



Sunny, with
temps in the
high 70s

BEVERLY PRESS

INSIDE

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- Academy Museum opens 'Jaws' exhibit pg. 8

Volume 35 No. 37

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

September 11, 2025

Beverly Hills seeks more funds for Oct. 7 memorial

■ City plans to spend \$500,000 in tax dollars

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The city of Beverly Hills is seeking additional funding for the planned Oct. 7 memorial, a permanent display honoring the approximately 1,200 victims of the Hamas-led attacks in Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

The sculpture will stand adjacent

to the 9/11 Memorial Garden, which is located on the northwest corner of South Santa Monica Boulevard and Rexford Drive. The Oct. 7 memorial will be directly across the street, on the northeast corner of Burton Way and Rexford Drive. While no city funds were

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rendering courtesy of Art Nesterenko, BROSKIN STUDIO

The memorial features a 23-foot sculpture that will honor the approximately 1,200 victims of the attacks in Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

Leaders decry Supreme Court ICE ruling

■ Federal raids will continue in Los Angeles

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A Sept. 8 ruling by the United States Supreme Court that cleared the way for federal immigration raids to continue in Los Angeles renewed fear in immigrant communities and was met with condemnation by city and county leaders.

The U.S. Supreme Court voted 6-3 on Sept. 8 to overturn a lower court ruling that temporarily blocked immigration raids in Los Angeles. Federal district court judge Maame E. Frimpong had ruled that agents were using unlawful tactics to detain people, including targeting people based on race, language and job description, which she said violates the Constitution. Following the Supreme Court ruling, the Trump administration announced that the immigration arrests will continue in Los Angeles. On Sept. 9, agents arrested two men during a traffic stop in the San Fernando Valley that was captured on video and



photo by Edwin Folven

Federal agents have conducted multiple raids in the parking lot at the Home Depot store in Hollywood.

widely broadcast by the media.

Federal agents also recently targeted immigrants in Hollywood at the Home Depot store on Sunset Boulevard. A spokesman for Los Angeles City Councilman Hugo Soto-Martinez, 13th District, said

four people were taken into custody by federal agents at the Home Depot on Sept. 7, adding that raids have occurred outside the store multiple times since June. The councilman decried the

See Raids page 21

Friedman urges support for redistricting

■ Congresswoman's district boundaries would slightly change

BY RANCE COLLINS

On Nov. 4, Californians will head to the polls to vote on a redistricting proposition that would greatly alter the lines for its 52 congressional representatives. The move, proposed by Gov. Gavin Newsom and moved forward by the state's

Assembly and Senate, is a direct response to an effort in Texas that could eliminate several seats currently held by Democrats.

Opponents to Texas' redistricting call it a blatant attempt by Republicans to maintain control of Congress after midterms. Newsom had threatened to make a similar, sweeping move in California, prior to the Texas state legislature's approval of its measure last month, and he made good on the promise immediately. The opposition to

California's redistricting proposal is prominent, with mailers hitting mailboxes en masse calling it gerrymandering, and claiming that the practice is not OK regardless of which party is doing it.

Rep. Laura Friedman (D-Glendale) – who represents a large swath of Los Angeles County including Hollywood, West Hollywood and Burbank – said that these criticisms are being lobbed by Republicans in what she sees as a transparent effort to dominate the U.S. House of Representatives.

"The flyers are being funded by the Republican Party and by a few of their supporters," Friedman said. "I believe it's very important that California stands up for having a free election next year. And just like Donald Trump called Georgia after the last election and asked them to find him 11,000 more votes, he has called the governors of red states and said, 'I'm afraid we're going to lose the House of Representatives because our policies are deeply unpopular, and we need to rig the system midcycle' – which has never been done before in this kind of scale – 'so that we eliminate the voice of Democrats and minority communities in the United States.'"

See Friedman page 22



photo courtesy of the office of Laura Friedman

Rep. Laura Friedman's district would be affected if California voters approve Gov. Gavin Newsom's new Congressional map.



photo by Edwin Folven

The rooftop of the former Standard Hotel property will be renovated to include a rooftop deck, where alcohol is permitted.

Union appeals project at former Standard Hotel

■ Unite Here Local 11 cites noise, traffic

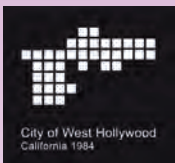
BY SAM MULICK

The West Hollywood City Council will consider an appeal, filed by Unite Here Local 11, against planned rooftop renovation

tions of the former Standard Hotel property on Sept. 15.

The West Hollywood Planning Commission approved renovations on June 5 for the newly branded Public Hotel, located at 8300 Sunset Blvd., including a 14,016-square-foot rooftop deck with a 399-person capacity and

See WeHo page 22



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CALENDAR

‘Romeo, Juliet & Dance’

The LA Phil presents Theatre of Harlem’s “Romeo, Juliet & Dance” on Thursday, Sept. 11, at 8 p.m. Shakespeare’s timeless tale of star-crossed lovers has inspired innumerable retellings across the cultural landscape. Music by Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev and Adolphus Hailstork intertwines with dance as the tragic romance unfolds. Jonathon Heyward conducts the orchestra. Tickets start at \$13. 2301 N. Highland Ave. laphil.org.



DTLA Dog Day

DTLA Dog Day, hosted by the DTLA Alliance, will be held on Friday, Sept. 12, from 4-8 p.m. in the Maguire Gardens at the Los Angeles Central Library. The 17th annual Dog Day party features local artisans and crafts makers, pet vendors and community services. Enjoy an evening of dog-related fun, live music and tail-wagging activities where pups take center stage. A portion of sales of specialty drinks from Settecento will benefit the Vanderpump Dog Foundation. 630 W. Fifth St. downtownla.com/explore/dogday.



‘Fly Me to the Sun’

The Fountain Theatre presents the West Coast premiere of “Fly Me to the

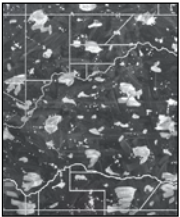
Sun” running from Friday, Sept. 12, through Sunday, Oct. 12. When Abuela Julia arrives from El Salvador to live with her family in a Chicago suburb, her grandson learns to see America through his grandmother’s eyes, while also teaching her to enjoy simple American pleasures. Relaying the story in the style of a late-night talk show in which the young BQ (Gerardo Navarro) is the host and Julia (portrayed as a hand puppet) is his special guest, Quijada weaves a beautiful, semi-autobiographical story. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Friday, Saturday and Monday; 2 p.m., Sunday. Tickets start at \$25. 5060 Fountain Ave. fountaintheatre.com.

Beverly Hills Playhouse

Beverly Hills Playhouse presents the world premiere of “My Dad’s Kid” by playwright Eric Toms running from Friday, Sept. 12, through Sunday, Oct. 5. Allen Barton will direct a cast of two in the sweet and witty production about complicated familial dynamics. When half-siblings Pamela and Greg reunite at Christmas in Greg’s Hollywood apartment, old grudges, quick laughs and a long-avoided truth spill out. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are \$35. 254 S. Robertson Blvd. bhplayhouse.com.

Art of Rebecca Morris

Regen Projects presents “#34,” an exhibition by artist Rebecca Morris running from Saturday, Sept. 13, through Saturday, Oct. 25. “#34” is Los Angeles based artist Rebecca Morris’s first solo exhibition with the gallery and the 34th of her career. Featuring new large-scale abstractions, the show highlights Morris’ signature balance of harmony and disruption through hand-drawn geometry, metallic tones and an improvisational process that challenges formal and cultural conventions in painting. An opening reception will be held on Sept. 13, from 6-8 p.m. Morris will be joined in conversation by Liz Lamer on Oct. 4 at 11 a.m. 6750 Santa Monica Blvd. regenprojects.com.



Art of GWAR

Beyond the Streets is holding “Let There Be GWAR,” a sprawling retrospective showcasing the 40-year legacy of the legendary art collective and shock rock band GWAR running from Saturday, Sept. 13, through Sunday, Nov. 2. The free exhibition allows viewers to dive into the outrageous universe that GWAR has spent four decades constructing through music, performance and subversive visual art. It includes handcrafted costumes, instruments, weaponry and stage props, video installations, monumental set pieces and rare ephemera. 434 N. La Brea Ave. beyondthestreets.com.

Echo Theater Company

Enjoy two critically acclaimed solo works by members of the Echo Theater Company under the collective title Fall Fest from Saturday, Sept. 13, through Monday, Sept. 29. “Stand Up If You’re Here Tonight,” written by John Kolvenbach and starring Jim Ortlieb, and “A Bella Incarceration,” written and performed by Ann Noble, will run in repertory for three weekends at Atwater Village Theatre. Ortlieb delivers a tour-de-force per-

formance as a man desperate for connection, bent by isolation and deeply in love with the audience itself in “Stand Up If You’re Here Tonight.” In “A Bella Incarceration,” Bella Ventricle engages in an act of civil disobedience to stand up for others. After being arrested, she calls upon her favorite female radicals from history for comfort and understanding. See schedule for showtimes. Tickets start at \$20. 3269 Casitas Ave. (310)307-3753, echotheatercompany.com.

British car show

Classic auto lovers are invited to the “Boots & Bonnets British Car Show” on Sunday, Sept. 14, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Autry Museum of the American West. Hosted by the Southern California MG Club, “Boots & Bonnets” celebrates British motoring with a Western twist. The event brings together a vibrant mix of history, style and community. The “English meets Western” theme honors a post-war tradition that began when U.S. servicemen brought home MGs and other British vehicles, creating a car culture that still thrives in Southern California. Register in advance to receive \$4 off regular \$19 museum admission. 4700 Western Heritage Way. theautry.org.



Latino cultural celebration

Join the Skirball Cultural Center for “Zona Libre: A Musical Celebration of Latino L.A.” on Sunday, Sept. 14, from 3-9:30 p.m. Artistic expression is fundamental to the ancient Jewish practice of creating community while living in diaspora. On the eve of Latino Independence Day celebrations, the Skirball invites audiences to spend an evening making new friends and enjoying Latino music. The festivities include dance workshops, panel conversations, vendors and samples of traditional Latin foods. 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd. skirball.org.



Radically Miscast Shakespeare

The Porters of Hellsgate is celebrating the return of the free Radically Miscast Shakespeare series with “The Merchant of Venice” on Monday, Sept. 15, at 7 p.m. at the Madnani Theatrein Hollywood. The readings are conceived and produced by associate artistic director Dawn Alden. Admission is free; tickets are required. 6760 Lexington Ave. portersofhellsgate.com.

Piano Spheres

Piano Spheres welcomes pianist Thomas Kotcheff, guest artist Bryan Curt Kostors and video artist Allison Tanen-haus for a special performance celebrating the release of Kotcheff’s third piano album “Between Systems” on Tuesday, Sept. 16, from 8-10 p.m. at 2220 Arts + Archives. The evening will feature works from the new album alongside bold reimaginations of music by Aphex Twin, Squarepusher, Cher, Céline Dion and Beyoncé. Tickets are \$25. 2220 Beverly Blvd. pianospheres.org.



photo by Edwin Folven

The body was found in the trunk of a vehicle brought to Hollywood Tow on Mansfield Avenue.

Body found in car trunk remains a mystery

Vehicle linked to singer from Texas

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

More information has surfaced in an investigation into human remains found in the trunk of a Tesla registered to singer-songwriter D4vd on Sept. 8 in a Hollywood impound lot, but many details of the case remain a mystery.

The body was discovered after employees at Hollywood Tow at 1015 N. Mansfield Ave. smelled a foul odor coming from the vehicle and called police around 12:20 p.m., Los Angeles Police Department spokesman Kevin Terzes said. The Tesla was brought to the lot on Sept. 5 after the Los Angeles Department of Transportation determined it was abandoned and ordered it to be towed from a street in the Hollywood Hills, he added. The Tesla was reportedly parked in the same location for five days before it was reported to the city. Police have not divulged the location where the vehicle was abandoned.

Terzes said the case is currently being investigated by the LAPD’s Robbery-Homicide

Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner, which is working to determine cause of death. The medical examiner determined the human remains belong to a woman, but due to advanced decomposition, authorities have not yet been able to determine the woman’s age or ethnicity. A preliminary report from the Department of Medical Examiner stated the woman was approximately 5 feet 1 inches tall, weighed 71 pounds and had wavy black hair. She was wearing a tube top, black leggings and jewelry consisting of a yellow metal stud earring and a yellow metal chain bracelet. The woman also had a tattoo that read “Shhh...” on her right index finger.

Authorities determined the car, which has Texas license plates, is registered to David Anthony Burke, known by the stage name D4vd. Police contacted Burke, who is currently on tour in the Midwest, and he is cooperating with investigators. According to media reports, Burke is from Texas and owns multiple vehicles that are frequently used by friends and associates.



photo courtesy of the Mid City West

The new board members joined for a group photo on Sept. 9.

New Mid City West Board comes together at meeting

New board members on the Mid City West Neighborhood Council held a meeting on Sept. 9 at the Pan Pacific Park Recreation Center. The members are elected by the community

and serve in an advisory capacity to the city on development projects, land use and neighborhood issues.

For information, visit midcity-west.org.

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BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90211
(323)933-5518
BEVERLYPRESS.COM

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX 36036
LOS ANGELES, CA 90036

Michael Villalpando
PUBLISHER

Karen Villalpando
EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Rance Collins
rance@beverlypress.com
MANAGING EDITOR

Edwin Folven
editor@beverlypress.com
EDITOR

Tabor Brewster
tabor@beverlypress.com

Sam Mulick
sam@beverlypress.com
REPORTERS

Chris Erskine
COLUMNIST

Michael Krikorian
Tim Posada,
Rebecca Villalpando
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Lionel Ochoa
GRAPHIC ARTIST



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BHUSD Board issued cease and desist letter

■ Parent alleges board violated Brown Act amid turmoil

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Attorney Daniel Lifschitz threatened litigation against the Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education and issued a cease and desist letter to its members on

Sept. 9, alleging violations of the Brown Act, which ensures transparency in public meetings. The cease and desist letter comes amid turmoil over a resolution that would have required the display of the flag of Israel on school campuses that was quickly reversed following safety threats. Lifschitz, who is a parent of a BHUSD student, accused the board of violating California Government

Code 54954.3, which guarantees the right to public comment on each agenda item voted on by a government entity. The code states that a public comment period is not required for an agenda item that has already been heard, however, it requires that the school board must provide a new opportunity for public comment if an agenda item has been substantially changed. “Over the past few months, the board has repeatedly violated the public comment obligation by taking public comment on agenda items at the start of meetings, only to then substantially change and pass those items within the space of the same meeting, robbing the public of any opportunity to address what the board actually votes on once its marathon redlining sessions conclude,” Lifschitz said. “This includes the Standards-Based Instructional Environment resolution on July 16, the antisemitism resolution on Aug. 26 and the flag ban resolution on Aug. 29.” Lifschitz said that Board President Rachelle Marcus and Amanda Stern have objected to the alleged violations, and that Board Vice President Judith Manouchehri, Sigalie Sabag and Russell Stuart have “embraced them with open arms.” The cease and desist letter provides the board 30 days to commit to following the guidelines of public comment, Lifschitz said. He added that the commitment must be approved during an open session meeting. “To avoid escalation of this mat-



photo by Tabor Brewster

The BHUSD Board of Education was accused of violating the Brown Act, which ensures transparency in public meetings.

