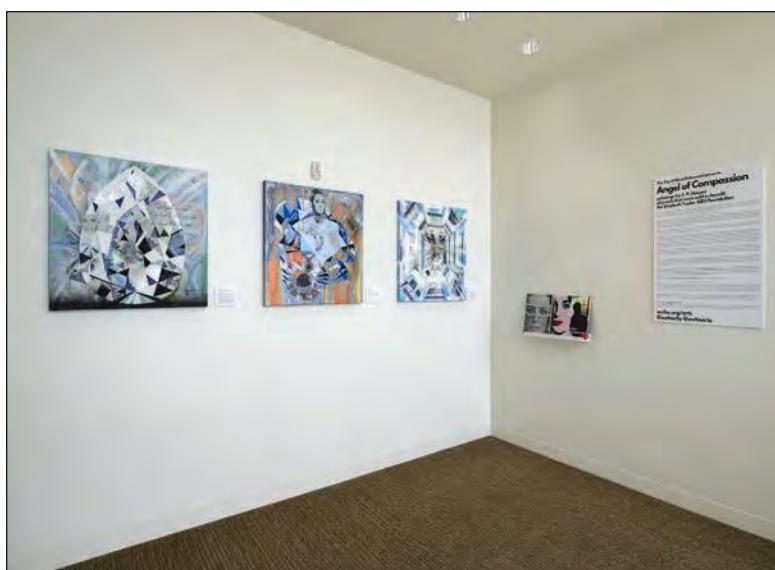


photo by Jon Viscott

The "Angel of Compassion" art series is featured at the West Hollywood Library.

David Wiseman.

The West Hollywood Library is located at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd.

For information, visit weho.org/community/arts-and-culture/visual-arts/library-exhibitions.



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

L.A. County is seeking to make film and television production easier by streamlining the permitting process.

County launches search for organization to oversee film and TV permits

The Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity and Los Angeles County Film Office are seeking an organization to oversee film, television and photography permit coordination services. Proposals are due Thursday, Sept. 18, at noon.

The entertainment industry remains a cornerstone of L.A. County's economy, supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs, fueling

small businesses and generating billions in local revenue each year. Through a request for proposals seeking qualified contractors, the DEO aims to ensure a streamlined, transparent and community-informed permitting process that strengthens the industry while protecting neighborhood quality of life.

The selected contractor will provide critical services such as expedited permit coordination, industry

sector trend analysis, public notifications of upcoming productions and complaint resolution. The goal is to ensure production activity is conducted in compliance with regulations, while balancing the needs of local communities.

The contract term will run from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2031.

For information, email DEO-PRO@opportunity.lacounty.gov.

spotlight

WITH SHARONA

We're heading to one of Beverly Hills' gems:
SOUTH BEVERLY DRIVE.

Everyone is welcome, and the event is free—but spots fill up fast, so reservations are required.

Head to BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/SPOTLIGHT to reserve your place and receive updates on the featured businesses.

Wednesday, September 10, 2025
4:30 PM to 6:30 PM

To register and learn more, visit beverlyhills/spotlight.
Questions? Email info@beverlyhillschamber.com

Photo Credit: @takpro

WeHo celebrates Women's Equality Day

The city of West Hollywood and the Women's Advisory Board celebrated Women's Equality Day on Aug. 24 at Plummer Park's Fiesta Hall. The event honored the optimism, tenacity and unrelenting spirit of the people who worked to secure women's right to vote and illustrated how much can be achieved in a democratic society by the collective efforts of citizens committed to political reform. The celebration also highlighted ongoing efforts to achieve full gender equality and protect voting rights.

The Women's Equality Day Celebration featured an interactive Tabletop Brunch – Women and the Way Forward – hosted by the city of West Hollywood's Women's Advisory Board, and a screening of the award-winning documentary

"Resisterhood" by filmmaker CJ Crim about the power of women, hope and resistance in the aftermath of the 2016 Presidential Election. After the screening, a panel discussion was held with Kat Calvin, founder and executive director of Spread The Vote + Project ID and author of "American Identity in Crisis: Notes from an Accidental Activist"; Emiliana Guereca, founder of Women's March Foundation; Rati Gupta, actor and content director of 5 Call Civic Action; Deborah Lee Smith, award-winning actor, Emmy-nominated producer, writer and mental health advocate; and Reena De Asis, principal of RDA Strategies and founder of Inclusive Sol, who moderated the panel discussion.

In addition to the Women's

Equality Day Celebration, the West Hollywood City Council issued a proclamation and West Hollywood City Hall and the city's lanterns over Santa Monica Boulevard were lit in purple and yellow in recognition of the women's suffrage movement.

For more than two decades, the city of West Hollywood has commemorated Women's Equality Day in a variety of ways. The city was the first in the nation to declare itself pro-choice and has continually supported state and federal legislation protecting and advancing women's reproductive rights and access to health care. The city supports the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and has a strong record of supporting initiatives that call for equal pay for



photo by Kristina Sado

WeHo's Women's Equality Day celebration featured a film screening, panel discussions and speeches.

equal work. The West Hollywood Women's Advisory Board is involved in a myriad of programming and events that recognize and support women in the community.

For information, visit weho.org.

Food Coalition serves up 'pickle' of fun

The city of West Hollywood is co-sponsoring the Hollywood Food Coalition's Pickleball Fundraiser Smash Hunger: Pickle for Good, which takes place on Sept. 6 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the West Hollywood Park Aquatic and Recreation Center's tennis and pickleball courts adjacent to the West Hollywood Library. The community-centered event is being brought to the community in partnership with Tennacity.

The Hollywood Food Coalition Pickleball Fundraiser raises funds

for Hollywood Food Coalition's food recovery and meal distribution programs, which serve food-insecure individuals in West Hollywood and across Los Angeles. The event is free and open to the public to attend. Tickets for competing participants range between \$50 and \$100.

Hollywood Food Coalition is a community-based organization committed to providing meal, food distribution and support services that promote food equity with more than 30 years of experience actively engaging volunteers and com-

munity partnerships to provide daily meals to community members in critical need in West Hollywood and throughout the Los Angeles region. The mission of Hollywood Food Coalition is to nourish the community by rescuing and distributing food, preparing nightly meals and uniting efforts to achieve food equity. The event will engage and encourage the community to participate in a health-centric activity while bringing awareness about food waste and hunger crises.

The West Hollywood Park Aquatic and Recreation Center is located at 8750 El Tovar Place. For tickets and information, visit givebutter.com/hofocpickle.



photo courtesy of the city of West Hollywood

The Hollywood Food Coalition Pickleball Fundraiser will help the organization serve meals to people in need.

Sézane brings Parisian style to The Grove

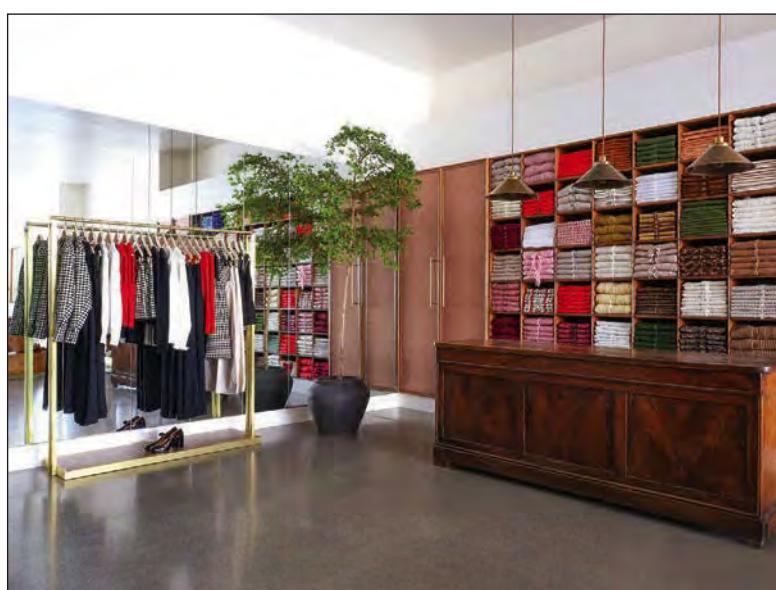
Parisian B-Corp certified brand Sézane debuts a new "Appartement" in the heart of Los Angeles at The Grove. Building on the success of the Brentwood Country Mart location, it marks Sézane's second location in L.A. and a continued step in West Coast expansion.

Sézane at The Grove features a carefully curated selection of Sézane's signature pieces – timeless wardrobe staples, seasonal highlights and exclusive designs inspired by California style. Taking cues from the region's best-selling styles on sezane.com, the opening assortment will showcase Sézane's fall collection including knits, versatile outerwear and GOTS-certified denim, alongside a selection of handbags, footwear and jewelry. Shoppers will also find a limited-

edition California-exclusive T-shirt available only at The Grove location as well as other surprises à la française.

The Grove's sense of community and charm make it a natural step in Sézane's continued journey across the U.S. and a milestone moment for the brand's West Coast expansion. Sézane at The Grove will join the brand's growing list of U.S. locations, including permanent boutiques in New York and San Francisco and other long-term pop-ups in Austin, Brentwood, San Jose, Boston and most recently, Nashville and Charleston. The pop-up will remain open through 2026.

Sézane at The Grove is located at 189 The Grove Drive, K20. For information, visit sezane.com/us-en/our-locations/the-grove-appartement.



Sézane at The Grove features a selection of Sézane's signature pieces and exclusive designs.

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The sad, happy tears of a dorm room good-bye

Dads are sharing lots of photos of freshman dorm drop-offs – a crushing milestone, a moment of true and total glee. As my sister notes, parents cut the cord more than once.

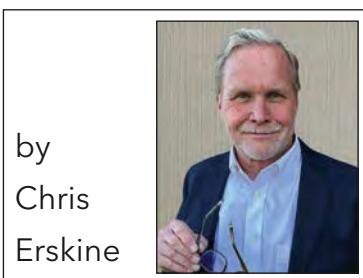
Seems like last week that we dropped Smartacus off to college. Colleges are mostly run by morons, or not run at all, so there was no effort made to prop open the front doors of the dorm halls. That meant that parents and children, struggling with boxes and computer chairs, kept having to drop armloads of the stuff in order to hold the heavy door each time they entered.

It was like one final college admissions test. Hey kid, how bad do you want this? How many more hoops can you jump through?

Then the tuition bills started pouring in....

Colleges have reached the tipping point in cost and value, causing some to shun the experience.

But if you skip school, who will fill your head with muck you will



by
Chris
Erskine

never use? Where will you learn to play beer pong, kiss a classmate in the rain, get all blotto on Friday nights? The typical American suburb is simply not equipped to handle that.

“The universe is made of stories, not atoms,” said Muriel Rukeyser.

So, I suppose college is a necessary step to starting our own stories. Till then, you are living in someone else’s storybook. The moment you step onto a leafy college campus, snapping the cord again, you start to build your memoir.

Building your own story is a wor-

thy endeavor. It starts the moment you learn to tie your shoes and peaks the moment you find yourself in a dorm debate quoting Kierkegaard, or sharing Sting’s thoughts on the “geometry of chance.”

Such cheeky pretentious drivel. Yet, kind of marvelous too. If you’re into that, I might recommend Vassar or Cal.