WeHo begins work on off-leash dog area at Plummer Park

The city of West Hollywood will begin construction of a new dog park at Plummer Park on Monday, Sept. 15. The project is estimated to be complete in the first quarter of 2026. The work will not impact the Helen Albert Certified Farmers’ Market. City staff will post construction notices in advance at the location of the dog park, which is east of Vista Street and west of the tennis and pickleball courts. The work may cause temporary inconveniences. Park patrons are advised to plan accordingly. The city is creating the new dog park at Plummer Park with the health and safety of the community’s four-legged friends in mind. The dog park will offer an off-leash area divided into separate play areas for small dogs and

large dogs. The dog park will be enclosed by a fence, and the small and large dog play areas will be separated by a durable barrier. The fence will feature panels with playful and artistic designs at key locations such as entrances and exits. Artificial turf manufactured without PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) will be installed without infill. The dog area will also include shade sails. Lighting will be installed along the perimeter for nighttime visibility and to highlight the panels. The city will also construct a new, fully accessible sloped walkway to the tennis courts entrance along Vista Street. Plummer Park is located at 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. For information, email sestrada@weho.org or visit weho.org.

ter, please provide a timely, unconditional commitment that the board will fastidiously adhere to the public comment obligation in all matters and shall no longer vote on any resolutions or proposals within the same meeting in which they are substantially changed, as has proven to be the board’s pattern and practice to date,” Lifschitz said. During Lifschitz’s comment, Marcus interrupted and instructed him not to speak the names of board members. “No mentions of the names right now please,” Marcus said. Additionally, immediately before the public comment period on Sept. 9, Marcus imposed new rules on public comments, stating that they must be “respectful and relevant to district personnel business.” “Personal attacks, inappropriate language and discussing specific employees or students are not per-

mitted,” Marcus said. California Government Code 54954.3 states that “the legislative body of a local agency shall not prohibit public criticism of the policies, procedures, programs or services of the agency, or of the acts or omissions of the legislative body.” The school district has been the subject of increased public outcry and controversy for the past year. In April, former fashion design teacher Bella Ivory and former basketball coach Jarvis Turner sued the district, alleging anti-Black racism and discrimination. On Sept. 8, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Brock T. Hammond ruled that the two plaintiffs can move forward with one trial, rejecting the BHUSD’s request for the allegations to be presented as two separate cases. The next hearing in the case is scheduled for Dec. 12.



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photo by Edwin Folven
A letter carrier at the post office on Beverly Boulevard was convicted of stealing checks from 2020-24.

Postal worker sentenced for stealing checks, credit cards

■ One stolen check was valued at \$7.3 million

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A former United States Postal Service letter carrier who worked at the Bicentennial Post Office at 7610 Beverly Blvd. was sentenced to five-and-a-half years in federal prison on Sept. 8 for stealing checks, credit cards and debit cards from the mail.

Rashad Deon Stolden, 34, of Huntington Beach, pleaded guilty on April 14 to one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud. United States District Judge R. Gary Klausner sentenced Stolden to prison and ordered him to pay \$1.6 million in restitution to banks that were defrauded.

Prosecutors said Stolden stole high-value checks and credit cards, as well as debit cards from the California Employment Development Department for people receiving unemployment insurance. The thefts occurred when Stolden worked at the Bicentennial Post Office from 2020 through August 2024, according to the criminal complaint. Stolden sold the checks, credit cards and debit cards for a fraction of their value to friends and co-conspirators, who created

fake IDs using counterfeit documents and cashed the checks, authorities said. Bank of America, City National Bank, Truist Bank and the California Employment Development Department were among the victims, according to the United States Attorney’s Office.

One of the highest value thefts occurred in June 2022 when Stolden stole a \$7.3 million U.S. Treasury check and sold it to a co-conspirator, who deposited it in a bank in Tennessee and withdrew more than \$1 million before the fraud was discovered, authorities said. According to court documents in the case, investigators accessed text messages from Stolden in which he discussed selling the checks. In other messages, he discussed spending tens of thousands of dollars on hotels, authorities said in court documents.

Multiple federal agencies investigated the thefts including the United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General, United States Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Treasury and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Anyone who believes they are the victim of mail theft is urged to call the United States Postal Inspection Service at (877)876-2455, or report it to usps.gov/report.

Collisions on Sunset renew calls for safer streets

■ Two crashes occur within two days

BY SAM MULICK

A vehicle struck a pedestrian on Sunset Boulevard near the Sherbourne Drive intersection on Sept. 7 around 8:07 p.m. The driver remained at the scene and the victim was transported to the hospital, Lt. Ashley Turner of the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station said, but did not provide further details on the condition of the victim.

A separate vehicle collision occurred Sept. 8 around 9:15 p.m. on Sunset Boulevard near the Sweetzer Ave intersection when a white Mercedes SUV lost control and struck multiple parked vehicles, according to West Hollywood resident Brodie John Gallant who arrived at the scene shortly after the collision. Gallant added that he did not believe anyone suffered injuries from the collision but deputies from the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station did not provide further information regarding the collision.

The incidents come amid calls to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety in West Hollywood on Fountain Avenue – where multiple traffic incidents have occurred in recent



photo courtesy of Brodie John Gallant
A white Mercedes SUV collided with parked vehicles on Sunset Boulevard near the Sweetzer Ave intersection.

months, including a July hit-and-run that claimed the life of 27-year-old cyclist Blake Ackerman.

“My heart goes out to the individual injured in Sunday night’s collision, and I hope for their recovery,” said West Hollywood City Councilman John Erickson. “This is a painful reminder that our streets must be safer for everyone. That’s why West Hollywood has enacted reforms like safer crosswalks and signal upgrades, and why I continue

to push for new tools like speed cameras and other deterrents. Vision Zero is not just a policy – it’s a commitment to saving lives, and we will keep fighting to make sure no one is put in harm’s way simply crossing the street in our city.”

The West Hollywood City Council is scheduled to vote on Phase 1 of the Fountain Avenue Streetscape Plan, which includes reducing travel lanes from four to two and implementing a protected bike lane, on Sept. 15.

West Hollywood parents charged with child cruelty

■ Couple is jailed pending upcoming court hearings

BY SAM MULICK

Two West Hollywood parents were arrested in late August for allegedly abusing their 5-year-old child.

Cody Jefferis, 33, and April Joy Cordova, 30, were charged with two felony counts, including child cruelty and inflicting corporal injury to a child, and are currently being held in jail.

The 5-year-old girl was found wandering alone around 11 a.m. on Aug. 28 and asking neighbors for food on Orange Grove Avenue in West Hollywood, according to media reports. The girl showed signs of

abuse and bodily harm. Deputies from the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station were called to the scene, identified where her parents lived with the help of neighbors and went to the residence. Deputies then identified Jefferis as the girl’s father and arrested him. The child was transported to a hospital, where she received medical care, according to the report. There is no information regarding the status or location of the child. Cordova, the girl’s mother, was later arrested on Aug. 30.

Jefferis pleaded not guilty and remains in custody on \$75,000 bail. During court proceedings, an attorney for Jefferis alleged that Cordova was responsible for the girl’s injuries. Jefferis is scheduled to appear for a preliminary hearing on Oct. 2.

Cordova’s arraignment was originally scheduled for Sept. 2 but was



photo by Edwin Folven
Deputies arrested the parents after residents notified them about a young girl asking for food.

continued by the court and had not taken place as of press time. Cordova also remains in custody on \$75,000 bail. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Sheriff’s Department’s Special Victims Bureau at (877)710-5273, or email specialvictimsbureau@lasd.org.

Break-in reported at Beverly Hills High School

BY TABOR BREWSTER

A break-in occurred on Beverly Hills High School’s campus at approximately 3:24 a.m. on Sept. 2, according to Beverly Hills Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss.



photo by Tabor Brewster
A man hopped a fence along the alley on Heath Avenue on Sept. 2, according to the BHPD.

In a message to the BHHS community, Cherniss said a student’s bicycle that was left on campus over Labor Day Weekend was stolen.

Beverly Hills Police Department Sgt. Audra Alatorre said a male suspect hopped a fence along the alley on Heath Avenue and entered the campus but did not enter any school buildings. The suspect was described as a man approximately 25-35 years old. A blue Schwinn adult mountain bike was reported stolen. No arrests related to the crime have been made as of Sept. 9.

“While this incident happened during non-school hours, we know how unsettling it can feel to hear that someone unlawfully accessed our campus. We take this incident seriously, and not just because something was stolen, but because the safety and security of our students and staff remain our top priority,” Cherniss said.

He added that the district is working closely with the BHPD, which is currently investigating the

break-in.

“Our Command Center has already increased overnight monitoring, and we are assessing what additional measures may be needed,” Cherniss said.

The BHUSD Board of Education discussed the break-in during a closed session on Sept. 9, according to the superintendent. He said the matter was part of “a larger conversation about strengthening after-hours campus security.”

“We are committed to staying at the forefront of school safety, not only in response to incidents like this, but as a core part of how we operate,” Cherniss said.

The break-in comes amid increased concerns over safety in the school district following a controversial resolution that would have required the display of Israeli flags on school campuses. After the district received antisemitic messages and direct threats over the resolution, Cherniss reversed the board’s decision to require the display of the flag of Israel.

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West Hollywood provides affordable housing update

■ Projects on Fairfax, Detroit and Wetherly make progress

BY SAM MULICK

Affordable housing is on the move in West Hollywood. One affordable housing project at 1201 N. Detroit St., named Lexington Gardens, has been steadily under construction and is currently accepting applicants until Sept. 30, with an opening scheduled for December. The project will offer 47 affordable housing units, and one manager unit. Tenants will be selected based on a lottery that is scheduled for Oct. 7. Residents will be split into three categories based on income. The first category will pay 30% of adjusted income for rent, the second category will pay \$1,053 and the third will pay \$1,621. All units are ADA accessible. Interested residents can apply at eahousing.org/lexington-garden.

A co-living development is planned at 1301 Fairfax Ave. where buildings were recently demolished due to code compliance, according to Sheri Lunn, public information officer for the city of West Hollywood. The development was approved in 2021 and will include 73 co-living bedrooms and 32 parking spaces on the northwest corner of Fairfax and Fountain avenues. The project was opposed by neighboring property owners at the time of approval, who alleged the development would cause traffic conges-

tion and parking issues in the area. The original architect for the project, Levin-Nariño Architects, Inc., is no longer involved and new architect has not been approved. No further information is available regarding construction for the development at this time, Lunn said.

Additionally, the project applicants for an affordable housing development at 910-916 Wetherly Drive are finishing the plan check review to obtain building permits. The project was approved in 2024 as a seven-story, 89-unit building that would contain 100% affordable housing, but there is no construction scheduled yet for the development. The building is located next to the First Baptist Church of Beverly Hills, and as part of the development deal, two units would be reserved for pastoral staff with rent to be paid by the church. The West Hollywood City Council denied an appeal against the project in 2024 that questioned the size and density of the building and the construction’s environmental impacts.

West Hollywood Mayor Chelsea Byers said the developments are necessary to meet the region’s need for more affordable housing.

“Every new home built in West Hollywood is a victory because it means more people have access to the resources and quality of life available in this city,” she said. “It’s particularly exciting to see these designated affordable housing projects nearing completion because they are often the most difficult to

accomplish and they are highly needed in this region. We know the region as a whole needs nearly 600,000 new affordable homes just to meet the current need and while West Hollywood cannot accomplish that on its own, these new apartment buildings remind us that each plot of land holds a tremendous opportunity to meet the community’s needs and we must take these opportunities seriously.”

Councilman John Erickson also said that the city needs to do everything it can to add more affordable housing.

“Projects like 1301 Fairfax and 1201 N. Detroit represent the best of what West Hollywood stands for: building real, affordable homes for the people who need them most,” he said. “1301 Fairfax is on its way after several frivolous lawsuits tried to deter it, and Lexington Gardens at 1201 N. Detroit is nearly ready to welcome residents home, and I’m proud to have supported both of these critical projects. These aren’t just buildings – they are opportunities for people to thrive and stay rooted in our community.”

Erickson added that the developments are needed to meet the city’s Housing Element and represent West Hollywood values of equity and inclusion. All California cities are required to meet state-mandated housing goals, which are reassessed every eight years. The current update to the city of West Hollywood’s plan was adopted in February 2023 and covers the period from 2021-29.



photo by Edwin Folven

The affordable housing development located at 1301 Fairfax Ave. on the northwest corner of Fountain and Fairfax avenues is currently without an architect.

WeHo hosts annual AIDS Walk

AIDS Walk Los Angeles will return to West Hollywood on Oct. 12, starting from West Hollywood Park, announced APLA Health, the leading nonprofit providing HIV care, prevention and sexual health services.

The event, themed “Community is the Cure,” invites the public to come together for a day of solidarity, awareness, entertainment and fundraising in support of critical HIV/AIDS services throughout L.A. County. Registration for participants is open.

Walk day begins with festivities in West Hollywood Park, featuring a live performance from “RuPaul’s Drag Race” star Heidi N Closet, DJ sets and community booths. Following the morning’s celebration, walkers will step off from the park and make their way through the streets of West Hollywood.

“This event was born out of urgency, and it’s just as relevant today,” said Craig E. Thompson, CEO of APLA Health. “We’ve made incredible progress in the fight against HIV, but that progress

is under direct threat from funding cuts and political attacks. Now is the time to show that we won’t be silenced or set back.”

Since its inception forty years ago, when Los Angeles hosted the first-ever AIDS Walk to raise awareness about the HIV/AIDS epidemic, AIDS Walk Los Angeles has evolved into one of the largest and most impactful HIV/AIDS fundraising events in the world. In 2024, AIDS Walk Los Angeles raised \$1.16 million to support these vital programs and services.

For those living with HIV, modern treatments can reduce viral loads to undetectable levels, effectively eliminating the risk of transmission. While not a cure, these developments have transformed HIV from a fatal diagnosis into a manageable, preventable condition. APLA Health plays a vital role, providing inclusive, high-quality healthcare in medically underserved communities and working to ensure that progress in HIV prevention and treatment reaches everyone, not just a few.

For information on AIDS Walk Los Angeles and how to register, visit aidswalk.la.



photo courtesy of APLA Health

The AIDS Walk Los Angeles raises money for critical HIV/AIDS services throughout L.A. County.

Skate into West Hollywood Park

Grab your skates and your best moves because the city of West Hollywood’s Recreation Services Division is turning up the fun with an exciting weekend at West Hollywood Park. From Sept. 12-Sept. 14, the basketball courts will transform into a vibrant, high-energy skate party.

Pre-registration is highly encouraged to secure a spot. Visit go.weho.org/skateparty to sign up. Registration is \$15 per adult and \$12 for children under 12, which includes skate rental, helmet and knee pads. Sessions kick off at the

top of each hour on: Sept. 12 from 4-8 p.m.; Sept. 13 from 12-8 p.m.