Young men used to stow away on sailing ships to learn all about the world. Young women married for money. So I see college as an improvement over those two desperate acts, at the very least.

Colleges have always been academies of the heart. Be careful, kids, you might learn a little poetry: “Ever with thee I wish to roam, dearest my life is thine ...”

Even better, you’ll fetch a degree in video-game design and go off to change the world. Good jobs are plentiful in that field – at least till the end of the week.

One thing you’ll learn for sure: The whole universe changes in four-year increments. It’s the term of presidents; it’s the time it takes to pass through high school or college. For me, it’s the approximate time it takes to try to fix a toilet, then finally call the plumber.

FYI, I’ve been working on my Ph.D. for some 40 years now. That’s 10 increments of four, as you can see, so my silly theory holds up. Life in multiples of four.

My area of doctoral study? Mirth. Survival. Sustenance. Had I chosen to study nuclear physics, I’d have been done in a decade. Easy stuff: protons, neutrons...radioactive decay. Conversely, mirth-survival-sustenance pretty much take a lifetime to master.



photo by Chris Erskine

I dropped Smartacus freshman year at Oregon, in a spartan room, a football on the nightstand. Now in his senior year, he revels in college life.

That’s essentially, what a liberal arts degree used to do. It gave you tools, not just to design motherboards for PCs but on how to get the most out of church, or fall in love, or how to handle the toughest subject you’ll ever face: kids.

Having children is like teaching Latin to goldfish. Having kids is like teaching kindness to kings.

It all comes back to that, doesn’t it: kids? Honestly, I really dig having them.

Hurts like a gut punch. Feels like a last curtain call.

“Go to the edge of the cliff and jump off,” wrote Ray Bradbury. “Build your wings on the way down.”

And that’s just what our kids are doing.

For books, or more columns, please go to ChrisErskineLA.com.



photo courtesy of OutLoud Sports via Instagram

OutLoud sports hosts various sports tournaments including soccer, dodgeball, tennis and beach volleyball.

WeHo hosts OutLoud Sports Festival dodgeball tournament

The city of West Hollywood will host the OutLoud Sports Festival Dodgeball Tournament over Labor Day weekend as part of a four-day festival that includes multiple sports at locations throughout Southern California.

The OutLoud Sports Festival Dodgeball Tournament is scheduled to take place on Aug. 30 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Aug. 31 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the West Hollywood Park Aquatic and Recreation Center. The Dodgeball Tournament is free for all spectators.

Interested participants for any of the OutLoud Sports Festival’s weekend events can register via the League Apps website at outloudtournaments.leagueapps.com/tournaments.

Day One of the dodgeball tournament will consist of seven 12-minute matches to determine seeding. There are three divisions: recreational, advanced and she/they only.

Day Two features a single-elimination tournament concluding with the championship match. Teams can consist of a maximum of 13 players with 10 players playing on the court per team.

Founded in 2007, OutLoud Sports is the nation’s original queer recreational sports league, representing more than 75,000 queer and allied athletes across the United States and offering inclusive year-round activities, games and sporting events. The sports festival consists of tournaments in kickball, dodgeball, tennis, pickleball, soccer, sand volleyball and bowling at various locations in surrounding cities. The city co-sponsored last year’s festival, which included 965 registered players and more than 1,200 participants including guests.

The West Hollywood Park Aquatic and Recreation Center is located at 8750 El Tovar Place.

For information, visit outloudsports.com.



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Letters to the Editor

WeHo's Fountain Avenue project impacts neighbors in L.A.

Re "WeHo residents turn up the heat on Fountain," Aug. 21 issue

It's really important to note that this is not just a WeHo issue and this meeting was attended by scores of L.A. residents too. From Fairfax-La Brea above Fountain, this is the city of L.A. None of us were notified of this meeting by the way. Why on Earth not? This was such an impressive turnout, and clearly the vast majority of those in attendance are opposed to this ill-conceived project.

This meeting provided no answers whatsoever and yet the following evening's Transportation Committee meeting saw the planner (who appears to have no idea thousands of L.A. residents are affected) having produced two new slides about emergency vehicles and trash collection. Why on Earth were these not available at the community meeting? Absurd. Plus, the bulk of emergency vehicles using the Fountain "freeway" are L.A. city, not WeHo.

The planner did appear to confirm that neither Athens (which services trash for apartment buildings) nor the fire department (he didn't specify L.A. or WeHo) has signed off on any plan. And we homeowners already put our trash cans at the curb, so unsure why this was added as if it was new info.

Meanwhile, one of [L.A. City Councilwoman] Nithya Raman's field deputies, Mehmet Berker, spoke in favor of the project, but didn't even identify himself. And I'm not aware of anyone showing up from [L.A. City Councilman]

Hugo Soto-Martinez's office, when so many of his constituents are affected. Shameful.

*Lesley O'Toole-Roque
Spaulding Square
Los Angeles*

Only American flag should be flown at BHUSD schools

It is incredibly inappropriate for a U.S. municipal public school system to consider displaying another national flag, other than the American flag, on its campuses. The city should be above such displays of preferential treatment no matter the number of residents associated with a specific country, ethnicity, religion and race.

If the schools in the Beverly Hills district exhibit Israeli flags, then shouldn't Armenian flags be displayed at some point to acknowledge that genocide? Or Mexican flags, to honor that all around us was originally Mexico? Or maybe Italian flags, since everyone loves "The Godfather?" It's laughable, but also not funny, to read that the city is deliberating this at all.

The idea of community is inclusivity for the betterment of all within that community, not a singling out of one segment of the population as special, above others.

Think all those in Beverly Hills government need to take a refresher civics course.

*J. Parente
Beverly Hills*

Beverly Hills sides with developer, not residents, on bond issue

Re "Council approves bonds for One Beverly Hills," Aug. 21 issue

On Aug. 19, despite significant opposition, the BH council agreed to orchestrate a \$550 million Mello-Roos bond indebtedness for the benefit of the One BH development.

The One BH project is an overly ambitious dual skyscraper luxury condo and Aman hotel project adjacent to the Beverly Hilton. The project's lack of progress has been intentionally blocked from public view, but it appears that only incomplete demolition and digging have taken place.

A big selling point for the original approval was the promise that 4.5 acres of botanical gardens and Merv Griffin Way improvements would be constructed and maintained for public use. So these limited public amenities were used to support a Mello-Roos bond issue, generally used for projects with overwhelming public benefits – not luxury projects.

Council members asked the right questions. But regardless of the answers, council members and staff were more interested in trying to help what appears to be a failed development than observing their duty to protect the city.

The council required no showing of assets and liabilities and no completion guarantee. The council emphasized that the bond payments would be assessed only to property owners within the One BH project area, and there was little consideration of the risks the city would face due to its involvement.

A big incentive to orchestrate the bond indebtedness was that the city would receive \$10 million of the bond proceeds to spend on city facilities. However, city staff purposely concealed that the \$10 million can only be spent on city facilities either within the One BH project area—the public portion of the botanical gardens and Merv Griffin Way—or for city facilities which directly serve and have a nexus to the One BH project.

Also concealed from the public in the agenda report were requirements for the city's extensive ongoing involvement in the construction, bids, hiring, contracts, inspections, payments, etc., for the public portion of the botanical gardens and Merv Griffin Way and the levying and collection of bond taxes in addition to the orchestration of bond sales.

Some of our council members seemed to be motivated by an off-kilter obsession with luxury and "the Beverly Hills brand," and appeared to be working for the owners of One BH – not the city and its residents.

*Darian Bojeaux
Beverly Hills*

to support the council resolution against SB 79 and that have nothing to do with siding with or against homeowners.

The truth of the matter is that SB 79 is a bad bill. It is an unfunded mandate that requires the city to provide infrastructure and services for developments that could be placed anywhere in the city within a one-half mile of transit without regard as to whether infrastructure is adequate to support it. The cities are left having to pay for improvements scattered here and there without a plan as decisions as to where projects are built would be left to developers, speculators and investors whose driving criteria is to maximize profit – not build livable, sustainable communities. That is the city's job, and SB 79 overrides the city's housing element, the city's state-approved housing plan crafted with significant community input and participation.

Wiener's bill also would allow the developments to be built within a half mile of where transit routes are planned. However, a plan which is a line on a map and that has no funding may not be built for many years. SB 79 projects could be built in the community without the benefit of "planned" transit to serve the added density for many, many years.

The debate should not be framed as one that sided with homeowners; it represents a much larger battle over the rights of local governments vs. the overreach of the state with one-size-fits-all policies that fail to address the diversity and needs of cities and counties across the state.

*Barbara Broide
Los Angeles*



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND SUMMARY OF NOTICE

The City Council of the City of Beverly Hills, at its regular meeting to be held on **Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard**, in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210, will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of:

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE SCHEDULE OF TAXES, FEES, AND CHARGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

The City Council will consider a resolution which will amend certain fees and service charges that are charged to the public for the various activities and services as set forth in the schedule for fiscal year 2025-2026.

At the public hearing, the City Council will hear and consider all comments. All interested persons are invited to attend and speak or provide written comments on this matter.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending in-person or telephonically, and may view the meeting through live webcast or BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable.

City Council/Parking Authority meetings are broadcast on local Beverly Hills television and on other media platforms. Anyone who participates at the meeting and/or enters the City Council Chamber is subject to having their image displayed. These recordings will remain publicly accessible in perpetuity.

Public Comment Participation:

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

Email: cityclerk@beverlyhills.org

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

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

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

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

How to Submit Public Comment (Email/Video):

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

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

In-Person Participation:

Please be advised that pre-entry metal detector screening requirements are now in place at City Hall. Members of the public are requested to plan visits accordingly.

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

The proposed Resolution will be available on the City website. For additional background information on the fees or if there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact the Finance Department's Revenue Division at **(310) 285-1000**, or by email at revenue@beverlyhills.org.

HUMA AHMED

City Clerk



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

RESTAURANT NEWS

Truly Pizza returns to Hotel Casa Del Mar for Labor Day

Following a completely sold-out Memorial Day weekend event, Truly Pizza announced its return to the stunning Patio del Mar at Hotel Casa del Mar in Santa Monica for another exclusive Labor Day weekend pop-up, taking place Saturday, Aug. 31, and Sunday, Sept. 1, from 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Recently named the ninth-best pizzeria in the U.S. on the 50 Top Pizza USA 2025 list and recipient of the coveted Performance of the Year award, Truly Pizza is bringing its award-winning team back to the Westside for a limited-time culinary experience.

Guests can expect a one-of-a-kind menu available only during the pop-up weekend, featuring seasonal creations alongside collaborations with The Cheese Store of Beverly Hills and Big Noise Beer. Set against the breathtaking

ocean views of the Patio del Mar, the Labor Day celebration promises unforgettable bites, ice-cold pours and the chance to enjoy some of the country's best pizza in the heart of Santa Monica.

"We were overwhelmed by the response to our first pop-up and are excited to bring Truly Pizza back to Casa del Mar," Truly Pizza co-founder Donna Baldwin said. "Our team is passionate about creating memorable pizza experiences, and we can't wait to share another exclusive menu with our Westside guests this Labor Day weekend."

For information and to make a reservation, visit trulypizza.com/events. Hotel Casa Del Mar is located at 1910 Ocean Way, Santa Monica.

Japan House exhibit 'Looks Delicious'

Is it real or is it fake? Japan House Los Angeles invites visitors to test their culinary instincts at

BOA Steakhouse goes seed-oil free

BOA Steakhouse, the upscale dining destination from the award-winning Innovative Dining Group, has officially removed all seed oils from its menu. Chosen for performance and flavor, the beloved modern steakhouse has transitioned to a mix of avocado oil, pomace olive oil and beef tallow in all salad dressings, sauces and cooking methods previously containing seed oils. The move reflects BOA's ongoing mission to provide culinary excellence, bold flavors and thoughtful sourcing, aligning with a growing interest among diners for clean ingredients and transparency.

The change has been implemented across all BOA locations, including West Hollywood, Santa Monica, Manhattan Beach and Austin. The upcoming Las Vegas location, set to open in fall 2025, will launch with the new menu.

The shift was overseen by Corporate Executive Chef Brendan Collins, whose approach combines culinary precision and



photo courtesy of BOA Steakhouse

BOA Steakhouse is one of the first fine dining restaurants to remove seed oils from its menu.

trend-forward flavors. With decades of experience in some of Los Angeles' most celebrated restaurants, such as two-Michelin star Melisse, Waterloo & City, Fia and Market Tavern, Collins brings a true chef's quality to the menu at BOA.

"We wanted to approach this

change with intention," Collins said. "Every substitution was selected to deliver the same bold, satisfying flavor profile our guests know and love from BOA. These new ingredients not only meet that standard, they elevate it."

For information, visit boasteak.com.



LABOR DAY

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"Looks Delicious! Exploring Japan's Food Replica Culture," opening Sept. 18. The exhibition is the first in the U.S. dedicated to the extraordinary craft of shokuhin sampuru, Japan's ultra-realistic, handcrafted food models that have been stopping hungry diners in their tracks for over a century. More than just restaurant window dressing, the edible illusions are a beloved part of Japanese culture, used to visually communicate and entice passersby with what's on the menu.

The upcoming exhibition will feature a broad collection of specially commissioned food replicas – representing each of Japan's 47 prefectures across an expansive map – highlighting the country's diverse culinary traditions. On display at the Los Angeles cultural destination through Jan. 25, 2026, the exhibition will showcase a wide range of three-dimensional shokuhin sampuru depicting menu items in mouthwatering detail – so convincing that it can be hard to believe they aren't edible.

"Initially created as a marketing tool, shokuhin sampuru, or 'food-samples,' have evolved into a highly coveted art form, on display in Los Angeles for the first time," said Yuko Kaifu, president of Japan House Los Angeles. "From floating chopsticks to dripping cheese to packed bentō boxes – food replicas have fueled the transformation of restaurant displays into immersive food theaters. Japan House Los Angeles is thrilled to bring these artistic culinary imitations to the heart of Los Angeles so visitors can experience this cherished and unique Japanese cultural tradition."

Admission to the gallery, library and Mindfulness Lounge at Japan House Los Angeles is free. Walk-ins are welcome as space allows. The gallery is open daily from 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Friday and 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday-Sunday.

For information, visit japanhousela.com. Japan House is located at 6801 Hollywood Blvd.

Santa Monica Place announces Western Wednesdays

Santa Monica Place is bringing a first-ever experience to the

See page 15

Culver Hotel celebrates 101 years

This September, The Culver Hotel celebrates its 101st anniversary with the same charm, spirit and hospitality that have made it a beloved landmark for more than a century. Since opening its doors in 1924, the hotel has been a favorite place to gather – whether for cocktails in the lobby, a casual meal on the garden patio or nights filled with live music and even livelier conversation. To mark the milestone, the hotel invites guests to celebrate with a specially curated menu for two, priced at \$101, available throughout the month.

The celebratory offering features timeless classics designed for sharing, savoring and lingering. Diners will enjoy the popular prawn cocktail with cocktail sauce and lemon; a Caesar salad of baby gem lettuce, rosemary sourdough croutons and white anchovy; beef sliders with Fiscalini cheddar, butter lettuce and bread and butter pickles served with fries; and a decadent



photo courtesy of the Culver Hotel

The special \$101 menu for two at The Culver Hotel includes beef sliders with Fiscalini cheddar and fries.

coffee crème brûlée made with coffee from the Mallick family farm, Hawaii Sunshine Orchards, for dessert.

Available from 5 p.m. until close, the meal for two can be enjoyed in The Grand Lobby dining room and bar or al fresco on the tree-lined patio. Nightly live music starting at 7 p.m. adds to the atmosphere, creating the perfect backdrop for toasting to 101 years of memories – and making new ones

worthy of the next century.

To further commemorate the hotel's birthday, guests will also receive a Culver Hotel trivia quiz. Anyone who answers all questions correctly will be entered into a drawing at the end of the month for a complimentary one-night stay.

For information and to make a reservation, visit opentable.com/r/the-culver-hotel-bar-and-restaurant-culver-city#reserve. The Culver Hotel is located at 9400 Culver Blvd.



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NOTICE INVITING SEALED BIDS FOR BATTERY BACK-UP SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE II PROJECT, CIP 2504 IN THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

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

<https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/public-works/bids>

or <http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=22761>

for the above stated project and will only receive such bids no later than the hour of **5:00 P.M. on OCTOBER 2, 2025**, at which time or thereafter said bids will be electronically opened and available online. Bids received after this time will be considered to be non-responsive.

No pre-bid meeting is scheduled.

The work to be done consists of furnishing all materials, equipment, tools, labor, and incidentals as required by the Plans, Specifications, and Contract Documents for the above state project. The general items of work include traffic signal controller cabinet reinstallation, installation of top-mounted battery back-up systems, conduit, conductors, cables, and pull boxes, and all appurtenant work and other items not mentioned that are required by the plans and specifications.

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

<https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/public-works/bids>

or

<http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=22761>

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

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

Any contract entered into pursuant to this notice will incorporate the provisions of the State Labor Code. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 1773.2 of the Labor Code of the State of California, the minimum prevailing rate of per diem wages for each craft, classification, or type of workman needed to execute the contract shall be those determined

by the Director of Industrial Relations of the State of California, which are on file at the City Hall, City of West Hollywood, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, California 90069, and are available to any interested party on request.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hammer Museum offers last chance to see Noah Davis exhibition

Don't miss the Hammer Museum's first institutional survey of the late Noah Davis (1983–2015), which runs through Sunday, Aug. 31.

The exhibition is the first U.S. institutional survey of the visionary artist. It marked a meaningful homecoming to Los Angeles, where Davis lived, worked and left an enduring legacy. The exhibition features more than 50 paintings, blending realism and dreamlike imagery to explore themes of fami-

ly, everyday life, media and myth. Davis' work offers a poignant, layered view of lived experience that continues to resonate with viewers.

Organized chronologically, "Noah Davis" offers a comprehensive overview of his practice, including his curatorial and community-building efforts as co-founder of the Underground Museum, Los Angeles. The exhibition traces Davis's career from 2007 until his untimely passing in 2015, featuring works that delve

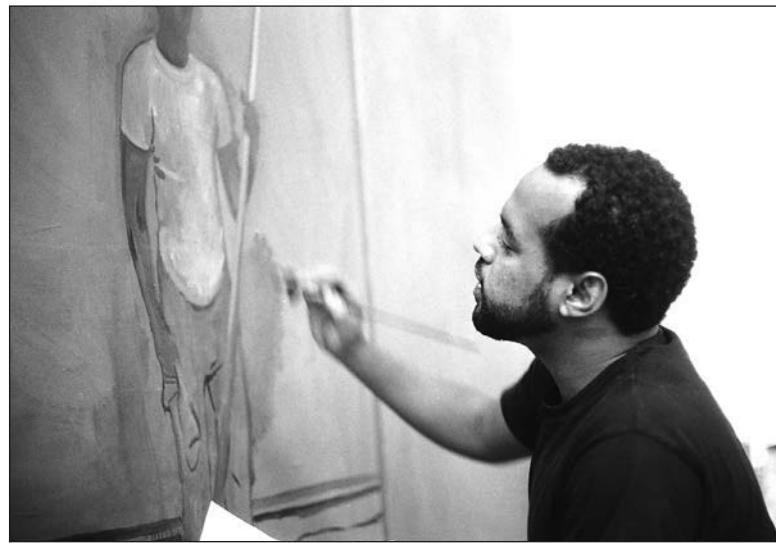


photo by Patrick O'Brien-Smith

The exhibition explores the work of artist Noah Davis, who died of a rare form of cancer in 2015.

Astropical to light up Hollywood Bowl

The new supergroup formed by Colombian electro-cumbia innovators Bomba Estéreo and Venezuela's genre-blending Rawayana – makes its Los Angeles debut at the Hollywood Bowl on Sept. 7 as part of the KCRW Festival and LA Phil's 2025 Latin Music Concert Series. The concert promises to transform the Hollywood Bowl into the galaxy's most electric dance floor.

Astropical's debut album, released in March, made Billboard's Best Latin Albums of 2025 list as well as Rolling Stone's "15 Latin Albums We Can't Wait to Hear" list. The self-titled 12-track album (one track for each zodiac sign) debuted as a top 10 album on the Spotify Global and U.S. charts.

Singer-songwriter Yendry will open the evening, bringing her powerful blend of Latin-pop, urbano, electro and R&B. Born in

the Dominican Republic and raised in Italy, the rising star has captivated audiences worldwide with hits like "Barrio" and "Nena," bringing her bicultural sound and soulful voice to the Hollywood Bowl stage.

The Hollywood Bowl is located at 2301 N. Highland Ave. For information, visit hollywoodbowl.com.



Colombian electro-cumbia group Astropical will make its Los Angeles debut at the Hollywood Bowl on Sept. 7.

From page 13

property this fall with the launch of Weekly Western Wednesday beginning on Wednesday, Sept. 3, and running through the end of October. Guests can enjoy free, high-energy line dancing classes led by professional instructors. September sessions will be led by TMR & Co. dancers and October sessions will be led by Urban Boot Scoot. The fun runs from 6-8 p.m. in the center plaza, and no experience is necessary. Just bring dancing shoes and a can-do attitude.

Several restaurants at Santa Monica Place will offer special happy hours for Western Wednesdays. LouLou Santa Monica will host a "Golden Hour" from 3-6 p.m., featuring special cocktail prices and a complimentary bite with the first drink. The Cheesecake Factory will host happy hour from 4-6 p.m. in the bar area, with discounted drinks and crowd-favorite bites. Curious Palate will also host a happy hour from 5-6 p.m., offering discounted

craft beer and wine in a relaxed, market-inspired setting.

For information, visit santamonicaplacel.com. Santa Monica Place is located at 395 Santa Monica Place.

Check in, bump out at The Maybourne

Luxury maternity beauty brand Pure Mama has partnered with The Maybourne Beverly Hills to celebrate pregnancy with the launch of its new Belly Spa Kit.

Every pregnant guest checking into The Maybourne through the end of September will receive the Belly Spa Kit in-suit – a five-step, at-home spa ritual designed to help moms-to-be pause, indulge and connect with their changing bodies.