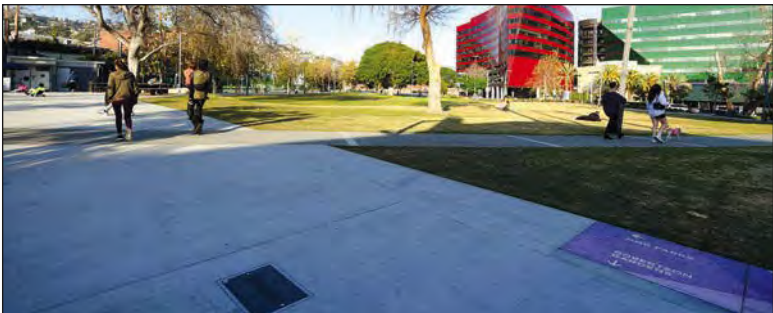


photo courtesy of the city of West Hollywood

The West Hollywood Park basketball courts will be transformed into a skate party from Sept. 12-14.



Can Dogs Smell Time? The Science Behind a Dog’s Mysterious Nose

We all know dogs have remarkable noses – but could they actually smell time? While it sounds like science fiction, emerging research suggests they can sense the passage of time by following changes in scent.

A Superpowered Nose

Humans have about 5 million scent receptors. Dogs? Up to 300 million. Their olfactory bulbs – the brain’s scent processors – are 40 times larger than ours in relative size. This gives them abilities that border on the magical: detecting certain cancers, predicting seizures, and identifying explosives. But it may also allow them to “read” the clock without ever looking at one.

Scent as a Clock

Every person, place, and object leaves behind a unique odor fingerprint. As hours pass, those molecules fade, drift, and change with air currents and temperature. Scientists believe dogs interpret these scent gradients like markers on an invisible timeline. This may explain why dogs know when their owner is about to come home. Not because of the ticking of a clock, but because your morning scent trail has faded to a predictable strength by evening. In other words, they smell your absence aging.

The Science in Action

Canine cognition researcher Alexandra Horowitz has suggested that dogs “see” time through smell. A dog may detect not only that you were in a room, but how long ago you were there. They may also anticipate events – like dinner – because the scent of food storage intensifies at certain times of day.

Why It Matters for Pet Parents

Understanding dogs’ scent-based sense of time helps us interpret their behavior. That restless pacing near dinnertime? Their nose is telling them it’s late. Barking at the window before you arrive home? They may be responding to invisible odor cues in the environment.

How to Support Your Dog’s Inner Timekeeper

- **Stick to routines:** Consistent walk and meal schedules align with their scent expectations.
- **Offer enrichment:** Snuffle mats and puzzle feeders let them engage their powerful olfactory sense.
- **See your vet:** Sudden changes in pacing, restlessness, or awareness can sometimes signal medical or cognitive issues.

We know that dogs live in a world of scent first, sight and sound second. By tuning into how they experience time, we can create calmer homes – and strengthen the bond we share with our four-legged family members.

About Dr. Ameis

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



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WeHo mail thefts reflect larger problem

■ Officials report drastic increase in mail theft

BY SAM MULICK

A series of mail thefts in West Hollywood reflect a larger national problem, according to Frank Albero, the national president of the Postal Police Officers Association.

Albero said a national upsurge in mail theft is a direct result of the U.S. Postal Service’s decision in 2020 to end daily Postal Police patrols and confine officers to postal facilities.

“For 50 years, Postal Police would be deployed to hot spots, targeted police patrols to prevent mail theft, and it worked. Their own data show that Postal Police mail theft prevention patrols are the most effective tool to stop mail theft,” he said.

Oliver Thornton, 32, was arrested on July 31 for four separate mail thefts at Holloway Terrace at 8530 Holloway Drive. He was charged with four felony counts of residential burglary. Thornton posted bail and was released from custody on Aug. 11, but did not appear for a court hearing scheduled for Sept. 8. A warrant was issued for his arrest. A separate individual disguised in a U.S. Postal Service uniform who stole mail from the same building has still not been apprehended, according to the building’s HOA president who declined to be named, citing safety concerns.

Thornton was arrested while in possession of a master mailbox key and the second suspect is also believed to possess a master key.

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station Captain Fanny Lapkin said investigators are working with the office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, and U.S. Sen. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) to collaborate with the U.S. Postal Service on changing master mailbox locks.

A 2024 U.S. Postal Inspection Service report stated that instances of mail theft significantly increased nationwide from 2019-24.

“Beginning around 2020, and continuing to [2024], the Postal Service has experienced a significant increase in mail theft from mail receptacles, primarily due to financially motivated crimes like check fraud,” the report read. “This is evidenced by a 139% increase in reports of high-volume mail theft from mail receptacles between [2019] and [2023], with 20,574 reports in [2019] and 49,146 reports in [2023]. The significant rise in mail theft and associated financial crimes appears to be driven by

organized criminal groups who have shifted their focus towards the perpetration of low-risk, high-reward financial crimes.”

Albero said that Postal Police officers previously patrolled West Hollywood and if they were able to resume patrols, statistics predict that mail thefts would decrease by at least 50%. Instead of conducting patrols, Postal Police officers now forward calls to U.S. Postal Inspectors who investigate instances of mail theft after the incident occurs, he added.

“When you’re talking about street-level crime, you don’t [only] investigate it, right? Because that’s stupid. What you do is you stop it,” Albero said. “So imagine if there’s an explosion in shoplifting, and LAPD responds by saying, ‘Well, we’re going to investigate every instance of shoplifting,’ but that’s what the Inspection Services law enforcement model is.”

However, during a July 23 congressional testimony, U.S. Postal Inspection Service’s Inspector in Charge Brendan Donahue stated

“For 50 years, Postal Police would be deployed to hot spots, targeted police patrols to prevent mail theft, and it worked.”

Frank Albero,
national president of the
Postal Police Officers Association

that local and state law enforcement officers are better positioned to conduct neighborhood patrols than Postal Police officers.

“Given that there are over 230,000 postal delivery routes, it would not be practicable, cost-effective or even logical to patrol every route,” he said.

Donahue also pointed to Project Safe Delivery, an initiative launched by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service in 2023 to combat mail theft. Through the project, the U.S. Postal Service has installed more than 23,000 high security blue collection boxes nationwide with 16,000 additional boxes scheduled to be installed.

The Postal Inspection Service also faces the challenge of lenient legal consequences for people convicted of mail theft.

“One example was a subject arrested in possession of two postal keys, who stole mail on at least eight occasions and was found with

over 3,000 pieces of stolen mail, USPS mail tubs and checks and money orders with a face value of over \$1.5 million,” Donahue said. “This subject pleaded guilty to theft of mail in late 2024 and was sentenced earlier this month to six months of home detention, three years of probation and community service.”

Albero said that benching postal police officers has had devastating impacts.

“In my 31-year career, as a postal employee, I’ve never seen anything like this,” he said. “It’s like we’re going back to the days of the Pony Express. That’s how bad postal related crime has become.”



photo courtesy of the Holloway Terrace Homeowners Association

Oliver Thornton did not appear in court for a criminal hearing after being arrested for multiple mail thefts at a West Hollywood building.

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Notable Quotes

“I’m on an airplane that’s been hijacked. If things don’t go well, and it’s not looking good, I just want you to know I absolutely love you, I want you to do good, go have good times – same to my parents and everybody – and I just totally love you, and I’ll see you when you get there. Bye, babe. I hope I call you.”

Brian David Sweeney, (1963-Sept.11, 2001)

Sweeney was a passenger on United Airlines Flight 175, which crashed into the South Tower of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. Moments before his death, he left this voicemail to his wife, Julie Roth.

*source: 9-11 Memorial Museum

‘Jaws’ bites into the Academy Museum

■ Spielberg on hand for exhibit’s launch

BY RANCE COLLINS

Just when you thought it was safe to go back to the Academy Museum ... on Sept. 14, the motion picture hub is unveiling a new exhibit highlighting Hollywood’s seminal blockbuster, “Jaws.” On Sept. 10, the museum held a special press preview, which was backed by a full orchestra and featured an appearance by the movie’s legendary filmmaker Steven Spielberg. The film – which put then-28-year-old director on the map – was actually more than just a blockbuster. It was a phenomenon. Starring Roy Scheider as Police Chief Brody, who desperately wants to close Amity Island’s beach

following a pair of vicious shark attacks but is overruled by the mayor’s greed for Independence Day tourist bucks (you can guess where this is going), the movie was a massive cultural touchstone. Its unparalleled promotional campaign and merchandising tie-ins showcased how great an effect a big, bold, bombastic movie could have on society at large. Reportedly, beach attendance fell noticeably in the summer of 1975, all thanks to one cinematic predator. In the 50 years since its release, the film’s reputation has only mushroomed, in no small part due to the three sequels (of greatly diminishing quality) that followed, regular rereleases (including one raking in at the box office right now), and Universal Studios’ embrace of all things “Jaws.” Yes, you can still head over to the studio tour and get splashed

by the shark himself, Bruce, named for Spielberg’s lawyer ... get it? Its production history has, too, crossed into mythic legend. The long location shoot in Martha’s Vineyard was rife with mishaps, including a constantly malfunctioning mechanical shark, unreliable weather and a ballooning budget. “I thought my career was virtually over halfway through production on Jaws, because everybody was saying to me, you are never going to get hired again. This film is way over budget and way over schedule, and you are a real liability as a director, and you are not going to get hired again,” Spielberg said. The filmmaker – who would go on the helm “E.T.,” “Schindler’s List” and “Jurassic Park,” among many, many others – said he had the “hubris” to believe that he could take a Hollywood crew on location 12 miles into the Atlantic Ocean, shoot a whole movie with a mechanical shark, and it would “go swimmingly.” The movie ended up going 100 days over schedule, with a shoot that lasted 158 days total. “But nobody wanted to quit. Nobody wanted to stop. One of the biggest questions the crew kept asking me, and every week I’d have five or six people come over to me to say, ‘I have children, I have dependents. I haven’t seen them. I haven’t seen my family. I’ve been here for five months. Just give me an incentive to keep working on your movie. Give me a date, a guarantee of when you’re going to wrap.’ And I didn’t know when we were going to wrap until two weeks before we wrapped on Martha’s



Original props from the production of “Jaws” are in the exhibit, as well as costumes and vintage merchandising.



Director Steven Spielberg was on hand to launch the “Jaws” exhibition at the Academy Museum.

Vineyard. That’s how little control we had over ... the shark, the weather, the currents, the regattas,” Spielberg recalled. With the new exhibition, aptly titled “Jaws: The Exhibition,” this frenzied production, as well as the movie’s lasting impact, are painstakingly preserved, with props, costumes, fins, interactive experiences and copious production materials. “This exhibition is just awesome. Every room ... has the minutia of how this picture got together and proves that this motion picture industry is really, truly a collaborative art form,” Spielberg said. Of course, since the Academy Museum opened in September 2021, one of the mechanical sharks has been on display prominently, hanging high in the rafters on the fourth floor (where the new exhibition is located) adjacent to the escalators, greeting guests as they move from floor to floor. At 25-feet-long, the last remaining “Jaws” shark

model is the largest item in the museum’s vast collection. The new exhibit highlights a year that has not only seen “Jaws” rereleased in movie theaters, but a number of special 50th anniversary tie-ins. In July, NBC aired a documentary covering many of the same production calamities as the museum’s new display, and a special screening of the film brought big ratings for the network, too. The movie will also be playing at the Academy Museum’s David Geffen Theater on Sept. 14 at 6:30 p.m. to coincide with the exhibit’s premiere. “I’m very proud of the movie. The film certainly cost me a pound of flesh but gave me a ton of career. And the success of the movie gave me a chance to make any movie I wanted to make after that,” Spielberg surmised. For tickets and information, visit academymuseum.org. The Academy Museum is located at 6067 Wilshire Blvd.

Beverly Hills approves extended closure of Cañon

■ Council denies Metro request to work during holidays

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills City Council on Sept. 9 voted 4-1 to approve a five and a half month extension of the closure of North Cañon Drive at Wilshire Boulevard. The intersection will remain closed until March 14, 2026. Additionally, the City Council unanimously voted to deny Metro’s request to work during the holiday moratorium between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day. The intersection of North Cañon Drive and Wilshire Boulevard has been closed since 2019 due to the ongoing construction of Metro’s Wilshire/Rodeo Station, which will be a stop on the D-Line extension project. The intersection was permitted to be closed until September 2025. However, on June 13, Metro requested the extension of the closure to allow further construction. According to a city staff report, the opening of North Cañon Drive before March could lead to significant traffic impacts, lane closures and additional construction that would not be needed if the intersection remains closed until March. “Reopening the street early would result in unpredictable traffic patterns, requiring frequent changes at the Wilshire Boulevard and North Cañon Drive intersection, including lane closures and turn restrictions,” the staff report stated. “Daily traffic control would be needed from Wilshire Boulevard to Dayton Way with detours, mes-

sage boards, traffic cones, and restrictions on valet and on-street parking.” Beverly Hills Public Works Director Shana Epstein said the March 14 opening date for the intersection minimizes traffic impacts and will require less lane closures. Metro agreed to open the intersection by 7 a.m. on March 14, one day before the 98th Academy Awards. The Vanity Fair Oscars Party following the event is traditionally held at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, which is located less than one mile from the intersection. Metro has agreed to pay the city a fee of \$20,000 per day if the intersection does not open by March 14. Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce CEO Todd Johnson said the extension was necessary to reduce the impacts on surrounding businesses. “We’ve talked to many of the stakeholders in that area and they all agree,” Johnson said. “We feel that whatever we can do to help Metro move on and move forward is going to be a good thing.” Businessman and Rodeo Drive developer Dar Mahboubi said that Metro’s construction has been “grossly mismanaged” and urged the city to keep the interests of residents and business owners in mind when negotiating with Metro. “Metro, with their construction activities, have caused great pain and inconvenience to all residents of Beverly Hills and have caused irreparable interruption to the businesses located at the Beverly Hills Triangle, South Beverly Drive and Wilshire Boulevard,” Mahboubi said.

The council ultimately voted 4-1 to approve the extension, with Vice Mayor John Mirisch voting against the approval. Mirisch said the city should have asked Metro to directly compensate the businesses that have been impacted by the closure. “It just seems like we’re afraid to try and negotiate with them or even to play hardball,” Mirisch said. “We can try and rationalize for ourselves why this is good, but ultimately this is much better for [Metro] and I think we should negotiate something with them that would benefit our residents, that would benefit the businesses and that would benefit the city.” Mayor Sharona Nazarian said that she hoped the city’s willingness

to work with Metro would encourage Metro to coordinate with Beverly Hills on safety measures in the future. “It’s not an ideal situation. At the end of the day it’s here and we want to be able to create transportation,” Nazarian said. “My only hope is that we create the safest environment possible both on the Metro as well as the space outside of the Metro.” In addition to approving the closure extension, the city denied a request from Metro to allow work during the holiday moratorium between Nov. 27 and Jan. 1, 2025. While work within staffing yards and underground areas is permitted during the moratorium, no work on the street level in the public right-of-way is permitted. A city staff report found that granting a waiver for work during the holiday moratorium would not

significantly reduce the overall construction schedule or expedite the station opening. While the city approved the waiver of the holiday moratorium in 2024, that approval was made with the agreement that Metro would construct a public safety center kiosk in the Wilshire/La Cienega Station. According to Epstein, Metro was not willing to agree to create another safety kiosk until the first one is complete and the impacts on safety can be measured. As a result, the council unanimously voted to deny Metro’s most recent request to waive the holiday moratorium. “When they’re not giving us anything and it’s not going to speed it up, it just didn’t pay to waive the moratorium,” Councilman Lester Friedman said. The Wilshire/Rodeo station is scheduled to open in 2026.