The five-step routine is the ultimate pamper session, designed to hydrate, soften and nourish skin during pregnancy with gentle botanical blends. Whether you're gifting a mama-to-be or treating yourself, the Belly Spa Kit is your

into his exploration of politics, current affairs, everyday life, ancient Egypt, family history, racism in American media, art history and architecture. His paintings are presented alongside experimental works in sculpture and works on paper, offering a deeper look into the conceptual foundations of Davis' practice. The exhibition also includes a selection of Davis' eclectic source material on display for the first time.

"Noah's career was tragically cut short but nonetheless extraordinary, as this internationally touring exhibition demonstrates," Hammer Museum director Zoë Ryan said. "He was also a great supporter of artists who felt overlooked by other institutions, and through the Underground Museum created a welcoming space for artists and audiences alike, greatly enriching the cultural fabric of this city. This exhibition is a celebration of Noah's life and legacy."

Highlights include "40 Acres and a Unicorn" (2007), a striking blend of fantasy and history; "Isis" (2009), a portrait of his wife Karon depicted as the titular Egyptian goddess of magic and the "Pueblo del Rio" series (2014), paintings that reimagine one of the oldest, largest and most architecturally significant public housing developments in Los Angeles.

The Hammer Museum is located at 10899 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit hammer.ucla.edu.

The night will also feature a performance by viral TikTok sensation Macario Martínez, whose breakout hit "Sueña Lindo, Corazón" has amassed more than 21 million Spotify streams.

The Hollywood Bowl is located at 2301 N. Highland Ave. For information, visit hollywoodbowl.com.



photo by Karli Cadel

Francesca Zambello's staging of "West Side Story" features a lively production of the classic tale.

'West Side Story' premieres in September

LA Opera will launch its 40th anniversary season with the company premiere of "West Side Story" from Sept. 20 through Oct. 12.

Created by playwright Arthur Laurents, composer Leonard Bernstein, lyricist Stephen Sondheim and choreographer Jerome Robbins, "West Side Story" transforms the timeless tragedy of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" into a harrowing tale of warring gangs in the streets of New York City.

"We have wanted to present 'West Side Story' for well over a decade, and all of the elements – including a cast featuring both opera stars and incredible musical theater performers – have finally come into place," LA Opera president and CEO Christopher Koelsch said. "James Conlon, who is celebrating his 20th and final season with us as music director, has long been eager to conduct this hugely innovative and quite unusual score. Under his baton,

"West Side Story" will likely surprise audiences no matter how well they think they may know it. Stage director Francesca Zambello, who has a long and rich history with LA Opera, has spent her career elevating American works, which makes her the ideal artist to stage this production."

In "West Side Story," New York City's West Side is split between the Jets and the Sharks – but the warring gangs never imagined that two of their own could fall in love. Tenor Duke Kim stars as Tony, a former Jet who finds himself falling for Maria (Gabriella Reyes). But Maria is promised to another, and her brother Bernardo is more than willing to rally the Sharks to keep it that way.

"West Side Story" will have 10 performances at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave. Tickets start at \$27.50. For tickets and information, call (213)972-8001, or visit laopera.org.

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NHM introduces cat lounge and adoption events

In conjunction with the exhibition "Fierce! The Story of Cats," the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County introduced the "Fierce! Catio Lounge" play and adoption events for members and guests. The timed ticketed events will give members and guests the "purrfect" opportunity to interact, play and adopt a "furever" friend. NHM is partnering with local rescue organizations such as Annenberg PetSpace, Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control, Los Angeles Animal Services and Stray Cat Alliance to make cats and kittens at the museum adoptable without fees.

Tickets for a 15-minute session are only available onsite at NHM on a first-come, first-served basis,

and adoption is not required to participate.

In addition to providing guests with a chance to interact and play with kitties and supporting the missions of NHM and its partners, the launch of the "Fierce! Catio Lounge" also marks the beginning of a full schedule of fall programming for "Fierce!," which will also include discussions and film screenings.

Spanning continents and the ages, "Fierce! The Story of Cats" includes an array of incredible mounted specimens, interactive displays and cultural objects inspired by the fascinating creatures. The new exhibition explores the diversity of felines – their behaviors, unique biology and

complex relationship with humans – and offers an up-close-and-personal experience, highlighting their beauty and predatory skills. From ferocious tigers to beloved pets, the exhibition encourages guests to immerse themselves in the captivating world of cats – including cat pop culture and the opportunity to include your own cat's photo in the exhibition – while illuminating the importance of protecting wild species and their habitats.

The "Fierce! Catio Lounge" is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on select dates, including Aug. 28, Sept. 6, 7, 20 and 21, and Oct. 11, 12, 25 and 26. Tickets are \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members, in addition to museum tickets.



photo courtesy of NHMLAC

Guests can play with cats and take home a furry friend at the Natural History Museum this fall.

All visitors must be 5 or older and anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a ticketed adult.

The Natural History Museum is located at 900 Exposition Blvd. For information, visit nhm.org.



photo courtesy of Kahn Media

Automobili Lamborghini donated the first Aventador in North America to the Petersen Automotive Museum.

VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

L.A. responds in aftermath of Hurricane Katrina

Katrina Evacuees Arrive in Los Angeles

Organizations Both Public and Private are Sending Aid to the Devastated Region



The Beverly Press and Park Labrea News' Sept. 8, 2005, issue focused on the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina, which made landfall on the Gulf Coast near New Orleans 20 years ago on Aug. 29, 2005. The costliest hurricane in United States history, Katrina resulted in \$108 billion in damage and was among the deadliest with 1,833 fatalities, according to the National Weather Service.

Vast areas of New Orleans and the surrounding area were flooded, causing many to flee the city. Taisha Blackwell and her daughter, Tramaine Cowart, shown on the cover of the Sept. 8, 2005, issue, fled their home near downtown New Orleans through a program providing temporary shelter at the Dream Center in Los Angeles. The faith-based charitable organization in the former Queen of Angels Hospital building in Echo Park housed 300 Louisiana residents, part of a massive local relief effort.

L.A. County and the city of L.A. sent more than 80 search and rescue personnel to Louisiana and worked with charitable organizations to provide financial assistance and help residents. The city of West Hollywood activated the West Hollywood Responds program to solicit donations and worked with the American Red Cross and Operation USA, a West Hollywood-based charity. The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles raised more than \$500,000 in donations. Multiple telethons benefiting Hurricane Katrina survivors were also held over Labor Day Weekend in 2005 including the Jerry Lewis Multiple Dystrophy Association Telethon, which was held at the Beverly Hilton and donated \$1 million to the relief effort.

Lamborghini donates Aventador to Petersen Museum

Automobili Lamborghini has made a significant contribution to the Petersen Automotive Museum's effort to expand its collection of groundbreaking modern vehicles with the recent donation of a 2011 Aventador Coupé (Model Year 2012).

The historically significant car was the first Aventador in North America, introduced into the U.S. before the car's existence was widely known, and was used for secret preview events in New York City, Miami and Los Angeles. Following the vehicle launch, the Aventador was used

for Lamborghini P.R. and marketing, as well as service training, and has competed in multiple track events.

The Lamborghini Aventador immediately distinguished itself when it debuted in 2011, taking the helm as the brand's flagship model following the Murciélagos. Featuring Lamborghini's iconic V12 engine and a new carbon fiber monocoque, unprecedented in other models, the Aventador would go on to beat sales records of all other Lamborghini V12 models.

"The Lamborghini V12 is essential to the DNA of the brand. It's a

symbol of Lamborghini's performance and engineering prowess, with a legacy of being at the heart of some of the most iconic supercars ever created. With our donation to the Petersen Automotive Museum, this Aventador has found a special home to be admired by auto enthusiasts and passionate fans of the brand," said Andrea Baldi, CEO of Automobili Lamborghini Americas.

The 2011 Aventador is on display in the newly extended vault. The Petersen Automotive Museum is located at 6060 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit petersen.org.

Boleros de Noche presents ¡Mambolero! night

Enjoy an evening of mambo and bolero music on Aug. 29 at Levitt Pavilion Los Angeles, which is celebrating the 18th annual concert series held outdoors and under the stars with the stunning backdrop of L.A.'s skyline at MacArthur Park.

For 18 years, Levitt LA has been creating a sense of community through music and is showcasing the diverse cultural landscape of Los Angeles with a fantastic lineup.

The artist ¡Mambolero!, curated

by Roberto Carlos – creator of the acclaimed annual production Boleros De Noche at The Ford and the Chicago Symphony Center – invites audiences to immerse themselves in a vibrant night of music and dance. The evening celebrates the golden era of mambo, whose popularity soared in the 1950s and 1960s. The evening features San Fernando Valley's Chicos Del Mambo.

The program also embraces the timeless romance of boleros with

performances by Los Angeles' Los Rebeldes Románticos. The open-air celebration is elevated by fresh talent from L.A.'s thriving DJ scene, including Que Madre and Dave Salvaje of Noche Romántica.

The Levitt Pavilion Los Angeles at MacArthur Park is located at 2230 W. Sixth St. For tickets and information, visit eventbrite.com/e/mambolero-los-chicos-del-mambo-los-rebeldes-romanticos-noche-romantica-tickets-1584066047189.

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'Nobody 2' is just fine

The idea of "Nobody" is more enticing than the films themselves. A retired assassin tries to live a normal life, but the call of the wild is always nigh. It's John Wick in the suburbs. Add Bob Odenkirk, and the franchise should be several home runs. That's half true.

Like its predecessor, "Nobody 2" is a fun, midrange action flick. Creative fight sequences, menacing baddies and lots of Odenkirk as Hutch Mansell, failing to diffuse tension and reconnect with his family.

This time, his loved ones know his secrets (to some degree), but that doesn't excuse how much of their lives he now misses. He owes some unsavory folks a lotta money (more on that in the first film), so the former assassin gig is now the main hustle. After several successful jobs – bloody, they may be – he needs a break. He misses his family and plans a special holiday to a getaway spot that meant so much to him as a child.

Unfortunately, Hutch's son Brady (Gage Munroe) seems to



photo courtesy of Universal Pictures

"Nobody," starring Bob Odenkirk, features good action early on, but fails to deliver enough.

El Capitan gets 'Goofy'

Disney's "A Goofy Movie" returns to the El Capitan Theatre for a special engagement Aug. 29-Sept. 3.

A fan event screening will be held on Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. and two ticket packages are available for the screening. General tickets are \$25



photo courtesy of the Walt Disney Company

"A Goofy Movie" will return to the El Capitan Theatre and feature special packages and events.

Cinespia goes 'Psycho'

On Aug. 23, Cinespia held a special screening of "Psycho" at Hollywood Forever Cemetery in Los Angeles that hosted talent such as Jack Quaid, who also surprised fans in the audience with an introduction to the film.

"The Silence of the Lambs" takes over Hollywood Forever Cemetery this Labor Day Sunday. Bring a picnic or let Cinespia supply the feast. Wash it down with a specialty cock-

tail from the beer and wine bar that's almost as smooth as Chianti. DJ sets before and after the film will really get under your skin, and don't forget to capture your most dramatic Clarice stare in the free photobooth. It's an Oscar-winning classic, a horror delight and the perfect long-weekend treat.

Hollywood Forever Cemetery is located at 6000 Santa Monica Blvd. For information, visit cinespia.org.