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Angels in the cornfields?

Only a theory

LAKE GENEVA, Wis. – Some dad was joking about the cost of raising a daughter the other day, putting the tab at between \$700 billion and \$1.6 trillion.

Obviously, no two daughters cost the same. Some are point guards, some are doctors, some are matzo-ball makers. I suspect that artists, including chefs, are the cheapest to raise. Except emotionally, of course.

“Art is the stored honey of the human soul,” Theodore Dreiser once noted. So are daughters – stored honey, gathered on “wings of misery and travail,” to finish Dreiser’s thought.

Sent another daughter off into the vast universe of adulthood the other evening. Not my daughter; actually my sister’s daughter. KD has a cover girl smile and a sailor’s elan. What a brilliant bride.

You know, we are born with our smirks, our quirks, our colossal unsightly feet. We’re pretty much what we are at birth, till we bring a spouse into our lives. Then we are what they are too.

Doesn’t that explain the human condition? Doesn’t it justify Shakespeare and John Milton and Etta James?

Indeed, we are guided by our restless hearts. And, starting about the sixth grade, we are obsessed with coupling up.

The guy KD chose for this occasion has a steel jaw and a sardonic outlook. Jeb is a Bears fan through and through, and prefers



by
Chris
Erskine

lake houses to vast oceans.

Obviously, he seems to check most of the boxes. Where does he stand on Craig Counsell’s handling of the Cubbie bullpen? We’ll get to that eventually, probably over cigars and icy double gins.

I remember when Jeb and KD were first dating. They came out to California for a camping tour, borrowing my tent, bags and stove. KD told me, “Uncle Chris, I really like this guy. Give me the good stuff.”

So I did.

The wedding was profound to me, as most weddings are. As I sit in the fourth row, I don’t ponder the wedding prep so much as all that leads up to it. How the bride’s parents met. How they established long-term credit, qualified for a house, managed to make the monthly payments, pay the OBGYN, raise six kids while covering braces and travel ball, keeping the kitchen somewhat clean, making a million meals, changing a billion beds.

All that led to this moment, this mitzvah, this dazzling movie-wor-

thy bride.

I mean, this day doesn’t just happen.

Raising a son or a daughter means long nights and flu seasons and lost soccer socks. It’s two jiggers of agony, plus three jiggers of joy.

Hey kids, you think adulting sucks? Try parenting for a week. One week!

Somehow, my sister Holly and her husband, John, raised six of them quite well, and we celebrate tonight at a barn outside Lake Geneva, the Lake Tahoe of the Middle West.

The wedding barn, embraced by corn fields, looks like a towering cake. Just look at the glorious way they lighted it.

Before the ceremony, the air hums a little, as always. My theory: It’s all the missing loved ones fluttering back to Earth to watch. But I have no evidence of this. Just a hypothesis crossed with a vibe.

My role is small. I’m just an uncle with an old Pedro Arrupe poem in his pocket, which I’ll read during the ceremony. It’s about love – a topic I don’t even pretend to understand.

“What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, whom you know...”

See, told you love was complicated.

I love the trappings – the pass-around trays, the open bars, the champagne toasts. But what I really admire about weddings is what they say about family,



photo by Chris Erskine

The wedding barn looks like a giant cake.

love, fealty, compassion and our ceaseless belief in good outcomes. Weddings are giant funnel clouds of human faith.

I’m just glad to be here again, the last wedding of the season, to hear the father of the bride give his splendid toast and Christa her funny and moving maid-of-honor tribute.

Jeesh, why does this stuff still get to me so much?

I think it’s because I’m missing my meds, lost in luggage on the way to Chicago. One moment, my carry-on is on the LAX shuttle, the next someone has swiped it, mistaking it for his own bag. Easy mistake.

Nothing much in it: wedding clothes, some meds, Suze’s jewelry, my comic books, all the stuff required for a jazzy weekend away.

But we plow through, don’t we? And look what happens when we do.

Need a bit of fellowship? Join me at the Rose Bowl Quarterbacks Club on Monday, Sept. 15, for a breakfast session on toughness, perseverance and college football talk. Special guest: Hall-of-Famer Ronnie Lott. To register, please Google Rose Bowl Quarterbacks Club.

West Hollywood Park mural ‘In Her Own Pattern’ celebrates women

The city of West Hollywood Arts Division installed a new temporary public artwork, “In Her Own Pattern” by Violet Danesh, on the ground floor of the West Hollywood Park five-story parking structure. The 9-foot-by-9-foot vinyl mural installation is on display through Oct. 30, 2026.

The large-scale vinyl installation is a digital reprint of a smaller acrylic painting on canvas by Violet Danesh who describes the intention behind her artwork as exploring identity through contrast and control, inviting viewers into the gaze of a woman wholly self-defined. “In Her Own Pattern” celebrates the quiet power of self-possession. The bold, black-and-white stripes suggest both order and disruption, symbolizing how patterns, whether societal or personal, can be worn, reshaped or reclaimed. Her expression is poised yet unreadable, balanced within a space of flat planes and fractured realism. The stylized face, layered with earthy tones and sharp lines, speaks to complexity, resilience and individuality.

Violet Danesh is a multidisciplinary artist, art director, and long-time painter whose work explores identity, memory and the emotional landscapes of womanhood. With a background in graphic design and more than a decade of experience in digital and interactive design, Violet blends fine art with visual storytelling to create pieces that are both intimate and expansive. Her paintings often draw from lived experiences as an immigrant woman, using layered

textures and minimalist forms to hold space for reflection, resilience and quiet beauty. To her, making art is an act of care and defiance – a way to center emotion, reclaim space and speak across boundaries.

West Hollywood Park is located

at 647 N. San Vicente Blvd. For information, visit weho.org/arts.

photo by Jon Viscott

“In Her Own Pattern” by Violet Danesh celebrates the quiet power of self-possession.





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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT RECREATION@WEHO.ORG OR (323) 848-6534.

Metro work stays steady around subway stations

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is continuing work at the new subway stations on the D Line extension project.

Crews are working at the stations at Wilshire/La Brea, Wilshire/Fairfax and Wilshire/La Cienega on the first segment of the project, anticipated to open at the end of 2025, and at the Beverly Drive and Century City stations on the second segment, scheduled to open in 2026. The work also includes streetscape improvements at multiple locations along Wilshire Boulevard in the Miracle Mile and in Beverly Hills between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards.

Crews are restoring the street and sidewalks along the south side of Wilshire Boulevard between La Cienega and San Vicente boulevards. Temporary road closures may be implemented on South Hamilton and South Tower drives and a K-rail work zone remains in

place on the south side of the street. Two lanes remain open in each direction on Wilshire Boulevard between San Vicente and La Cienega boulevards.

On Saturday, Sept. 13, from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., eastbound Wilshire Boulevard will be closed between La Cienega Boulevard and Hamilton Drive. La Cienega Boulevard will also be reduced to a single lane in each direction between Gregory Way and Clifton Way. Left turns within the Wilshire/La Cienega intersection will be intermittently restricted, with the exception of eastbound Wilshire Boulevard to northbound La Cienega Boulevard. The traffic control supports utility work in the Wilshire/La Cienega intersection.

From Friday, Sept. 27, at 8 p.m. through Saturday, Sept. 28, at 10 p.m., eastbound Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes between Le Doux Road and Gale Drive, westbound Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to one

lane from Gale Drive to Le Doux Road; and northbound La Cienega Boulevard will be reduced to a single lane from Wilshire Boulevard to a location 500 feet north of the intersection. The traffic control supports ongoing sewer maintenance at the Wilshire/La Cienega intersection.

At the Beverly Drive Station, ongoing construction continues at and around the subway station site. Work in the AKA alley between Cañon and Crescent drive is progressing, with permanent sewer, water installation and utility relocation work ongoing throughout September. Crews are also decommissioning geotechnical instruments in the area. On Sept 11-12 from 8:15 p.m.-7 a.m., westbound Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to one lane between Maple and Palm drives. Also, the south sidewalk on Wilshire Boulevard between Cañon and Crescent drive is closed through Sept. 26 for underground construction.



photo by Edwin Folven

Work is ongoing at the future Beverly Drive subway station in Beverly Hills.

Farther west, preparations are underway to remove deck panels near the Century City Station. The work is scheduled to begin in September and is expected to last approximately two months. Traffic control measures will be implemented in five phases, progressing from east to west. Following deck removal, traffic

control measures will be reestablished on Constellation Boulevard to support further construction activities.

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.

Miracle Mile Chamber hosts September social at Kimpton Hotel Wilshire



photo courtesy of the Kimpton Hotel Wilshire

The chamber’s social event includes bites from Videre and beverages on the hotel’s rooftop.

Join the Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce for its September Evening Social event on Tuesday, Sept. 30, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Kimpton Hotel Wilshire.

Chamber of commerce members will gather on the rooftop of Hotel Wilshire and enjoy delicious bites from Videre and beverages. Meet new Hotel Wilshire general manager Justin Henry and new Greater Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce co-presidents Portia Park and Jonathan Engel. The event also includes the GMMCC raffle with a chance to win prizes.

The Kimpton Hotel Wilshire is located at 6317 Wilshire Blvd. Tickets are \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members. RSVP is requested by 5 p.m. on Sept. 23 by emailing info@miraclemilechamber.org.

Beverly Hills Police Gala scheduled for Sept. 17

The Beverly Hills Police Officers Benevolent Fund is holding the Beverly Hills Police Gala on Wednesday, Sept. 17, from 6-9 p.m. at the Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills.

The glamorous evening features cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, a live auction and an inspiring awards ceremony honoring the courageous first responders who make Beverly Hills one of the safest cities in the world.

The community is encouraged

to support the heroes of the BHPD. Donations to the Beverly Hills Police Officers Benevolent Fund shape a stronger, safer community. Every contribution directly benefits those who risk their lives for the public, ensuring they are prepared and ready to face any challenge.

Individual Tickets are \$500. The Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills is located at 9850 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit bhpolicefund.org.

Letters to the Editor

Taiwan’s 23 million voices left out of the U.N.

The upcoming United Nations General Assembly is once again overshadowed by the ongoing misuse of UNGA Resolution 2758. For decades, this resolution has been distorted to exclude Taiwan from the U.N. system, even though the text makes no mention of Taiwan. In fact, the resolution only addresses the question of China’s representation in the U.N. It does not determine Taiwan’s status, nor does it endorse China’s so called “one China principle.”

This misrepresentation has had serious consequences. Taiwan’s 23 million people are denied participation in the U.N. system, including critical platforms for global health, sustainable development and security. Such exclusion undermines the very principles of inclusivity and equality that the U.N. Charter was built upon.

The situation is more urgent than ever. China continues to pressure U.N. member states into accepting its false narrative, threatening peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and the broader

Indo-Pacific. This year’s U.N. theme, “Better Together: 80 years and more for peace, development and human rights,” rings hollow if Taiwan remains shut out.

Taiwan has consistently shown that it is a responsible global partner, contributing to humanitarian aid, public health and sustainable development. Excluding Taiwan not only violates the rights of its 23 million people but also weakens the world’s collective capacity to address shared challenges.

The U.N. system was established to serve all humanity, not the political interests of a single power. It is time to end this misrepresentation and allow Taiwan to take its rightful place in the international community.

Amino C.Y. Chi
Director General
Taipei Economic and Cultural
Office in Los Angeles

Fountain Avenue bike lanes don’t make sense

One thing the planners and advocates don’t seem to under-

stand is that traffic is like standing water on a roof – it will always find a way to get through. This is especially true in the days of Waze and real-time enabled automobile GPS systems.

The proposed bicycle lanes on Fountain Avenue make no sense whatsoever. Why not? Because Fountain Avenue is located downhill from Sunset Boulevard and uphill from Santa Monica Boulevard. Almost all cyclists, especially commuters, avoid hills.

Yes, installing protected bike lanes will slow traffic, but Fountain has been an important cut-through street to and through Hollywood since long before Johnny Carson’s show with the famous Bette Davis advice to young starlets – “Take Fountain.” The traffic will merely find somewhere else to cut through between Sunset and Santa Monica, through West Hollywood. The apps will tell drivers where to go.

Building protected traffic lanes along relatively flat Santa Monica Boulevard makes more sense, as does completing the “bike path to nowhere” that runs a few blocks on Beverly Boulevard from Santa Monica Boulevard to Doheny

Drive. Limiting overbuilding along Sunset Boulevard makes even more sense.

Installing bike lanes on Fountain makes no sense. Whatsoever.

Daniel Fink
Beverly Hills

Changes to dog area at Hart Park are a solution in search of a problem

Re “No bones about it – dog owners angry over Hart Park renovations,” Aug. 13 issue

This was a very accurate description of what happened at the meeting, for the most part. Susan Grayson Stone’s comments were especially apt.

There was no sense of cooperation, and the entire proceeding was very adversarial. [Park] users’ comments were cut off when an arbitrary time limit was reached, regardless of how relevant the comments may have been. One has to wonder why one of the two council members on

the subcommittee isn’t even a dog guardian at all. It was only very recently that the plans for the “improvement” were posted at the park for the users to see, and this was only after a lot of pressure from the users. Meetings were held without sufficiently making the effort to inform the park’s users and invite their input and participation.

While the overall total dog play area will slightly increase, the unnecessary separation into two separate play areas (a solution in search of a problem) will mean that from the dogs’ point of view, the available area will shrink. And all to make room for a plaza that no one asked for and no one wants. Additional security to keep the unhoused from occupying the plaza would be unnecessary if the plaza was never created in the first place.

We love our park and use it often. It is an oasis of calm and peace in the middle of a troubling world. We would like to preserve what is special and lovely about it as much as possible.

Bob Claster
Los Angeles

RESTAURANT NEWS

Andaz WeHo welcomes fall

As summer fades into fall, Andaz West Hollywood is keeping the energy high on the Sunset Strip with a dynamic lineup of events that showcase the hotel’s role as a cultural hub and lifestyle destination. From wellness mornings on the rooftop to art-driven evenings and curated social gatherings, the hotel is hosting a variety of events for the season.

On Thursday, Sept. 18, from 7-11 p.m., Andaz West Hollywood will host Thursday Dating. An evening of conversation and connection awaits at the rooftop pool, where panoramic Sunset Strip views and a relaxed atmosphere set the stage for meeting new people and sparking potential matches.

On Saturday, Sept. 20, the hotel celebrates World Wellness Weekend with Meditation and Poolside Yoga from 8-10 a.m. Start the day with intention during a rooftop mingle and yoga flow, part

of a global celebration of wellness month.

On Friday, Oct. 10, from 4-7 p.m., Andaz West Hollywood is proud to continue its partnership with Valence Projects to present Black in Every Color, an exhibition series celebrating the global voices of the African diaspora. Curated by Josiah David Jones, the edition brings together artists including Miles Regis, Cortney Herron, Doug Hickman Jr., Johnny Draco, Helen Ifeagwu, Kefas Osi, Brittney S. Price, Caesar Segun and Jataree Hudson Jr.

Since its inception, Black in Every Color has supported more than 100 artists worldwide and generated over \$400,000 toward the global Black art ecosystem, with past exhibitions in Tokyo, New York, New Orleans and Los Angeles. The Andaz residency marks its sixth, and most ambitious, iteration, with works on view through Dec. 31.

For information, visit hyatt.com/andaz/laxss-andaz-west

Celebrate Guac Day at Hotel Maya

National Guacamole Day is right around the corner, and in honor of the special day, Hotel Maya, Long Beach – an iconic, Latin-inspired waterfront property – is serving dishes that can’t be missed.

Perched on the edge of the Pacific with panoramic views of downtown Long Beach, Fuego at Hotel Maya is known for Latin-inspired cuisine and a festive atmosphere. This fall, the culinary team is paying tribute to a fan-favorite dish by introducing a limited-time Guacamole Trio Special for National Guacamole Day, available Sept. 16 for Hispanic Heritage Month through Oct. 15.

Priced at \$15 for the trio, it features three chef-driven creations that blend classic Mexican flavors with unexpected twists: crispy glazed bacon and pomegranate guacamole, a savory-sweet indulgence; spicy tuna guacamole served with wonton chips, an adventurous fusion bite; and a



photo courtesy of Hotel Maya Long Beach

The restaurant with panoramic views of downtown Long Beach will offer limited-time guacamole from Sept. 16-Oct. 15.

tropical guacamole with pineapple and mango salsa (vegan), a refreshing plant-based option that bursts with flavor.

Perfect for sharing (or keeping all to yourself), the trio pairs beautifully with Fuego’s exten-

sive margarita selection and the restaurant’s lively waterfront setting.

For information, visit hotelmaya-alongbeach.com/fuego-restaurant. Hotel Maya is located at 700 Queensway Drive, Long Beach.

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hollywood. Andaz West Hollywood is located at 8401 W. Sunset Blvd.

Pumpkin spice is in season at Nothing Bundt Cakes

Nothing Bundt Cakes is celebrating the season with its Cheers to Autumn collection – a lineup of rich, cozy flavors perfect for cooler weather and holiday gatherings. The assortment includes the comeback of the beloved pumpkin spice cake, along with two limited-time pop-ups: caramel apple cider and the new Biscoff cookie butter cake.

The fan-favorite pumpkin spice makes its yearly return, blending savory pumpkin with a medley of warm spices that capture the essence of fall. It is available in all bundt cake sizes through Dec. 7.

The cinnamon spice caramel apple cider cake is baked with apple cider, coated with an apple spice cinnamon sugar and filled and topped with luscious caramel sauce. Apple cider is available in personal-sized bundtlets until Sept.

21.

A comforting spice cake with Biscoff cookie butter baked right in and drizzled on top, as well as real Biscoff cookies baked on the bottom and placed on top, Biscoff cookie butter cake is available in personal-sized Bundtlets from Sept. 29-Oct. 12.

And just in time for Halloween, Nothing Bundt Cakes will unveil its most buzzworthy pop-up flavor yet – a decadent bundtlet that layers fan-favorite confections into one unforgettable treat that’s perfect for every spooky celebration.

“Our guests look forward to pumpkin spice every year, and the collection builds on that excitement as we introduce new, innovative pop-ups that bring out the flavors and fun of fall,” said Dolf Berle, CEO at Nothing Bundt Cakes. “These treats are designed to spark joy and lasting memories, showing that a Bundt Cake has a place at every table – from festive get-togethers to small moments shared with loved ones.”

For information, visit nothingbundtcakes.com. Nothing Bundt Cakes is located at 3865 Overland Ave., Culver City.

See page 14

Luke’s Lobster is on a roll with National Lobster Day deals

National Lobster Day is coming on Thursday, Sept. 25, and Luke’s Lobster is celebrating with \$20 quarter-pound lobster rolls at all locations, Sept. 25-26 (including its newly opened Newport Beach location). Served the Luke’s Way, each roll is generously filled with wild-caught, chilled seafood on a split-top, toasted buttered bun with a swipe of mayo, a drizzle of lemon butter and a sprinkle of Luke’s Secret Seasoning. To round out the meal, each roll comes with chips and a soft drink.

Founded in 2009 by third-generation lobsterman Luke Holden, Luke’s Lobster is a Maine-based family-owned restaurant group known for a commitment to serving 100% traceable and sustainably sourced lobster meat. It has been certified B Corp since 2018 and advocates for transparency in



photo courtesy of Eugene Lee

Customers can order \$20 quarter-pound lobster rolls at all Luke’s Lobster locations from Sept. 25-26.

the food chain, so that consumers know exactly what they are eating, who caught it, how it was harvested and how it was handled

from dock to plate.

For information, visit lukeslobster.com. Luke’s Lobster is located at 200 Santa Monica Blvd.

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Get a taste of Manhattan Beach Food and Wine this weekend

The culinary world is about to be abuzz with excitement as event founder Shelby Russell and culinary curator and Host Neal Fraser are bringing back Southern California’s most notable world-class culinary festival, the second Annual Manhattan Beach Food and Wine featuring an all-star lineup of 40 Best Chefs held at Manhattan Village.

Set against the stunning coastal backdrop of one of America’s most beautiful cities, Manhattan Beach Food and Wine is a spectacular two-night strolling culinary extravaganza with an opening night celebration on Friday, Sept. 12, and Grand Tasting on Saturday, Sept. 13. Each evening will bring together the industry’s top tastemakers and culinary and beverage connoisseurs to celebrate an all-star lineup of 20 of the best chefs and restaurants each night, illustrious winer-

ies, premier spirits, handcrafted cocktails, craft breweries, curated selection of non-alcoholic beverages and live entertainment

Manhattan Beach Food and Wine will be held at Manhattan Village in a 40,000-square-foot outdoor space located at the end of the Veterans Parkway Greenbelt Path. The beautifully landscaped trail runs through Manhattan Beach to Hermosa Beach, allowing guests to walk to this year’s event with ease. Manhattan Village will also be offering complimentary parking and guests are encouraged to use rideshare services.

Manhattan Beach Food and Wine’s event beneficiary is Culinary Careers Program. Long co-chaired by chef Marcus Samuelsson, C•CAP is a workforce development nonprofit that provides underserved teens pathways to pursue careers in the restaurant

and hospitality industry. Annually, C•CAP provides culinary, job and life skills in 186 schools across the United States.

This year’s partners include Delta Air Lines as the official Airline, Westdrift Manhattan Beach as the official hotel, and Manhattan Village as the official shopping and dining center, San Pellegrino as the official water, Chef Works as the official hospitality apparel, Sub-Zero, Wolf, and Cove as the official kitchen appliance and Southern California Restaurant Design Group as the official Commercial kitchen designer.

Guests are encouraged to utilize car services as the event serves alcoholic beverages. Walking to the event is encouraged, with complimentary parking also available at Manhattan Village.

The Manhattan Beach Food and



photo courtesy of Manhattan Beach Food and Wine

The two-night festival on Sept. 12 and 13 features wine and food tastings from restaurants, breweries and vineyards across California.

Wine Festival is a 21+ event. A Delta VIP Early Entry Pass will be from 6-7 p.m. and regular admission will be from 7-10 p.m.

For tickets and information, visit manhattanbeachfoodandwine.com. Manhattan Village is located at 3200 Sepulveda Blvd.

Beverly Hills Day of Wellness returns Sept. 14



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Attendees can participate in a variety of wellness classes including tai chi and yoga.

Join the city of Beverly Hills on Sunday, Sept. 14, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. for the third annual Beverly Hills Day of Wellness event at Roxbury Park and Community Center, 471 S. Roxbury Drive.

Beverly Hills Day of Wellness prioritizes self-care and focuses on physical and mental well-being. With over 30 free classes and workshops, the day will provide individuals with an opportunity to engage in hands-on experiences exploring aspects of mental, physical and emotional well-being. All participants should bring their own water, towel and mat.

Nearly 50 booths will offer information about nutrition, fitness, mindfulness, mental health and wellness strategies. Free classes and

workshops during Beverly Hills Day of Wellness include Let’s Get Moving, Warm Up with Wil Williams, Zumba with LA Dancefit, Tai Chi with Cancer Support Community LA and Dynamic Chair Yoga with SimchaYoga.

The event will also feature an onsite blood drive. Participants are encouraged to register in advance. Food trucks Go Beyond the Bowl, Acai Me More and Creamy Boys Ice Cream will sell food at the event.

Ridesharing is encouraged. Parking is available at Roxbury Park and Community Center but may be limited. Additional parking is available at Beverly Hills High School, 241 S. Moreno Drive (entrance off South Moreno and Durant drives). A shuttle will run between Beverly Hills High School

and Roxbury Park from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Beverly Hills Day of Wellness is presented in partnership with the Beverly Hills Community Services Department, Human Relations Commission, Recreation and Parks Commission and Health and Safety Commission.

For the full schedule and to register for the blood drive, visit beverlyhills.org/csevents.

New generation of writers takes on Geffen Playhouse’s ‘Writer’s Room’

Geffen Playhouse announced on Sept. 4 the selection of L.A.-based writers to participate in the 2025-26 cycle of The Writers’ Room, a forum for engagement and collaboration between Los Angeles playwrights. The participants are Diana Yifei Dai, Louis Reyes McWilliams, Zharia O’Neal, Frank Paiva, Ryn Stafford and Habib Yazdi.

The Writers’ Room is a product of Geffen Playhouse’s commitment to supporting new plays and specifically to fostering bold, relevant work by the vibrant artistic community of Los Angeles. During this twelve-month residency, playwright members gather monthly to share their work and receive feed-

back from their peers in a forum facilitated by Geffen Playhouse literary manager and dramaturg Olivia O’Connor. The 2025-26 cycle of The Writers’ Room will begin in September 2025.

At the conclusion of the residency, each playwright will have the opportunity to further develop their completed draft in a culminating reading produced by the Geffen.

Playwrights who have developed work as part of The Writers’ Room include: Juan José Alfonso, Ashley August, Boni B. Alvarez, Vivian J.O. Barnes, Meghan Brown, Diana Burbano, Jennifer Chang, Angelica Chéri, Paris Crayton III, Inda Craig-Galván, Sunny Drake, Lisa Sanaye Dring, Weston Gaylord,

Inara George, Keiko Green, Dipika Guha, Christina Ham, Chloé Hung, Donald Jolly, Alexandra Kalinowski, Tova Katz, Andrew Zepeda Klein, Katie Lindsay, maatin, Chelsea Marcantel, Samah Meghjee, Ramiz Monsef, Paloma Nozicka, Matthew Paul Olmos, Brian Otaño, Nicholas Pilapil, Liza

Powel O’Brien, Alexis Roblan, Matt Schatz, Michael Shayan, Ruby Rae Spiegel, T. Tara Turk-Haynes, James Anthony Tyler and Ali Viterbi.

The Geffen Playhouse is located at 10886 Le Conte Avenue. For information, visit geffenplayhouse.org.



photo courtesy of the Geffen Playhouse

Local Los Angeles-based playwrights will have the opportunity to hone their craft through the Geffen Playhouse’s “Writer’s Room.”

From page 13

Wetzel’s debuts fall flavors

Wetzel’s Pretzels is embracing the season’s sweetest flavors with the debut of its new limited time offer menu item, Apple Cinnamon Bitz, an autumn-inspired twist on the brand’s beloved bite-sized pretzels. Wetzel’s is once again giving snack lovers a reason to savor the flavors of fall.

Available through Nov. 30 at participating locations nationwide, Apple Cinnamon Bitz transforms Wetzel’s classic Cin-A-Bitz into a fall indulgence. The shareable pret-

zel bitz are topped with warm apple pie filling, fluffy whipped topping and a sprinkle of cinnamon sugar – creating layers of buttery, sweet and spiced flavor in every bite. Perfect for strolling on crisp afternoons, game-day gatherings or fueling up during holiday shopping, the limited-time offer is made for savoring the season.

“Sweet, spice and everything nice – that’s exactly what our Apple Cinnamon Bitz delivers,” said Sarah Curtis, vice president of marketing at Wetzel’s Pretzels. “We took the irresistible flavor of our Cin-A-Bitz and dressed them up for the season with the cozy tastes of autumn. Whether you’re grabbing a snack on the go or sharing with

friends, it’s a delicious fall treat.”

For information, visit wetzels.com. Wetzel’s Pretzels is located in the Beverly Center at 8500 Beverly Blvd. #7752, in The Grove at 189 The Grove Drive KS-1 and in Ovation Hollywood at 6801 Hollywood Blvd. #101.

Norms flips out for National Hotcake Day

SoCal’s favorite diner chain, Norms, is flipping out for its favorite day of the year: National Hotcake Day on Sept. 25

Norms has teamed up with Major

League Eating for California’s first Hotcake Eating Competition on Saturday, Sept. 20, at 11 a.m. at Norms Ontario. Last year in Las Vegas, Pat Bertoletti devoured 46 hotcakes in 10 minutes, and this year, the professional eaters will be aiming to beat his record.

To celebrate National Hotcake Day on Thursday, Sept. 25, Norms will serve fan-favorite hotcakes free to loyalty members and 99 cents for non-loyalty guests (limit two orders per customer) from 7 a.m.-11 p.m. at all Norms locations.

For information, visit norms.com. Norms Ontario is located at 4551 Mills Circle. Norms West Hollywood is located at 470 N. La Cienega Blvd.

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.

Celebrate Decades of Dance in L.A. at USC

Celebrate 20 years of USC Visions and Voices and 10 years of the USC Glorja Kaufman School of Dance with a dazzling triple bill of companies from Los Angeles' vibrant dance scene. Decades of Dance in L.A. will take place at USC's Bovard Auditorium on Thursday, Sept. 18, and is free and open to the public.

Launched in 2006 to engage students in the arts and humanities, USC Visions and Voices has become a vital hub for the performing arts in Los Angeles, welcoming thousands of community members to USC each year to experience a diverse array of unique events that are free and open to all.

Glorja Kaufman School of Dance is mourning the loss of internationally celebrated arts patron Glorja Kaufman, who died on Aug. 5.

The community will come together to celebrate Visions and Voices, USC Kaufman, L.A. dance and the legacy of Kaufman with three dynamic and diverse local companies with deep connections to both Visions and Voices and USC Kaufman, including two who are also celebrating their 20th anniversaries.

Led by founding artistic director Ana María Alvarez and also celebrating 20 years of exciting work, CONTRA-TIEMPO Activist Dance Theater is dedicated to transforming the world through dance by building community, facilitating dialogue and moving audiences to imagine what is possible. CONTRA-TIEMPO takes an uncompromisingly radical approach to the ways in which artists function within communities and create their work, intentionally engaging diverse audiences, cultivating dancer leaders and centering stories



photo courtesy of USC Visions and Voices

Versa Style Dance Company will perform at USC Bovard Auditorium on Sept. 18.

not traditionally heard on the concert stage. They will perform an excerpt from "joyUS justUS," a powerful work that highlights joy as the ultimate expression of resistance.