Actor Jack Quaid attended Cinespia's screening of "Psycho" at Hollywood Forever Cemetery presented by Amazon MGM Studios and Prime Video.

ON SCREEN

WITH
TIM POSADA

have anger issues like his old man. One punch in an arcade sets off a series of events. Hutch endures one of many encounters with local leaders like Sheriff Abel (Colin Hanks) and theme park owner Wyatt (John Ortiz). They aren't fans.

It turns out this town is into something below board, but Hutch doesn't uncover the truth in time. He's in too deep, quickly leading to an explosive confrontation with the film's big boss, Lendina (Sharon Stone). Don't expect much from Stone. Normally, she's an on-screen titan. Not sure what's going on here. She's a run-of-the-mill villain with little else going on.

Expect the whole family to get involved. Former FBI agent and grandpa David (Christopher Lloyd) hangs out until he's needed. Hutch's brother Harry (RZA) is just a phone call away, though he also delivers one of the film's worst one-liners – a variation on bringing a knife to a gun fight.

Becca (Connie Nielson), Hutch's better half, does a bit more this time around. We see how she handles a rifle and encourages Hutch to be better.

and include a reserved seat and event credential. The Powerline Pack Ticket is \$75 and includes a reserved seat, priority entry, Powerline Max Popcorn Bucket with popcorn, fountain drink and event credential.

Daily showtimes for "A Goofy Movie" from Aug. 29-Sept. 3 are



photo courtesy of Universal Pictures

Bob Odenkirk returns as Hutch Mansell in the action-thriller "Nobody 2."

The "Nobody" formula is now established. The dad has trouble balancing family life and a bloody past.

His attempts to do the right thing make matters worse – so does his temper. Luckily, his family is there to help along the way.

Everything about these films is fine. Not great, just fine. That shouldn't be a negative comment. If only more original streaming films took cues from the "Nobody" flicks. Those films normally can't even reach fine. But the "Nobody" series is the brainchild of screenwriter Derek Kolstad, who created John Wick and penned three of

those films. Perhaps "fine" should be a bit more.

A major frustration is how "Nobody 2" features its best combat sequences in the first 10 minutes. Others are – you know – fine, but far less memorable. A gory close-up here, an explosion there. It should be a much bigger deal, one worthy of a theater outing.

Watching films on a TV or your phone will never compare to the big screen experience. Still, "Nobody 2" doesn't need to be viewed on a 60-by-35-foot screen. It's a renter or maybe something you see when it's available on Peacock.

the ol' fishing hole, they find themselves up to their floppy ears in misadventure.

Tickets are on sale at elcapitantheatre.com and fandango.com/el-capitan-theatre-acon/theater-page. All seats are reserved.

El Capitan Theatre is located at 6838 Hollywood Blvd.

Cate Blanchett to perform with the LA Phil

The LA Phil on Aug. 21 announced a major addition to its 2025-26 season at Walt Disney Concert Hall. Academy Award-winning actress Cate Blanchett will appear as narrator in four performances of Beethoven's "Egmont" in February 2026 conducted by the LA Phil's Music and Artistic Director Gustavo Dudamel. In a bold reimagining of the work, Blanchett will portray Egmont in a new adaptation, created in collaboration with acclaimed playwright Jeremy O. Harris and featuring soprano Elena Villalón.

Traditionally delivered by a male narrator, the role of Egmont has been reconceived for Blanchett as part of a powerful artistic vision

that illuminates themes of resistance, freedom and heroism.

The multidimensional program begins with the world premiere of Ricardo Lorenz's "Humboldt's Nature," a dynamic work inspired by the South American expeditions of Alexander von Humboldt, the visionary philosopher and naturalist who was a contemporary of Beethoven. At the center of the evening, pianist Yunchan Lim – winner of the 2022 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and a rising global sensation – performs Schumann's masterful piano concerto.

The Walt Disney Concert Hall is located at 111 S. Grand Ave. For information, visit laphil.com.



photo by Renato Campora
Oscar-winning star Cate Blanchett will narrate Beethoven's "Egmont."

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THE DARK KNIGHT RISES AUG 30TH 9PM



YES Scholars host 25th Anniversary Gala

YES Scholars (Young Eisner Scholars) announced its 25th Anniversary Gala, commemorating a quarter century of leveling the playing field for promising students from low-income backgrounds. Taking place on Thursday, Sept. 4, at Bel-Air Country Club, the gala will honor transformative supporters, spotlight extraordinary scholars and raise critical funds to support YES' mission of educational equity and opportunity. This year's gala will honor film and TV producer, author and philanthropist Nicole Avant, and Netflix Co-CEO Ted Sarandos, for their longstanding commitment to education and meaningful impact on communities in Los Angeles and beyond.

Event chairs Brian and Veronica Grazer will welcome an inspiring community of YES supporters, cor-

porate partners and alumni. Will Arnett will host the evening. The night will feature a live performance by Grammy-nominated artist Shaboozey.

"I am deeply grateful to our extraordinary honorees, Nicole Avant and Ted Sarandos, whose unwavering commitment to education and opportunity so powerfully reflects the spirit of YES," YES founder and president Eric Eisner said. "Their support helps shine a spotlight on 25 years of advancing equal access to academic excellence. This year's gala is more than a celebration, it's a critical moment to fuel the future of our scholars to rise, lead and succeed."

Sarandos has been a driving force behind Netflix's global content strategy for more than two decades, spearheading a game-changing

shift into original programming with series such as "House of Cards," "Arrested Development" and "Orange Is the New Black." Named one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in 2013 and 2025, Sarandos is a Producers Guild of America Milestone Award recipient and serves on numerous boards including the American Film Institute and the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures.

Avant is a best-selling author, award-winning producer, entrepreneur, philanthropist and former U.S. Ambassador to the Bahamas. She serves on the board of trustees at LACMA and as an academic counselor at USC's Neighborhood Academic Initiative. She has produced films including the Oscar-nominated "The Six Triple Eight,"



photo courtesy of YES Scholars

The gala will honor television producer Nicole Avant and Netflix Co-CEO Ted Sarandos.

"Trees of Peace" and the award-winning documentary "The Black Godfather." Her memoir, "Think You'll Be Happy: Moving Through

Grief with Grit, Grace and Gratitude," was an instant bestseller and one of Audible's Best of Bios and Memoirs.

BHUSD community celebrates Beverly Hills Reads

On Aug. 24, students, families, educators and community members filled the El Rodeo Elementary Auditorium for Beverly Hills Reads, a citywide celebration of literacy hosted in collaboration with the Beverly Hills Unified School District, the city of Beverly Hills and the Human Relations

Commission.

The event spotlighted "Isola" by Allegra Goodman, this year's summer reading selection for Beverly Hills High School English students. Students read the novel over the break and returned to class ready to engage in meaningful dialogue with the author. They asked insightful

questions, explored the writing process and reflected on the book's themes through a lens that connected learning and community.

"This event represents the best of what we strive for in BHUSD. Connecting rigorous academic expectations with real-world relevance and community engagement is key," Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss said. "When students see their learning valued beyond the classroom, it deepens their thinking and inspires their voices to be heard."

Open to all ages, the event invited the entire Beverly Hills community to a shared literary experience. Readers of all generations came together through curiosity, conversation and connection.

"The Beverly Hills Reads is a community-wide event that builds community and meaningful connection through literature and reminds us that Beverly Hills is a wonderful place to live," Beverly Hills City Councilwoman Mary Wells said.

For information, visit bhhsd.org.



Writer Allegra Goodman answered questions about her book "Isola."

State Superintendent announces commitment to reduce chronic absenteeism

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond was joined by Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi (D-Los Angeles), State Sen. Sasha Renée Pérez (D-Alhambra) and education leaders to announce that California is on track and committed to reduce chronic absenteeism by 50% over five years. Superintendent Thurmond announced the release of new guidance to improve student attendance statewide, developed in partnership with Attendance Works and the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence.

Attendance Works Vice President of Programs Cecelia Leong, California Collaborative for Educational Excellence Deputy Executive Director Sujie Shin, Folsom Cordova Unified School District Superintendent Erik Swanson, FCUSD Child Welfare and Attendance Specialist Maggie Cunin and FCUSD student repre-

sentatives also spoke about the importance of promoting school attendance and supporting families to get students to school.

Rates of chronic absenteeism in FCUSD mirror statewide trends, and Swanson credits the district's receipt of a California Community Schools Partnership Program grant as a "game changer" for improving

school attendance.

As a former social worker, Thurmond noted the importance of Community Schools strategies for improving school attendance.

"When our students aren't showing up to school, our schools need the resources to knock on doors and ask why," he said.

For information, visit cde.ca.gov.



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BVMS hosts Back to School Carnival

On Friday, Aug. 22, Beverly Vista Middle School kicked off the new school year with smiles, laughter and school spirit at its annual Back to School Carnival, generously sponsored by longtime BHUSD supporter and community leader Michael Libow.

The BVMS field was filled with music, games, colorful

booths and delicious treats, welcoming students back to campus with energy and excitement. From inflatable obstacle courses to interactive activities, the carnival created space for students to reconnect with friends, meet new teachers and simply have fun.

For information, visit bhhsd.org.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Beverly Vista Middle School students enjoyed carnival games and amusement park rides at the annual Back to School Carnival.



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Explore Korean children's books with KCCLA

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles presents Korean Picture Book Storytime with author Jung-soon Go on Sept. 6 at KCCLA's Ari Hall, and Sept. 7 at West Hollywood Park. The program features an exhibition of the award-winning picture book "Okchundang" and original illustrations, along with a special book talk and tea time with the author. The Sept. 7 event is part of the Los Angeles Kids Book Festival.

The event introduces Korean picture books – known for their universal appeal across languages and cultures – to children and families in the United States. Through Jung-soon Go's lecture and workshop, visitors will gain a deeper under-

standing of the unique narratives and artistic sensibilities found in Korean picture books. By participating in the Los Angeles Kids Book Festival, which annually attracts more than 3,000 visitors, the program promotes cultural exchange in children's literature between Korea and the United States.

This year's featured work, "Okchundang," received the Special Award at the 2023 Korea Picture Book Awards, as well as the Charlotte Publishing Culture Award. The book delicately portrays Korean tradition and sentiment through okchundang, a traditional Korean candy. Visitors can meet the author and enjoy cultural

experiences such as tasting traditional Korean tea and sweets featured in the picture book.

Jung-soon Go is widely known for her warm storytelling rooted in Korean tradition and sensibility. Beyond picture books, she writes essays, novels and comics.

Alongside the "Okchundang" exhibition, a curated selection of Korean picture books translated into English will be displayed, including Heena Baek's "Cloud Bread and Moon Pops" and Suzy Lee's "Wave and Shadow." Audiences have a rare opportunity to experience some of Korea's most beloved picture books in one place.

"Through this event, we hope Korean picture books – deeply rooted in traditional themes yet rich in originality and cultural sensitivity – will leave a lasting impression on children and families," KCCLA Director Haedon Lee said. "KCCLA will continue to actively introduce diverse, lesser-known genres of Korean culture, including children's literature, to the broader community."