Since Jordan Johnson and Aidan Carberry formed JA Collective when they were part of the USC Kaufman School's inaugural class, they have blended hip hop, theater and contemporary dance into a distinctive style that blurs dance and theater, rehearsal and performance, and reality and dreams. Their choreography has been used in film projects with Talking Heads and Taika Waititi, as well as live performances by Frank Ocean and Half-Alive. They also tour with Half-Alive and serve as the band's creative directors. Returning to USC, Johnson and Carberry will perform "Castling the Unknown," inspired by the events of Bobby Fischer vs. Boris Spassky in the 1972 World Chess Championship in Reykjavik, Iceland.

Established by Los Angeles natives and artistic directors Jackie "Miss Funk" Lopez and Leigh "Breeze-Lee" Foaad and celebrating 20 years, Versa-Style Street Dance Company seeks to empower underserved and marginalized groups worldwide through the movement and culture of hip hop dance. Consisting of committed, highly skilled street dance artists and educators, the troupe represents the diversity and complexity of Los Angeles and harnesses the exhilarating energy of street dance onto the concert stage. They will perform an excerpt from "Freemind Freestyle," a high-energy, improvised work that features such street dance styles as locking, popping, hip-hop and krump.

The event is free, but reservations are required. For information and to RSVP, visit visionsandvoices.usc.edu.

Bovard Auditorium is located at 3551 Trousdale Parkway.

LACMA acquires pivotal work by Francis Bacon

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art announced on Sept. 9 that 20th-century artist Francis Bacon's triptych "Three Studies of Lucian Freud" (1969) has been gifted to the museum as a bequest of the late philanthropist Elaine Wynn, who served as co-chair of LACMA's board of trustees. The first work by Bacon to enter LACMA's collection, "Three Studies of Lucian Freud" is the only painting by Bacon in a Los Angeles public collection, as well as the only triptych by the artist in a California public collection.

"Elaine was among the most generous and supportive leaders in LACMA's entire history," LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director Michael Govan said. "She was our biggest champion and was as passionate about accessibility to art as she was about works of art. Thanks to Elaine's incredible generosity, Bacon's masterpiece will belong to LACMA and the public."

One of the most important and celebrated painters of the last century, Irish-born British figurative

painter Francis Bacon (1909-1992) was known for strident, distorted images of crucifixions, self-portraits, portraits of popes and portraits of a few close friends. Bacon and British painter Lucian Freud were intimate friends and artistic rivals for a quarter of a century. "Three Studies of Lucian Freud" is a towering life-size portrait of Freud, painted in Bacon's celebrated triptych format at the height of their relationship. One of two triptychs Bacon painted of the fellow artist, "Three Studies of Lucian

Freud" was exhibited shortly after it was completed, and then the panels were separated for 15 years before being reunited in 1999. The painting has not been seen publicly since being acquired by Wynn at auction in 2013.

The triptych will be included in the inaugural installation of the David Geffen Galleries, which will open in April 2026 and will house LACMA's permanent collection.

LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit lacma.org.

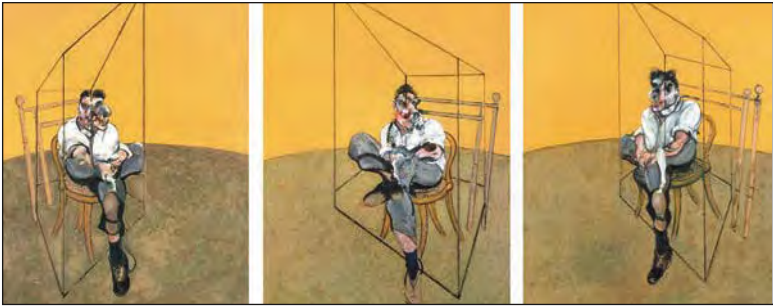


photo © the Estate of Francis Bacon

Francis Bacon's "Three Studies of Lucian Freud" (1969) was gifted to LACMA by Philanthropist Elaine P. Wynn and will be displayed in the new David Geffen Galleries.

See 'Citizen Kane' on the big screen at Fine Arts Theatre

The Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills invites film lovers and classic cinema fans to a special 4K screening of "Citizen Kane" on Wednesday, Oct. 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Often hailed as the greatest film ever made, "Citizen Kane" was Orson Welles' groundbreaking debut with RKO, featuring his iconic performance as Charles Foster Kane. The special "Wednesday with

Welles" screening at the Fine Arts Theatre shows "Citizen Kane" as it was meant to be seen – projected in stunning 4K with state-of-the-art laser projection. The event offers a rare opportunity to experience the film on the big screen with expert commentary and historical context.

Filmmaker Stanley Sheff, co-director and editor of Orson Welles's unsold television project "The Orson

Welles Show," will host the event. Sheff will introduce the film and share personal insights from his time working with Welles, including stories about their professional and personal relationship. A Q&A session will follow the screening.

The Fine Arts Theatre Beverly Hills is located at 8556 Wilshire Blvd. Tickets are \$10. For information, visit fineartstheatrebh.com.

The Broad continues summer concert series

In May, the Broad opened its current exhibition "Jeffrey Gibson: the space in which to place me," which debuted at the 60th Venice Biennial last year. As a tie-in to the exhibition, the museum announced "PAST + FUTURE = Present," the title taken from the 2024 Gibson piece of the same name. A two-part series celebrating indigenous musicians and styles, "PAST + FUTURE = PRESENT" showcases a wide range of styles including Native hip hop, experimental, pow wow, indie, electronic and soul. The seemingly disparate genres nevertheless harmonize and coexist much like the vibrant and inspirational words and colors in Gibson's own

"PAST + FUTURE = PRESENT" and seven other flag artworks on view in his exhibition. Part 2 of the concert series takes place on Sept. 20, featuring M'lynn, Joe Rainey, deesco and Angélica Garcia. Beverages and snacks are available for purchase in the museum's outdoor olive grove bar and concessions area. The event includes admission to the full collection and after-hours fun.

"PAST + FUTURE = PRESENT" Part 2 will take place on Sept. 20 from 8-11 p.m. at The Broad, located at 221 S. Grand Ave. Tickets are \$25 and available at thebroad.org/events/summer-concerts-past-future-present-pt-2.



photo courtesy of The Broad

Singer Angélica Garcia will perform at the Broad on Sept. 20.

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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. 29 and Sept. 6. 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. 29

At 4:28 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly.

Aug. 30

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Olympic at 11:55 a.m.

At 9:18 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 400 block of N. Cañon.

Aug. 31

At 7:51 p.m., a suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Wilshire and Robertson.

Sept. 1

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 300 block of S. Rexford at 8:15 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of N. Bedford.

Sept. 2

At 3:24 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of N. Moreno.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of Beverwil at 5:20 a.m.

At 12:40 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near Olympic and La Peer.

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

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a mail room in the 100 block of N. Swall.

Sept. 3

At 7:55 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 8500 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 300 block of N. Rexford at 7:37 p.m.

At 9:26 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 100 block of N. Palm.

Sept. 4

At 3:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of S. Beverly.

A vandalism incident was reported near Sunset and Rexford at 6:17 p.m.

Sept. 5

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of N. Oakhurst at noon.

At 2:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Rodeo.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 7:40 p.m.

Sept. 6

At 12:30 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9800 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of S. Beverly at 3:15 p.m.

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

Aug. 29

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8700 block of Santa Monica at 10:30 a.m.

At 3:22 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7300 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Santa Monica at 7 p.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near Melrose and Gardner at 9:41 p.m.

At 10:31 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 900 block of N. Genesee.

Aug. 30

At 1:55 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 9000 block of Melrose.

Aug. 31

At 10:30 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 7700 block of Romaine.

An unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 500 block of S. La Cienega at 6:30 p.m.

At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect

Altercation in drive-thru leads to shooting

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A 21-year-old man was arrested for shooting and killing a male victim and wounding a woman on Sept. 6 after a dispute in the drive-thru of a McDonald’s restaurant at Western Avenue and Romaine Street.

The shooting occurred around 3:30 a.m. The gunman, identified as Humberto Delgado, was in front of the victims in the drive-thru and claimed their vehicle struck his rear bumper. When the two vehicles left the drive-thru, a physical altercation ensued in the parking lot between the suspects and victims and Humberto pulled out a gun and started shooting, police said. Feliciano “Felix” Curiel, 36, was shot in the torso and died. The woman, described in a GoFundMe for Curiel as his fiancée, was struck in the leg and is recovering.

Los Angeles Police Department officers took Delgado into custody and his gun was seized as evidence. He was charged with manslaughter.



photo by Edwin Folven

Two people were shot following an argument over a minor traffic collision at a McDonald’s on Western Avenue.

Although the two victims were unarmed, they had been involved in a violent altercation with the suspect, police said. Delgado, who claimed he fired in self-defense, posted \$100,000 bail and was released pending upcoming court

proceedings. Anyone with information is urged to call detectives with the LAPD’s West Bureau Homicide Unit at (213)382-9470. During weekends and off-hours, call the LAPD’s hotline at (877)LAPD247.

Settlements reached over short-term rentals

Los Angeles City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto announced settlements in multiple lawsuits involving violations of the city’s Short-Term Rental Ordinance and Party House Ordinance. As a result, at least 10 rent-stabilized units have been returned to the city’s housing stock.

Feldstein Soto’s office reached a pre-litigation settlement with MC Pico Properties, LLC and Monem Corporation, the owner and manager, respectively, of the Franklin Apartments, a rent-stabilized building at 6871 Franklin Ave. Since late 2020, MC Pico and Monem allegedly facilitated illegal short-term rentals for more than 3,000 nights at the building. Neighbors complained about nuisance activity. For information, visit planning.lacity.gov/project-review/home-sharing.

assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

Sept. 1

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8800 block of Beverly at 4:20 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 900 block of N. Palm.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8700 block of Sunset at 9:50 p.m.



photo by Edwin Folven

The LAFD extinguished the flames in 28 minutes.

Fire erupts in Fairfax District home

A fire erupted on Sept. 9 around 6 a.m. in a home in the 800 block of North Genesee Avenue in the Fairfax District. Firefighters responded to a one-story, single-family dwelling with fire and

smoke emanating from the attic. LAFD personnel aggressively fought the fire, which was extinguished in 28 minutes. No injuries were reported and the cause remains under investigation.

Sept. 2

At 4:10 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1000 block of N. Kings.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 12:51 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8300 block of Santa Monica.

At 7:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Santa Monica.

Sept. 3

At 1:42 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

Sept. 4

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at 5:20 p.m.

At 11:36 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 1200 block of N. Harper.



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‘Caught Stealing’ welcomes Aronofsky to commercial filmmaking

Wow, the pickings are slim right now. Luckily, acclaimed auteur Darren Aronofsky saves the day with something unlike anything in his resume: a film designed for a broad audience that doesn’t make us all feel insanely depressed. “Caught Stealing” is fun, forgettable fare, but as the latest Aronofsky feature, it’s unprecedented.

Some elements feel familiar to his other works. It’s 1998, the Lower East Side of New York. Bartender Hank (Austin Butler) is charming and knows how to have a good time, especially with Yvonne (Zoe Kravitz). Just ignore that he jolts awake each day, reliving a past trauma.

Things go south after his neighbor Russ (Matt Smith) leaves town. Various unsavory fellows keep showing up, assuming Hank knows more than he does about Russ’ whereabouts and business ventures. Each denial meets another beating. He’s soon on the run from two criminal factions and police with Russ’ cat in tow.

We know this film. We see it every couple years. But not from



photo courtesy of Columbia Pictures
Matt Smith and Austin Butler take viewers to another decade in “Caught Stealing,” a fun film from Darren Aronofsky.

LACMA’s ‘Grounded’ explores human experience and the land

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art presents “Grounded,” a multi-media exhibition running from Sept. 14-July 21, 2026, that invites visitors to contemplate land not just as terrain, but as a foundation for exploring history, ecology, sovereignty, memory and home.

Through 40 works by 35 artists, the exhibition illuminates how human experience is embedded in the land. Artists consider the lasting effects of colonialism and imperialism, share stories of forced migration and displacement, engage with Indigenous mythologies and motifs and retell ancestral histories by forging new aesthetic languages. “Grounded” highlights the museum’s holdings of works by local artists as well as Latino and Chicano artists, and its burgeoning collection of works by Indigenous artists, spanning from the late 1970s to today. Nearly half of the featured artworks are major recent acquisitions, including pieces never-before

seen by the public. The exhibition also includes examples from the Mohn Art Collective: Hammer, LACMA, MOCA (MAC3), a collection of works by Los Angeles-based artists jointly owned and managed by the three institutions.

“Grounded” is loosely organized into sections that encourage visitors to discover overlapping ideas, strategies and histories. The exhibition brings works together by artistic approach such as performance or engagement with spiritual or political action; by material, where artists integrate technology with ancient craft; or through theme.

A dominant similarity among many works in “Grounded” is the upcycling of materials. Artists transform organic matter, everyday objects and urban detritus to comment on overconsumption while exploring the potential for the materials to take on new life.

LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit lacma.org.

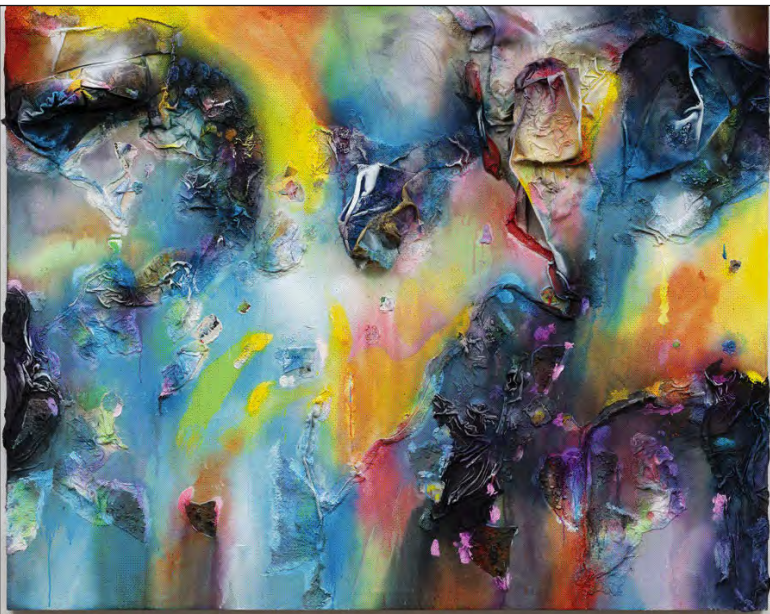


photo by Paul Salvesson, © Leslie Martinez
Leslie Martinez’s “Fertile Valley of Grief” (2023) is included in the exhibition at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

ON SCREEN WITH TIM POSADA

Aronofsky. This is the man behind “Requiem for a Dream,” “The Wrestler,” “Black Swan,” “Mother” and most recently “The Whale.” How does he go from intimate, gritty, occasionally disturbing character pieces to something so commercial?