The author talk will take place from noon-1 p.m. on Sept. 6-7. KCCLA is located at 5505 Wilshire Blvd. West Hollywood Park is located at 647 N. San Vicente Blvd. For information, visit kccla.org.



photo courtesy of KCCLA

The events on Sept. 6-7 introduce families and children to the unique narratives and artistry in Korean picture books.

Dance companies sought for upcoming series

Applications are open for the 2026 season of the Brand Associates Dance Series in Glendale. Started in the 1960s, the Brand Associates Dance Series presents top dance companies from

Southern California performing site-specific work in non-traditional, outdoor performance spaces around Brand Library and Art Center. Dance companies with at least five years of experience who present an

educational, site-specific, outdoor dance program appropriate for all ages are encouraged to apply.

The dance series is curated by dancer and choreographer Jamie Nichols, a recipient of six Lester

Imperioli, Alanna Ubach, Hyejin "Grace" Park, Brittany Alexia Young, Stephanie Kaznocha, Heather Mattarazo, Jeff Chan, Jeremy Arnold, Vella Lovell and Wade Allain-Marcus.

"My father said his Institute is a place to invite talent in," Lee Strasberg Film Festival Director David Strasberg said. "From incredible alumni actors to award-winning filmmakers and producers, our accomplished jury brings knowledge and artistry to ensure that this year's selections are recognized with care and deep respect for the craft."

The Lee Strasberg Film Festival, founded by the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in 2016, showcases independent filmmakers and actors who bring honesty and imagination to the screen. The festival provides a platform for alumni and new voices, fostering a creative community rooted in meaningful storytelling and memorable performances from around the world. Lee Strasberg Institute alumni include Al Pacino, Marilyn Monroe, Scarlett Johansson, Alec Baldwin, John Leguizamo, Angelina Jolie, Rosario Dawson, Lady Gaga, Chris Evans, Laura Dern and Rachel Brosnahan. The Institute offers a variety of scholarship programs to new and current students, including the James Baldwin, Cicely Tyson, Chandra Wilson and Vincent D'Onofrio awards.

For information, visit leestrasbergfilmfestival.com.

Jury announced for ninth annual Lee Strasberg Film Festival

The ninth annual Lee Strasberg Film Festival celebrates films that value authenticity, emotional honesty and strong performances – hallmarks of the Lee Strasberg Institute's long tradition of training actors and storytellers. The festival will be held from Nov. 7-9 with an award ceremony on the evening of Nov. 9.

The jury brings together a distinguished group of industry leaders whose work exemplifies excellence



photo courtesy of the Lee Strasberg Film Festival

The Lee Strasberg Film Festival includes an awards ceremony for independent filmmakers and actors.



photo courtesy of BHUSD

The Beverly Hills High School football team received updated Nike uniforms on Aug. 20.

BHUSD unveils new football uniforms

The Beverly Hills High School football team stepped onto the field on Aug. 20 with a renewed sense of pride as players received new BSN Nike uniforms.

The custom-designed uniforms, created in partnership with BSN Sports and Nike, feature a modern design that reflects tradition and progress.

"This is more than a uniform, it's a statement," BHUSD Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss said. "Our players are proud of who they are, proud of where they come from and ready to represent Beverly Hills with integrity and strength."

"Victory is forged long before the game begins. It's built in the

way we prepare, stand together and fight for the teammate beside us," BHUSD Board Member Russell Stuart, a key advocate behind the initiative, said. "Our new Nike uniforms proclaim that Beverly Hills is one – a team united, stronger than any individual. Athletics is about more than personal glory – it's about connection, loyalty and purpose. We fight for our teammates, our parents, our school, our coaches and our community. As individuals, we may falter, but as a team, we are unstoppable. Together, we are never alone, and together, we will triumph."

For information, visit bhuds.org.

Horton Dance Awards, as well as the Furthering the Visibility of Dance Award from the Dance Resource Center of L.A. As executive producer of Celebrate Dance for 10 years, she presented 70 dance companies at the Alex Theatre.

The dance series is sponsored by the Brand Associates, which provides an honorarium to all selected

dance companies. All companies must attend a mandatory photo-shoot at Brand Library and Art Center in January or February 2026. The dance series will be held on Saturday evenings from April 25 through May 16, 2026.

Applications are open through Oct. 31. For information and to apply, visit brandlibrary.org/dance-series-application.

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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. 17 and Aug. 23. 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. 17

At 12:01 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 100 block of S. Cañon.

An unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 500 block of Chalette at 5:40 a.m.

At 5:55 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a mailroom in the 100 block of N. Almont.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9800 block of Wilshire at 11:44 p.m.

Aug. 18

At 10 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 500 block of N. Arden.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8700 block of Wilshire at 3:14 p.m.

Aug. 19

At 10:15 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 300 block of N. Oakhurst.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9700 block of Wilshire at 10:34 a.m.

At 12:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 8700 block of Clifton Way.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8700 block of Wilshire at 3:14 p.m.

At 3:56 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft near Crescent and Gregory.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 4:50 p.m.

At 11:05 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported at Charleville and Reeves.

Aug. 19

At 4:50 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire.

Aug. 20

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8300 block of Wilshire at 9 a.m.

At 6:58 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon.

Aug. 21

At 8:15 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of N. Cañon.

An unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 100 block of Copley Place at 11:50 p.m.

Aug. 22

At 7:17 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near Santa Monica and Cañon.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Wilshire and Rexford at 10:30 a.m.

Aug. 23

At 8:45 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 200 block of N. La Peer.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1100 block of Beverly at 9 a.m.

At 6:51 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly.

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

Aug. 17

At 12:30 a.m., an unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

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

At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8400 block of Sunset.

An assault was reported in the 9000 block of Sunset at 2:35 a.m.

At 8:05 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 7700 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at midnight.

Aug. 18

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 9000 block of Harland at 6 a.m.

At 8 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 1300 block of N. Laurel.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 1200 block of N. La Brea at 2 p.m.

Aug. 19

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft near Fountain and Spaulding at 1:40 a.m.

At 3:14 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1200 block of N. Spaulding.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 600 block of N. Orlando at 5:43 a.m.

At 10:10 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 500 block of N. Huntley.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1200 block of N. La Brea at 3:30 p.m.

Aug. 20

At 10:30 p.m., an arson fire was reported in the 8700 block of Santa Monica.

Aug. 21

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1100 block of N. La Brea at 8:05 a.m.

Drive sober or get pulled over on Labor Day weekend

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is warning motorists to drive sober or get pulled over during the Labor Day holiday weekend.

As the end of summer approaches and families prepare for Labor Day celebrations, deputies are prioritizing safety on the roads. Drivers are encouraged to make responsible choices behind the wheel and never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 12,429 people were killed in drunk-driving crashes in 2023 – one person every 42 minutes.

"We want everyone to enjoy their end-of-summer travels and Labor Day festivities, but it's important to do so responsibly," Sgt. Michael Lennig said. "Driving under the influence not only puts your life at risk but also endangers everyone else on the road. Our goal is to reduce preventable crashes and save lives."

Members of the public are encouraged to plan ahead and



photo by Edwin Folven

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station deputies are searching for motorists driving under the influence during the holiday weekend.

arrange for a designated driver or use a ride-hailing service if consuming alcohol. Always wear a seatbelt and stay alert. Avoid distractions such as texting or eating while driving and focus on the road.

To help keep communities safe, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's

Department will have additional officers on patrol through Labor Day on Sept. 1 looking for motorists suspected of driving under the influence. The efforts to prevent impaired driving are part of a national 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' enforcement campaign.

Defendant sentenced for fraud, money laundering scheme

A female defendant who was living in Koreatown was sentenced on Aug. 14 to 28 months in federal prison for laundering approximately \$3.5 million in money stolen from victims of investment scams, including opening bank accounts used to launder the money and picking up packages of bulk cash sent by fraud victims.

Li Liu, 27, aka Qiunan Li and Xiaoying Zhao, was sentenced by United States District Judge Fernando M. Olguin. She pleaded guilty on June 4 to one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering. Liu is a Chinese national, authorities said. Liu's co-defendant, Shuai Lyu, 28, of Koreatown, is facing 20 years in federal prison for his role in the scheme.

In September 2024, Liu – using a fake passport under the alias Xia Ran and other documents – opened a bank account for a fake company named Ocean X Trading Ltd Inc. and had access to the account until April 2025. Multiple investment scam victims wired money to the account. During October 2024

alone, Liu transferred \$83,461 out of the bank account to the Hong Kong-based company Alamo Tech Ltd.

As part of the conspiracy, Liu and her co-conspirators also used fake IDs – including passports and California driver's licenses – to open accounts at mail receiving facilities, where packages of bulk currency sent by wire fraud victims were picked up. For example, Liu – using a fake passport with the name Qiunan Li and documents for a business called Sunny South Trading Inc. – opened an account in March 2025 at a shipping company in Koreatown, authorities said. During two days in April, six packages containing bulk cash were received at the location. Liu picked up, opened and photographed the packages' contents, consolidated the money and sent it to Lyu and other co-conspirators.

Authorities searched Lyu's cell phone and found approximately 46 images of bulk currency, many of which Liu sent to him. Law enforcement estimated that the bulk currency in the images totaled approxi-

mately \$3.5 million in laundered money.

The conspiracy also used couriers to deliver bulk cash from fraud victims. In March 2025, Liu was involved with an unnamed individual who transported more than \$200,000 in bulk currency belonging wire fraud victims from Dallas to Los Angeles.

Liu admitted in a plea agreement that she received payment for laundering the fraudulently obtained money. Law enforcement agents searching Liu's residence found \$104,000 in cash from fraud victims that had not yet been sent to other co-conspirators. Authorities also recovered 27 packages that Liu and Lyu had not picked up from mail receiving facilities, which were found to contain about \$285,000 in cash and \$87,000 in gold bars.

Lyu, who is from China and was in the United States illegally, also pleaded guilty on June 4 to one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering and faces up to 20 years in federal prison at a Sept. 4 sentencing hearing.

Aug. 23

At 1:05 a.m., an assault occurred in the 7300 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Santa Monica and Palm at 2:25 a.m.

At 12:15 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1300 block of N. Laurel.

At 5:30 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8500 block of West Knoll.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Hilldale and Sunset at 9:23 p.m.

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Mural unveiled at Project Angel Food

From page 1

Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids. L.A. County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, and Ivette Aragon, district director for U.S. Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-Los Angeles) were present at the unveiling.

"It's truly special that these are real people of our community who give of themselves, who have dedicated their time, their talent, their heart and their spirit to a wonderful organization – Project Angel Food," Horvath said. "The faces that you see are not only real people who do this work, but reflective of our diverse community who is served by this work. It is a symbol that... all are welcome to be served by their work. We do not exclude. We do not turn you away. This is a place of

welcome. This is a place of nourishment. This is a place of service."

"Right behind us is the Project Angel Food kitchen and food preparation center under massive renovation. It is a huge renovation. It is going to become a beacon of hope and healing for Los Angeles," Project Angel Food CEO Richard Ayoub said. "There's so much transformation happening on the inside, we decided we've got to have something that matches it on the outside. [We had] this beautiful white wall, and we need to make it into a cultural landmark."

Ayoub said Vargas was the only person he knew who could do it.

Beyond the volunteers, Vargas said he met a nearby street vendor selling tamales while working on the

painting. He realized how the tamale vendor actively nourishes the surrounding community, and decided to model the hands in the mural after hers.

"As I'm watching her prepare this food, it occurred to me that it would be great to incorporate her into the piece with this idea of permanence, and showing that she, too, has a seat at the table and a place here," Vargas explained.

At the unveiling, Vargas dedicated the painting to his mother and was thrust into the air by a forklift, where he signed the mural. Above all, "Nourishing the Community" is a tribute to Los Angeles, he said, a place that is welcoming to all no matter their background.

"[Project Angel Food] is about



photo by Gonzalo Marroquin via Getty Images for Project Angel Food

Supervisor Lindsey Horvath presented Robert Vargas with a proclamation at the unveiling of Project Angel Food's new mural on Vine Street.

supporting people who are in need, not based on anything else other than just supporting their fellow human no matter what the age or the

condition or the ethnic background," he said. "We're all in this together. And this mural is a bit of a microcosm of the greater L.A. area."

BHUSD plans to display flag of Israel

From page 1

tonight, but I have a deep concern about... flying a flag or displaying a flag in front of the school," Marcus said. "I fear [for] the safety of the students in the school. I don't want to put something on the front of the school that would make us targets of any kind, especially with the students in our school."

Stern also expressed concerns over safety, and added that the resolution appeared to directly contradict a board policy approved in July that limits the discussion of "sensitive topics" in classrooms and prohibits teachers from promoting political or ideological causes. The "Standards-Based Instructional Environment" policy states that "political, religious or socially sensitive topics must be relevant to the curriculum and presented in a factual, objective and nonpartisan manner." It also states that teachers are expected to avoid displaying partisan materials.

"The whole school is going to commemorate this highly charged geopolitical issue... What is more partisan material than a flag?" Stern said.

The resolution was controversial among the community, prompting both praise and criticism during public comments. Some Jewish members of the public and Jewish students spoke out in support, stating that the resolution is sorely needed amid rising antisemitism across the country.

"This is a necessary step to protect students, to protect history and to protect the truth. As a Jewish student, I've seen firsthand how often antisemitism is dismissed, downplayed or ignored until it's too late," said Jillian Samadi, president

of Beverly Hills High School's Jewish Club.

The resolution was also supported by Beverly Hills Mayor Sharona Nazarian and Vice Mayor John Mirisch.

"This resolution makes it clear that BHUSD will protect our Jewish families, students and all community members facing discrimination, threats or attacks. As we approach the anniversary of the Oct. 7 attacks, it is vital that Beverly Hills remain vigilant and united," a statement from Nazarian read.

However, other members of the Jewish community said the resolution promotes one religion over others and may increase antisemitism by conflating Jewish identity with the state of Israel.

"The school board and the superintendent seem to be fixated on Jewish students, as opposed to the multitudes of other ethnic identities comprising the student body of BHUSD," resident Andrea Grossman, who is Jewish, said following the resolution's approval. "BHUSD is diverse. What about the board's responsibility to all of the students, not just the Jewish students? I feel the board majority has shown a disregard for these other students, when they could spend their time more productively to improve the level of education for all students in the BHUSD."

The resolution was also condemned by the Greater Los Angeles office of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

"By prioritizing symbolic displays of allegiance to Israel – a foreign state accused by every major international human rights organi-

zation of genocide, ethnic cleansing and forced starvation in Gaza – over the lived experiences of grieving Palestinian and Arab students, the board has chosen to make a divisive political statement and undermine the inclusive environment schools are supposed to uphold. These students will now face the daily trauma of seeing the flag of the very state killing their families flown over their schools," CAIR-LA Executive Director Hussam Ayloush said in a statement. "To truly address antisemitism, BHUSD must invest in real education about antisemitism and all forms of bigotry, rather than equating Jewish faith and identity with the political actions of a foreign government."

Although the resolution prompted concerns that the district would violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment by promoting a religion, an expert on the Constitution and freedom of speech said the policy does not violate the Constitution.

"Schools – like other government entities – can engage in their own speech, including speech expressing support for foreign countries," said Eugene Volokh, a former UCLA professor of First Amendment law and the current Thomas M. Siebel Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. "Nor is there an Establishment Clause violation – the flag of Israel is the flag of a nation, not of a religious organization. That the nation has some religious identification doesn't matter – many countries have an established religion, for instance. To the extent that it is seen by the resolution as representing

Jews and not just Israelis, it represents ethnic Jews, not just religious Jews. Indeed, many Israelis aren't religious. This doesn't tell us, of course, that the resolution is a good idea on the merits. But it's not unconstitutional."

The resolution requiring the display of Israeli flags was brought forward by Board Member Sigalie Sabag, who also created the board policy limiting the discussion of controversial topics in classrooms. Before Sabag was a board member, she spoke out against the discussion of the Civil Rights Movement in an elementary school music classroom, stating that the teacher "took it upon herself to teach the kids about BLM and racism."

The district is currently being sued by two former Black teachers and a current Black assistant superintendent for allegations of racism, discrimination and harassment. Earlier this month, the district dismissed one of the plaintiffs, Jarvis Turner, the head basketball coach. His attorney Brad Gage said he was fired in retaliation for the lawsuit. Many Black students have also reported being the victims of anti-Black racism during the past school year, particularly in the aftermath of the 2024 presidential election.

Resident and former BHUSD parent Gay Abrams, who is Jewish, spoke out against the resolution and said it should address all forms of hatred instead of antisemitism alone.

"This administration did little to nothing when students, parents and the outside community were concerned – and some outraged – by the unsafe and toxic environment that existed during and after the presidential election," Abrams said. "How will our Black, Latino and others feel about the resolution that focuses only on antisemitism and Jewish history?"

In an interview, Stern said that while she has a personal love for Israel, she worries that the resolution will risk the district's standing and the safety of students.

"I have real and pragmatic safety concerns about what is undoubtedly a partisan symbol," she said. "Despite many of us, myself included, believing Israel is our ancestral homeland, it doesn't necessarily belong at a public school."

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY HOSPITAL CLOSURE

Effective January 1, 2025

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

The three nearest facilities offering comparable services are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This notice is provided in compliance with California law.

Small businesses get help with wildfire relief

Google announced on Aug. 15 more than \$4.5 million in funding to the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity and TMC Community Capital to increase support for small and medium-sized businesses facing significant challenges after the Palisades and Eaton fires. The funding announced is part of a \$15 million commitment made by Google and YouTube, with support from google.org.

The announcement was made during the "Rebuild LA: Small Business Tech Fair" hosted by the

three organizations to empower small businesses with the skills, technology and Google AI tools to reconnect with customers, modernize operations and build resilience against future challenges. More than 120 impacted small businesses attended and heard directly from Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-Los Angeles) who joined a panel on SMB policy solutions and strategies for navigating economic challenges and fostering sustainable growth.

"We need all hands on deck as we continue to recover from this

year's wildfires," Kamlager-Dove said. "Collaborations like this are crucial to ensuring our businesses not only have the support they need to recover, but to also become more resilient to future disasters. I'm grateful to Google for this investment in our greater L.A. community and for the continuous support during L.A.'s recovery, and to L.A. County DEO and TMC Community Capital for putting this funding to good use."

Small businesses also participated in hands-on workshops to learn how to promote products online and

learned how to make businesses more efficient through Google AI, as well as how to prepare for, recover from and build resilience in the face of natural disasters and economic uncertainty with guidance from TMC Community Capital.

"The Palisades and Eaton wildfires devastated countless small businesses, and recovery remains an uphill climb for many," L.A. County Department of Economic Opportunity Director Kelly LoBianco said. "This support from Google enables us to expand our support for impacted small businesses."

For information, visit crisisresponse.google.

Facility approved at Melrose and Alta Vista

From page 1

Safe Place for Youth provides interim housing and wraparound services for youth up to age 25, with the goal of transitioning them into permanent housing. The center will provide a place for youth leaving the foster system. Efforts to secure the site at Melrose and Alta Vista as interim housing date back to the tenure of former Los Angeles City Councilman Paul Koretz, and were continued by current Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District.

Yaroslavsky's spokesman Leo Daube said the new facility was designated for young people because it is partially supported by state funding for transition age at-risk youth. It is part of a larger effort to create more shelter beds and interim housing in the 5th Council District to help alleviate homelessness, he said.

"The property at 7253 Melrose has long been designated for interim housing, dating back to 2021, but in

recent years it has sat vacant and became a safety concern for the surrounding area," Daube said. "The property owners recently completed upgrades to the site and, through council approval, extended its use with a new service provider focused on supporting transition-aged youth, including young people exiting foster care. This is a continuation of the site's planned use, with stronger management and oversight in place to ensure it is operated responsibly and provides positive outcomes for both the youth it serves and the surrounding community."

Safe Place for Youth CEO Erika Hartman said the facility will offer comprehensive services in a communal environment. The organization manages similar facilities in Venice, Inglewood, Mar Vista, Echo Park and Westwood, providing services to approximately 1,300 youth. Resources include case management, employment guidance and

education, health and wellness support and substance abuse counseling. Safe Place for Youth also offers a Healing Arts Program that provides a nurturing environment for creative expression through music, writing and the arts, as well as cooking and gardening. Hartman added that approximately 20% of Safe Place for Youth's clients identify as LBBTQ+, and the new facility's close proximity to the Los Angeles LGBT Center in Hollywood will be beneficial.

The Melrose Avenue facility will have 24-hour staff and security to mitigate any issues in the surrounding neighborhood. Hartman and Daube said staff from Safe Place for Youth and the city will meet with neighbors in the coming weeks to notify them about what to expect.

News about a new use at the site was welcomed in the neighborhood.

"We obviously hope it's a positive step. It's important that the city

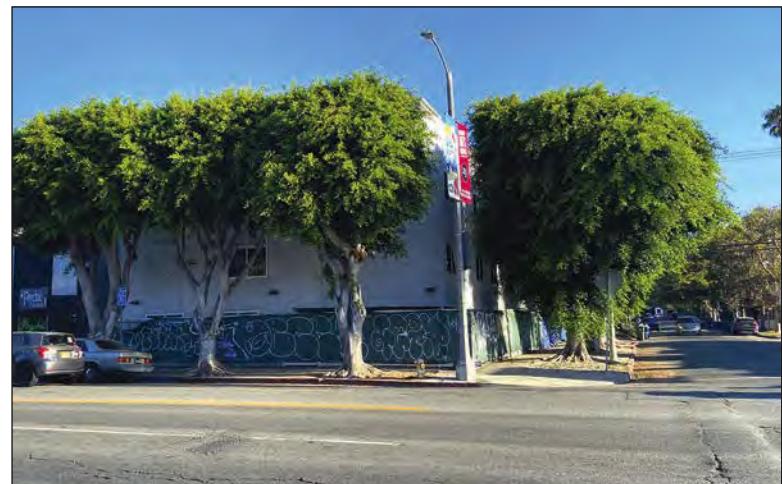


photo by Edwin Folen

The Melrose Avenue facility will be managed by Safe Place for Youth.

and its contractor are going to manage the facility and make sure it's a good fit for the neighborhood," said Donald Duckworth, executive director of the Melrose Business Improvement District. "Like everyone else, we are looking forward to seeing this happen."