Mind you, “Caught Stealing,” based on Charlie Huston’s 2004 novel, is nowhere near a bad film. As far as this type of film goes, it’s good, thanks to Aronofsky and Huston’s screenplay. But it shares more in common with a Guy Ritchie heist film or the likes of “Lucky Number Seven” than anything more avant-garde that Aronofsky champions.

That must be the angle. Take Aronofsky’s affinity for character studies and make it more accessible with something more plot driven. After all, Aronofsky was considered to helm a “Batman” flick before Chris Nolan landed the gig in the mid-2000s. And Aronofsky tried his hand at blockbuster filmmaking with “Noah,” which surprisingly turned a profit.

Who knows if “Caught Stealing” will lead to other high-profile productions or simply be a hiccup in Aronofsky’s long line of tragic stories about folks who can’t seem to



photo courtesy of Columbia Pictures
Liev Schreiber, left, Austin Butler and Vincent D’Onofrio add to the allure of “Caught Stealing.”

make good life choices. Whatever happens, he’s still a darling amongst actors, and for good reason.

Butler’s performance is wonderful. The California native still can’t shake that Southern drawl he mastered for 2022’s “Elvis” — though he tries something hilariously new for one scene. The rest of the main cast is pretty stacked: Zoe Kravitz, Matt Smith, Regina King, Vincent D’Onofrio, Liev Schreiber, Bad Bunny and Carol Kane for a minute. It might be a heist adventure, but each star receives a few good on-screen moments.

Just don’t expect the film that was advertised. Trailers promised a lot more comedy along the way. Not so much. The label dark comedy also doesn’t help. A few attempts at humor try to seep in, but “Caught Stealing” is mostly dark. Add a tragic backstory to more tragedy

along the way. That is the Aronofsky way. But there’s more hope come the conclusion. That’s significant compared to more than half his films that end so, so, so, so, so sadly.

But reaching that not-entirely-hopeless point still dips into Aronofsky’s bag of tricks. There’s all the standard heist bits — shootouts, torture, chases — along with a dose of realism. Not necessarily more violence, just a growing body count along the way that’ll remind spectators that crime ain’t all laughs (or really any in this film).

“Caught Stealing” is a perfectly enjoyable romp through the previous century, coinciding with the release of Aronofsky’s first feature “Pi” and some splendid throwbacks, like Giuliani’s influence on the Big Apple or Smith going full punk rocker, complete with a dyed mohawk and studded accents.

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Back To School

Stars attend 25th YES Scholars Gala

Hosted by actor and comedian Will Arnett, the star-studded YES Scholars 25th Anniversary Gala featured a special performance by Grammy-nominated artist Shaboozey. Event chairs Brian and Veronica Grazer welcomed an inspiring community of YES supporters, corporate partners and alumni to honor film and TV producer, author, philanthropist and former U.S. Ambassador to the Bahamas Nicole Avant, and co-CEO of Netflix, Ted Sarandos. President and founder of YES Scholars, Eric Eisner, also attended the gala.

Notable celebrities at the Sept. 4 gala included Jennifer Lopez, Kris

Jenner and Corey Gamble, Ryan Seacrest, Jason Bateman, Ashley and Louis Eisner, Elizabeth Olsen, Don Johnson and Ron Howard. Several industry heavyweights were also in attendance including Disney CEO Bob Iger and his wife, USC Annenberg Dean Willow Bay, music executive Irving Azoff, Lionsgate CEO Jon Feltheimer, film producer and record executive David Geffen, record executive Benny Medina, media proprietor Haim Saban, Saban Capital Group Deputy CEO Ness Saban and UTA founder and co-chair Jim Berkus.

The YES Scholars 25th Anniversary Gala celebrated a quarter century of empowering

promising students from low-income backgrounds with access to top-tier education and opportunities for success.

Founded in 1998 by Eric Eisner, YES Scholars has identified and supported high-achieving students from underserved communities in Los Angeles, New York City and rural Appalachian North Carolina for more than two decades. With a 100% college acceptance rate and 97% graduation rate, YES Scholars continue to lead and thrive in academia, careers and beyond.

Funds raised from the event directly benefit underprivileged students, giving them stepping stones to achieve education and career goals.

For information, visit yesscholars.org.



Eric Eisner, Jennifer Lopez, Ted Sarandos, Nicole Avant, Brian Grazer and Benny Medina attended the YES Scholars 25th Anniversary Gala on Sept. 4.

BHHS hosts Back to School Night

Beverly Hills High School welcomed families back to campus on Sept. 2 for the annual Back to School Night, an evening designed to foster collaboration between

home and school as students embark on a new academic year.

Families experienced a snapshot of their son or daughter's day, meeting with teachers, walking class

schedules and hearing about curriculum highlights, academic expectations and support resources available across campus. From core academics to visual and performing arts, athletics and extracurricular programs, families gained insight into the rich opportunities that define the BHHS experience.

"Back to School Night is an important reminder that education is a shared journey," Beverly Hills Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss said. "When parents, educators and students work together, we create the foundation for educational excellence and ensure every learner is supported and empowered."

Principal Loan Srisraka emphasized the school's continued commitment to high standards, student wellness and daily purpose.

"At BHHS, we believe in living each day with intention – academically, socially and emotionally," she said. "Back to School Night allows us to strengthen the connections that make that possible and set the tone for a positive, productive year."

For information, visit bhUSD.org.



Parents learned about their children's classes during Back to School Night on Sept. 2.

LAUSD campuses join elite group of America's Healthiest Schools

The Los Angeles Unified School District announced that 64 schools across the district have been named America's Healthiest Schools for 2025 by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, doubling the number of honorees from last year.

Campuses in the local area include Helen Bernstein High School, John Burroughs Middle School, Joseph Le Conte Middle School and Crescent Heights SJ Magnet School. They are among 1,120 K-12 schools nationwide recognized for a commitment to advancing whole child health. The national recognition highlights the district's ongoing commitment to fostering environments where students can thrive physically, socially and emotionally.

"Healthy schools are thriving schools," LAUSD Superintendent Alberto M. Carvalho said. "By nearly doubling the number of schools recognized this year, Los Angeles Unified is proving that when we invest in the whole child, we unlock potential in the classroom and beyond. I am proud of our educators, staff and families who made this recognition possible."

The honorees reflect the district's

commitment to supporting student wellness through nutrition, providing access to fresh, balanced meals that fuel learning; physical activity, expanding opportunities for movement and fitness during the school day; mental health and well-being, strengthening counseling, mindfulness and social-emotional supports; and staff and family engagement, creating inclusive environments where healthy practices extend beyond the classroom.

Supported by Del Monte Foods, Kaiser Permanente and Kohl's Cares, Healthier Generation's annual award program recognizes



John Burroughs Middle School is among four campuses in the local area recognized by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

schools for implementing evidence-based policies and practices to support academic success and lifelong well-being. Schools are recognized in nine health-related topic areas.

"Schools play a crucial role in positively shaping the health and well-being of our nation's youth, and they deserve national recognition for their outstanding efforts," Healthier Generation CEO Kathy Higgins said. "The dedication of school leaders, educators and staff to support the physical, emotional and academic needs of their students is nothing short of extraordinary. Their commitment is creating healthier futures for children and communities alike."

For information and a complete list of schools, visit healthiergeneration.org.

Hammer hosts annual K.A.M.P. Oct. 12

Join the Hammer Museum on Sunday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., for the 16th annual family fundraiser K.A.M.P. (Kids Art Museum Project), an event that provides unforgettable experiences for kids and their families with renowned Los Angeles artists.

Artists will lead inventive hands-on projects in the carefree atmosphere of the Hammer Museum courtyard. Celebrity guests will read from their favorite

children's books during story time.

All children must be accompanied by at least one adult ticket holder, and all adults must be accompanied by at least one child ticket holder. Children 2 years of age and under do not require a paid ticket.

Tickets start at \$250 and are available at hammer.ucla.edu/kamp-2025-support.

The Hammer Museum is located at 10899 Wilshire Blvd.



Children can participate in fun art activities during Hammer Museum's K.A.M.P.



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LAUSD Board member Melvoin welcomes students back to school

The Los Angeles Unified School District is back in session, and as your representative on the LAUSD School Board, I was thrilled to welcome students, families and staff for another exciting school year. As the fall semester begins, our mission remains clear: to ensure that every student has the tools, opportunities and support they need to thrive – and that every school community has the resources to make that possible.

This year, we celebrate real progress across the district. For the second year in a row, LAUSD students posted record gains on state testing – outpacing statewide averages and showing what’s possible when we invest in teaching and learning. We are also expanding successful initiatives, including opening more campuses on week-

ends as community school parks, giving families safe, green spaces to gather, play and learn together. And in the wake of the devastating Palisades fires, the district has made significant progress rebuilding the damaged schools, ensuring that those communities not only recover but return stronger.

Our work doesn’t stop there. Universal transitional kindergarten is now available for every 4 year old in the district, opening the doors to early education for thousands more children. We’re continuing to grow our arts, before-school and after-school programs so that students have a well-rounded education that nurtures both academic and creative success. And this will be the first full school year with our districtwide cell phone ban officially in effect – an

initiative I introduced to reduce distractions, foster student engagement and improve mental health.

Locally, there is also a lot to celebrate. Third Street Elementary recently celebrated its centennial, as did Fairfax High School, which is slated for a large facilities upgrade to break ground in 2026. Fairfax High School also recently launched a new Gifted Magnet program to serve students from across the district including those coming from Burroughs Middle School, where construction is approaching final stages. We have additional greening and outdoor improvement projects in the works at Bancroft Middle School, and Rosewood, West Hollywood and Melrose elementary schools. Our office is funding upgrades to Bancroft’s auditorium, where the College Football Playoff Foundation recently upgraded the library. The investments are improving day-to-day school life and setting students up for long-term success.

As we celebrate the promise of a new semester in our school communities, we also remain committed to protecting and supporting our families amid the ongoing federal immigration enforcement and detentions. I am outraged by the injustice we are seeing outside our schools and across our city, and the district will continue to do everything in our power to protect our school communities.

Even with these achievements, there is more work ahead to ensure that every school community has what it needs to help students reach their full potential. Thank you for your continued support of your local public schools. Together, we are building a brighter future – one where every child graduates ready for the world.

– LAUSD Board of Education Member Nick Melvoin



photo courtesy of LAUSD Board member Nick Melvoin’s office
The library was recently upgraded at Bancroft Middle School, where improvements in the auditorium are also underway.



photo courtesy of the Griffith Observatory
The Griffith Observatory will broadcast the northern moonrise from Chimney Rock, Colo. on Sept. 13-14.

Griffith Observatory broadcasts rare lunar event on Sept. 13-14

The Griffith Observatory is hosting an online broadcast of the major standstill northern moonrise from Chimney Rock, Colo. on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 9:30-10:50 p.m., and Sunday, Sept. 14 from 10:30-11:50 p.m., weather permitting. The entire live U.S. Forest Service program at Chimney Rock will be presented in the broadcast, which will be available on Griffith Observatory’s YouTube Channel at youtube.com/user/griffithobservatory.

The moon is currently doing something it hasn’t done for more than 18 years – its orbit around the Earth is tilted at the greatest angle from the path of the sun. The circumstance known as the major lunar standstill is taking place through the end of 2025. The Griffith Observatory will broad-

cast the phenomenon on Sept. 13-14 live from Chimney Rock National Monument in southwest Colorado, where the view of the moon rising between two monumental rock pillars is especially striking. Because the mountaintop can accommodate only a small number of eyewitnesses, the United States Forest Service, in consultation with tribal partners, the Griffith Observatory and Griffith Observatory Foundation, is broadcasting the northernmost moonrises from the summit at Chimney Rock.

For information about lunar standstills and the upcoming broadcasts, visit griffithobservatory.org/event/major-standstill-northern-moonrise-at-chimney-rock-colorado-september-13-2025.

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Hollywood says ‘Hola México’ for 17th annual film festival

Hola México Film Festival, the largest Mexican film festival outside of Mexico, returns for its 17th annual edition from Sept. 12-20 during Hispanic Heritage Month. The festival recently announced the opening night screening of the film “Autos, Mota y Rocanrol.” The screening will take place on Sept. 12, at The Montalban Theater in Hollywood, located at 1615 Vine St. “Autos, Mota y Rocanrol” revisits a pivotal moment in Mexican cultural history – the legendary Avándaro festival of 1971, often dubbed “Mexico’s Woodstock.” With humor and an unflinching gaze, the film chronicles how a modest car race and rock concert spiraled into the largest rock gather-

ing the country had ever seen – an event that would shape musical and social narratives for decades. Through the lens of Justino Compeán (portrayed by Emiliano Zurita), director José Manuel Cravioto crafts a satirical yet heart-felt portrait of rebellion, freedom and the ideals that defined a generation. The festival invites viewers to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by showcasing some of the newest and most acclaimed Mexican films. It attracts more than 10,000 film enthusiasts and features more than 20 films, many of which will have their U.S. or West Coast premieres. The festival includes red carpet galas attended by renowned actors and directors, as well as 20 short

films from its filmmaker-focused program, “Tomorrow’s Filmmakers Today.” “After 17 years of Hola Mexico, we feel like we’re just getting started,” said Samuel Douek, HMFF founder and director. “It’s a joy to work with talented filmmakers to showcase their stories on the big screen. In the current political climate, highlighting the achievements of Mexicans and Latinos is crucial. Immigrants like Iñárritu, Cuarón and Del Toro show what success looks like. In 2025, we will present an exciting lineup of films that resonate deeply with audiences.” The festival comprises four sections – México Ahora, Documental, El Otro México and Nocturno. México Ahora features the best of Mexican films released in recent years, covering every genre. Documental includes notable non-fiction films made by Mexican filmmakers. El Otro Mexico highlights the experiences of Mexicans



photo courtesy of Hola México film fest

The film “Autos, Mota y Rocanrol” explores the story of the Avándaro festival of 1971, often called “Mexico’s Woodstock.”

rarely portrayed on screen, skillfully presenting perceptive narratives that challenge the status quo. The Nocturno section offers offbeat stories and horror films. For information and tickets, visit holamexicoff.com/autosmotayrocanrol.



photo courtesy of Corita Slide Collection, Corita Art Center

Corita Kent’s photographs will be featured as part of a new exhibit for the Marciano Art Foundation.