Peter Nichols, founder of the advocacy group Melrose Action, said the previous facility was poorly managed and resulted in problems

in the community. The building closed during the pandemic and attracted squatters while vacant, he added. While supportive of the facility's new use, Nichols said it should serve unhoused people of all ages and not just youth.

"I just wish it was more broad, but I do confidently think it's a step in the right direction," Nichols said. "I'm cautiously optimistic that progress is being made."

WeHo parts ways with Block by Block

From page 1

out the city. Ambassadors also provide specialized de-escalation services to unhoused community members and can administer Narcan to people experiencing overdoses.

City staff chose Allied Universal following a request for proposal process, in which 35 responses were received. Allied Universal was selected because its proposal more closely aligned with the city's needs, said director of community safety Danny Rivas. Allied Universal has previously provided unarmed security guard services to many government agencies, including the city and county of Los Angeles, but Rivas did not expand on how their proposal better serves West Hollywood.

"After completing interviews and an extensive selection process, Allied Universal Security Services was selected as the preferred contractor based on their strong qualifications and extensive experience providing similar service to cities and counties across California," public safety manager Anita Shandi said.

Rivas added that he hopes there

will be a seamless transition from the services offered by Block by Block to Allied Universal.

"Allied Universal will maintain the same role and level of services that Block by Block is currently providing to the West Hollywood community," he said. "A series of town hall meetings with the community (currently in planning stages) and monthly Public Safety Commission meetings will provide an opportunity for Allied Universal to be introduced to the community and interact with residents and businesses."

Community members raised concerns during public comment that the vendor change would bring a more intimidating security appearance to the city, in place of Block by Block ambassadors — many of whom have become trusted community members.

"Block by Block feels more community, feels easier to approach them, feels less of an issue," resident James Croak said. "I see people who are needing assistance or who are having issues being approached by Block by Block and I feel like it's much less

threatening than people who are in more of a recognized security force accoutrement like Securitas and Allied, who I see as more of a stop-gap to the police."

However, Rivas reaffirmed that the services of Allied Universal would replicate what is currently being provided by Block by Block, although uniform color will likely change. Additionally, Allied Universal will offer current Block by Block ambassadors a fast-tracked recruitment process to continue their work in West Hollywood, said Allied Universal Security Services government specialist for the southwest region Tad Garabedian, after Councilman John Erickson expressed concern with laying off numerous ambassadors.

During an Aug. 25 Public Safety Commission meeting, former Allied Universal employee Emmanuel Ares spoke about his experience working for the company. Ares said that during his time with Allied Universal, employees were often overworked, experienced pay delays and did not have adequate sensitivity training. As a result, he said turnover within the

company was high.

"I'm just hoping there is something we can do as a community, whether it's creating a task force, subcommittee — anything that can be able to report out on how everyone is doing, maybe even an introduction meeting where we'll be able to meet the new ambassadors to see what would be different from Block by Block," Ares said.

Representatives from Allied Universal declined to comment on the organization's services and employee experiences. Additionally, Shandi said there was no update regarding the amount of Block by Block staff who will be retained and the number will depend on how many employees apply to Allied Universal.

During the meeting, city staff sought feedback from the commissioners on proposed uniforms for the new ambassadors.

Commissioner George Nickle said that a change to lime green uniforms would make the ambassadors more visible to the community. He also called for more community meetings to educate the public and asked staff how many new officers will have a background in law enforcement. Shandi responded by saying there are currently five senior safety officers and the city hopes to retain the same

level of staffing during the transition.

Commissioner Tod Hallman also called for a uniform change, saying he supported the lime green or yellow and black uniforms.

"You want something that's going to stand out when people are seeking services, when they may be panicked, or frantic or hurried. These two colors definitely stand out and are more visible," he said.

Rivas added that the current phone number for Block by Block emergency intake, (833)WEHO-BBB, will be forwarded to the new number for Allied Universal for one year while the city works to inform the public of the new phone number, which has not yet been announced.

The agreement with Allied Universal will take effect Oct. 1 and last until June 2027. Representatives from Block by Block did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

Separately, the city of West Hollywood approved an agreement on Aug. 18 with Securitas Security Services to provide the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station unarmed community safety officers to respond to non-emergency 911 calls in the city. The two agreements are separate and services do not intersect, Shandi said.

District considers rules on tutoring

From page 3

concerns into an updated version of the policy.

The policy will return to the board at the next meeting on Sept. 9 for clarifications on specifics.

In an interview, Stern acknowledged potential disparities in equity for access to paid tutoring

outside of the classroom. However, she questioned why the district would prohibit unpaid tutoring if a teacher is willing to offer support to students on their own time. She also expressed concerns that the policy would conflict with office hours, where

teachers answer students' questions and offer assistance outside of the classroom.

"There has to be a delineation as to how this does not affect contractual office hours for one-on-one or maybe two-on-one unpaid teacher guidance," Stern said.

L.A. County launches critical support effort

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services recently launched Essential Services Month — a focused digital outreach campaign to reach residents who may not be aware of the department's programs or how to apply.

As one of 58 county social services agencies in California, DPSS

provides essential assistance to eligible L.A. County residents, including help with food, health care, cash aid, employment support and in-home care for elderly, blind or disabled individuals. Outreach materials are available in multiple languages to serve the county's diverse communities and will include direct links to dedicated websites and video guides

with step-by-step instructions on how to apply for benefits. The department is also sharing critical information about local job fairs and other free community resources.

DPSS encourages all L.A. County residents to share information to ensure that those most in need are informed. For information, visit dpss.lacounty.gov.

WeHo pop-up offers resources on Overdose Awareness Day

In observance of Overdose Awareness Day, the West Hollywood Project and Safer WeHo Coalition will host a free community resource pop-up on Friday, Aug. 29, from 7-10 p.m. outside the Bank of America branch at 8921 Santa Monica Blvd.

The event features organizations dedicated to substance use prevention and risk reduction offering free resources such as prevention fact sheets, naloxone, fentanyl and xylazine test strips and safer sex kits. Free and confidential HIV/AIDS and STD testing is also available in the private AIDS Healthcare Foundation van.

The West Hollywood Project aims to collaborate with other health providers to offer services and assist those in need. The ongoing effort by the West Hollywood

Project marks a commitment to the community to provide consistent, quarterly substance use education through an innovative and on-the-ground approach. For information, visit wehoproject.org.

Answers From Page 23

1	D	O	R	A	4	S	C	6	P	8	T	9	N	11	S
2	E	M	I	L	13	E	M	14	A	15	H	16	O	17	O
3	M	A	F	I	16	A	17	18	E	19	R	20	21	22	R
4	I	N	T	E	19	R	20	21	22	23	V	24	25	26	E
5	E	R	N	T	24	S	25	26	27	28	E	29	30	31	T
6	G	E	N	E	25	S	26	27	28	29	E	30	31	32	E
7	E	S	E	26	27	S	28	29	30	31	T	32	33	34	E
8	D	E	R	27	28	E	29	30	31	32	O	33	34	35	E
9	O	N	A	G	28	S	29	30	31	32	I	33	34	35	E
10	P	I	L	L	29	T	30	31	32	33	O	34	35	36	E
11	A	N	T	E	30	M	31	32	33	34	A	35	36	37	E
12	H	A	I	R	31	I	32	33	34	35	T	36	37	38	E

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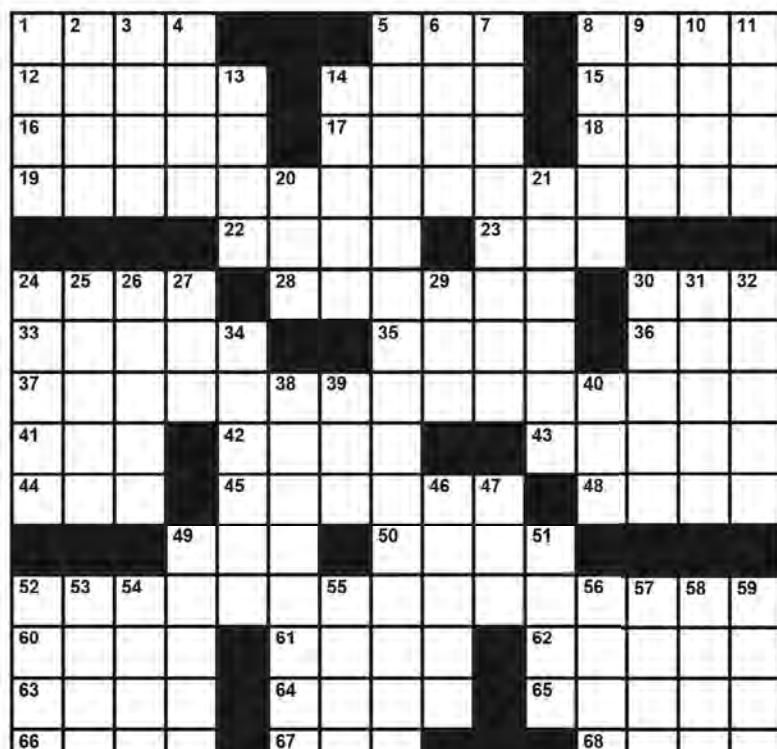
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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

1. Mrs. Copperfield
5. Pen cover
8. Explosives
12. Novelist Zola
14. Astrologers of yore
15. Deep laugh
16. Soprano group
17. Dash
18. B&B offering
19. Service
22. Kind of water
23. Average
24. "The Haj" author
28. Plops down
30. World time standard
33. Oscar de la ___
35. Novelist Morrison
36. Seafood delicacy
37. November event
41. Vane direction
42. Not "fer"
43. They hold water
44. ___ Spiegel: German magazine
45. Retro car
48. Kind of arch
49. "Starry Night," for one
50. Small quantity
52. Sporadic kind of romance
60. Tablet
61. ___ Blanc
62. Senate's counterpart



63. Poker stake
64. Believers
65. Squelched
66. Narrow margin
67. Simplified "though"
68. Mood

1. "Ghost" star
2. Middle-eastern kingdom
3. Break
4. Sam Shepard's "___ of the Mind"
5. Point out
6. Seaweed product
7. It's found among needles
8. Wee hour
9. Midday
10. Metallica "Holier Than ___"
11. Certain
13. Gossips are all this
14. Gettysburg victor
20. Denials
21. Bridge of Sighs locale
24. Implored
25. Eponymous candy man
26. Intrinsic
27. Bernadette, e.g., abbr.
29. The sun, in Spain
30. "Peer Gynt" composer
31. Bond before Dalton
32. Stream

34. Oman's peninsula
38. Time boundary
39. It can be white
40. Duet necessity
46. Some artists' studios
47. Spider is one
49. Flirt
51. Cries of delight
52. Brilliantly colored fish
53. Russian "Anna"
54. Some choir singers

55. Snack
56. Grownup kid
57. Type of insurance
58. "The heat ___!"
59. Aloha State bird

answers on page 22

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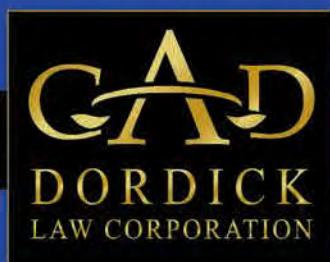
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