Marciano Art Foundation announces two special exhibitions

Marciano Art Foundation announced the fall 2025 exhibitions, “Corita Kent: The Sorcery of Images,” opening Sept. 26, and “JOHN GIORNO: NO NOSTALGIA,” opening Oct. 25. Corita Kent (1918-1986) was an artist, teacher and activist who uniquely combined her passions for faith and politics in an exuberant and joyfully creative practice. As a Catholic nun in Los Angeles’s Immaculate Heart of Mary order and an influential art teacher at Immaculate Heart College from 1947 to 1968, Corita (as she was known) gained international recognition for her signature serigraphs (silkscreen prints) that innovatively brought together elements of popular culture with messages of love, faith and politics. “Corita Kent: The Sorcery of Images” focuses on a little seen part of Corita’s artistic practice: her archive of over fifteen thousand 35mm slides that she and her cohorts took between 1955 and 1968 while she was a beloved teacher in the art department

at Immaculate Heart College. Collecting fragments of the world with her camera for reuse at a later date, her eye documented the contemporary Los Angeles urban landscape. Marciano Art Foundation will also host Corita Art Center’s annual Corita Day on Nov. 22. “Corita Kent: The Sorcery of Images” is curated by MAF Director Hanneke Skerath and independent writer and curator Douglas Fogle for Marciano Art Foundation, in collaboration with Corita Art Center. MAF is thrilled to reopen the second floor Window Gallery on Oct. 25 with an exhibition devoted to the late poet, artist and activist John Giorno (1936-2019). Known for taking poetry beyond the printed page into the realms of performance, sound installation and painting, Giorno stated that he was “determined to make poetry a razor blade cutting through the ego of America’s karma.” MAF’s exhibition will bring together a select group of Giorno’s

work ranging from early prints to his black-and-white text and rainbow paintings. Also on view will be a selection of materials from Giorno’s archive showing how he pieced together his poems, while demonstrating the public and private friendships that made him a force and an essential voice in the New York art scene since the 1960s. Giorno’s acclaimed work “DIAL-A-POEM” (first launched in 1969) will also be featured. Visitors will have on-demand, 24-hour access to over 250 recordings of poems read by 132 poets, artists, musicians and activists – all at one’s fingertips and the dial of a phone number. “JOHN GIORNO: NO NOSTALGIA” is curated by MAF Director Hanneke Skerath and writer and critic Carlos Valladares for Marciano Art Foundation in collaboration with Giorno Poetry Systems. A slate of associated programs tied to both exhibitions will be announced later, and tickets for “Corita Kent: The Sorcery of Images” are available now. The Marciano Art Foundation is located at 4357 Wilshire Blvd. For tickets and information, visit marcianoartfoundation.org.

VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS

Art Deco building has long history on the Miracle Mile



The Dominguez-Wilshire building in the 5400 block of Wilshire Boulevard was undergoing a major renovation in this photograph in the Sept. 2, 1998, issue of the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News. Designed by architects Morgan, Walls and Clements, the building opened in 1931 and was the second Art Deco office tower on the Miracle Mile after the Wilshire Tower, which opened in 1929 at 5514 Wilshire Blvd., according to the Los Angeles Conservancy. The lower floors of the Dominguez-Wilshire building once housed the Myer Siegel department store, which specialized in women’s clothing. Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, recently moved her field office into a ground-floor space at 5416 Wilshire Blvd. in the Dominguez-Wilshire building and invites the community to a grand opening celebration on Sunday, Sept. 14, from 1-4 p.m. For information and to RSVP, visit tinyurl.com/CD5Open.

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Oct. 7 memorial planned in Beverly Hills

From page 1

used to construct the 9/11 Memorial Garden – as it was funded entirely through private donations – the Oct. 7 will be partly funded by tax dollars, as the city has already allocated \$500,000 of city funds to construct the project. However, the city expects the project to cost approximately \$1.5 million, and is creating a fundraising campaign to seek donations from the public.

The memorial will be titled “Forty Steps to the Sky: A Memorial of Light and Memory” and it will feature a 23-foot sculpture resembling a staircase surrounded by a small pavilion, which will be illuminated at night. The project was designed by Archillusion Design.

“The spiral form of the memorial is a metaphor for the Jewish people’s ancient relationship with

ascent, both physical and spiritual. The staircase recalls Jacob’s ladder, a sacred bridge between Earth and heaven, body and soul,” the project description reads. “At its base lies a circular basin designed as a calendar. Twelve smooth steel plates divide the foundation, like the 12 months of the year. The structure’s height, 23 feet, marks the year of the tragedy. The steps above represent weeks, aligned with the months below. The first 40 flawless steps mark the passage of time to the month of October. Then, beginning on Oct. 7, the form fractures. Order gives way to disruption. The steps warp and twist, transforming into the shape of a light, its torn edges evoking the shattering of commandments and the unraveling of peace.”

In a study session on Sept. 9, the City Council considered the

specifics of a fundraising campaign to raise approximately \$1 million for the project.

The council determined that the memorial should recognize donors by including their names engraved on the back wall of the memorial, with different font sizes based on donation level.

The proposition to create a fundraising campaign for the memorial received one public comment.

“Unfortunately, today I see it foremost as a memorial to genocide, and I think the city should have no part in creating it,” resident Mark Elliot said. “Having said that though, I believe that anyone who supports this project, even down to those \$10 contributors, should be acknowledged with engraved plaques at the memorial. The biggest donor names should of



photo by Tabor Brewster

The permanent Oct. 7 memorial will be located outside the Beverly Hills Public Library.

course be engraved in big, bold letters and placed right below the names of the five council members responsible for it.”

Elliot also suggested that the

memorial should include an acknowledgement of the approximately 64,000 Palestinians who have been killed in Gaza since the war began.

Raids continue to generate fear, anger

From page 1

arrests and the Supreme Court ruling.

“This is a dangerous escalation on our path to authoritarianism. With this ruling, the Supreme Court is allowing masked federal agents to take anyone they want with no due process or justification needed,” Soto-Martinez said. “We will never stop fighting for the wellbeing of all Angelenos, regardless of where you come from or your documentation status. If you see a raid, stay calm, call the Rapid Response hotline at (888)624-4752, and if it’s safe, record from a distance and stay there to help document who was taken.”

The councilman’s spokesman Nick Barnes Batista said the council office has coordinated training and the deployment of volunteers to locations such as Home Depot to warn people when they see agents approaching and to document ICE activity. He added that the council office has held food and resource distribution fairs where essential goods were delivered to more than 250 families.

While the Supreme Court ruling renewed fear about detentions and arrests, it did not deter a handful of men from seeking work at the Hollywood Home Depot on Sept. 9.

“I have to work to support my family,” said a man in the parking lot who declined to provide his name. “I don’t have a choice.”

In response to the ruling, city and county leaders are looking at next steps.

“I want the entire nation to hear me when I say this isn’t just an attack on the people of Los Angeles, this is an attack on every person in every city in this country. [The] ruling is not only dangerous – it’s un-American and threatens the fabric of personal freedom in the United States of America,” Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said in a statement. “This decision will lead to more working families being torn apart and fear of the very institutions meant to protect – not persecute – our people. Let me be clear: we will not allow the White House, nor the Supreme Court, to

divide us. And to all Angelenos, I will never stop fighting for your rights, your dignity and your safety, despite this administration’s efforts to threaten them.”

Los Angeles City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto also denounced the raids and reaffirmed that she will continue to seek legal remedies to protect residents. On Sept. 10, Feldstein Soto announced that her office – with the county of Los Angeles and the cities of West Hollywood, Chicago, New York, Baltimore and Boston – filed an amicus brief supporting Gov. Newsom in an appeal pending before the Ninth Circuit over the federalization of the National Guard, which was deployed to L.A. in June as part of the federal raids.

“This decision weakens Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches and seizures,” Feldstein Soto said. “The lower court found that reasonable suspicion cannot rest on these discriminatory factors, yet the majority has endorsed practices that raise serious constitutional concerns.”

Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, 1st District, called the raids a violation of basic rights.

“[The] Supreme Court ruling allowing roving immigration patrols in Los Angeles County and the surrounding Southern California region, permitting stops based solely on occupation, language or appearance, is an unacceptable attack on the rights and safety of our residents. The timing of this ruling is especially outrageous, coming at the very start of Hispanic Heritage Month, a time meant to honor and uplift Latino communities and their contributions,” Solis added. “This decision will only intensify the fear, trauma and disruption faced by Angeleno families and neighbors who contribute so much to the strength,

workforce and cultural diversity of Los Angeles County. Racial profiling and stops without reasonable suspicion have no place in our society.”

In a statement of dissent, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who voted to continue the ban on immigration raids with Associate Justices Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson, characterized the ruling as a “misuse” of the court’s emergency powers.

“We should not have to live in a country where the government can seize anyone who looks Latino, speaks Spanish and appears to work a low wage job,” Sotomayor wrote. “Rather than stand idly by while our constitutional freedoms are lost, I dissent.”

Ralphs and Food 4 Less support St. Vincent Meals on Wheels

As part of Hunger Action Month in September, employees from Ralphs and Food 4 Less/Foods Co. joined forces with St. Vincent Meals on Wheels to deliver nourishment and support to homebound seniors and vulnerable residents.

On Sept. 5, volunteers from Los Angeles-area stores prepared and delivered more than 3,000 meals to seniors who rely on St. Vincent Meals on Wheels as a lifeline for daily nutrition and connection.

The event was part of the companies’ Zero Hunger Zero Waste initiative, a Kroger-led social impact strategy launched in 2017 that has delivered more than 3.9 billion meals nationwide and donated \$1.5 billion to support hunger relief, including nearly 815 million pounds of fresh surplus food from stores.

“Our volunteers are proud to bring both meals and companionship to seniors who may be isolated or struggling with food insecurity,” St. Vincent Meals on Wheels CEO Veronica Dover said. “Events like this demonstrate the power of community partnership and the differ-



photo courtesy of Food 4 Less/Foods Co. and Ralphs

Volunteers from Ralphs and Food 4 Less prepared meals for St. Vincent Meals on Wheels as part of the stores’ Zero Hunger Zero Waste initiative.

ence it makes in the lives of those we serve.”

St. Vincent Meals on Wheels serves more than 100,000 meals each month to seniors across Los Angeles.

“Our communities are our homes, and we never know who might need a little extra help,” said Salvador Ramirez, corporate affairs manager for Ralphs and Food 4 Less/Foods

Co. “That’s why our associates are proud to volunteer with St. Vincent Meals on Wheels. Preparing and delivering meals to seniors is a small act that can make a big difference in someone’s day. It’s part of how we live out our Zero Hunger Zero Waste commitment and support the neighborhoods we call home.”

For information, visit svmow.org.



NOTICE TO BIDDERS for the ANNUAL CITYWIDE PAVEMENT MARKING PROJECT within the City of BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 00000

BIDS - Proposals for the **ANNUAL CITYWIDE PAVEMENT MARKING PROJECT** within the City of Beverly Hills, California, will be received up to the hour of **2:00 p.m., on Thursday, September 11, 2025**, via PlanetBids. Bid results will be sent to all bidders through PlanetBids and award of the contract will be made during a subsequent meeting of the City Council. Please see PlanetBids for details.

SCOPE OF WORK – The contractual work shall span three consecutive years, with the described services to be performed once annually per the City’s established timeline. The quantity estimates provided below represent aggregate quantities for the complete three-year contract duration.

In general terms, the contract work for this project shall consist of: replacement of existing pavement striping and markings, including raised retroreflector markers, according to the current Caltrans standard striping details

(4” to 6” and 6” to 8” where applicable) throughout the entire City. Replacement striping and markings shall be placed over existing striping unless otherwise directed by City Staff. Removal of existing striping and markings shall be performed prior to replacement where applicable. Replacement of striping and markings to be thermoplastic and traffic rated paint. The project also includes the installation of new striping alignments at various locations within the City. Some project locations will require the work to be performed at night, on weekends, or with other working hour restrictions.

The contract documents, including plans and specifications may be viewed and downloaded from the City’s PlanetBids portal:

<https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/39493/bo/bo-detail/132298>

In compliance with Public Contract Code Section 3300, the City has determined that the Bidder must possess the following license(s): **“A or C-32”**

THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY BID OR ALL THE BIDS AND TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY OR IRREGULARITY IN ANY BID, BUT IF THE BIDS ARE ACCEPTED, THE CONTRACT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT WILL BE LET TO THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER FOR THE PROJECT AS A WHOLE.

WeHo hotel renovation project faces appeal

From page 1

an expansion of space where alcohol is permitted. The Standard Hotel permanently closed in 2021 and was designated a local cultural resource after its closing. It sat unoccupied for several years before renovations began.

The appeal, filed against developers Ian Schrager Company and 8300 Sunset Development, LLC, focuses on two exemptions from the California Environmental Quality Act that the Planning Commission granted for the renovations. The appeal alleges that the project’s noise level study is inaccurate and does not adequately address potential noise level impacts that would result from the newly renovated rooftop. The appeal also states the project’s traffic study did not adequately address parking demands of the hotel at capacity and would congest traffic on Sunset Boulevard.

“In short, the project is likely to generate noise and traffic impacts that will have significant cumulative impacts on residents and neighbors immediately south of the hotel site,” the appeal reads. “The city is well aware of the unique noise issues presented with rooftop hotels, which the project’s noise study did not adequately consider various factors.”

Andrew Brady, a representative

of the Ian Schrager Company, said that the appeal fundamentally misunderstands the purpose of the renovations and that exemptions are often granted to existing buildings undergoing rehabilitation, especially ones of historical status, because they are not as environmentally impactful as constructing a new building.

“The appeal from Unite Here ignores those exceptions and focuses on a bunch of claims related to sort of noise traffic,” he said. “All the claims related to noise traffic are fully addressed by technical reports [and] city conditions of approval. The appeal trumps up this argument that it’s going to be a big, huge party deck where members of the public can come up and everyone’s going to be drinking and making loud noise, and there would be loud parties up there. Nothing could be further from the truth.”

Brady added that he believes the union filed the appeal to pressure the hotel into signing labor agreements, rather than out of genuine concern for the surrounding community.

“The objectives of the hotel union have always been very clear,” Brady said. “They want hotel operators to sign card-check neutrality labor peace agreements ... So, it’s really about their own

professional business objectives. It’s not really about these neighborhood environmental concerns.”

Unite Here Local 11 did not respond to a request for comment.

During the June 5 Planning Commission meeting, multiple planning commissioners said the renovation was necessary to revitalize the hotel and bring business back to the Sunset Strip.

The West Hollywood Preservation Alliance supports the hotel’s rehabilitation.

“The West Hollywood Preservation Alliance urges the City Council to deny this appeal which stymies rehabilitation of a designated cultural resource,” said Victor Omelczenko, a member of the West Hollywood Preservation Alliance. “The WHPA supported the Historic Preservation Commission’s recommendation for a certificate of appropriateness to rehabilitate this significant mid-century architectural treasure on the Sunset Strip. Approving the appeal would subvert the city’s goals for both historic preservation and economic development.”

The West Hollywood City Council is scheduled to vote on the appeal on Sept. 15. If allowed to move forward, the renovated hotel is scheduled to open in the second quarter of 2026, Brady said.



photo courtesy of Steadfast LA

Steadfast LA founder and chairman Rick Caruso, left, and Banc of California chairman and CEO Jared Wolff presented a grant to Michael and Meredith Miller of Webster’s Pharmacy.

Steadfast LA offers support to businesses impacted by fires

Steadfast LA, in partnership with Banc of California, distributed the first small business recovery grants on Sept. 2 through the Small Business Initiative, providing \$125,000 to three cornerstone Altadena businesses.

The recipients are Fair Oaks Burger, Altadena Cookie Co. and Webster’s Community Pharmacy, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary next year. The small businesses will use the grants to recover from fire-related damage and to remain in Altadena, making clear to families and residents that the community is rebuilding and a bright future lies ahead.

Rick Caruso, founder and chairman of Steadfast LA, and Jared Wolff, chairman and CEO of Banc of California, visited each business on Sept. 2 to meet the owners, hear their stories and distribute the grants.

“Meeting with and hearing stories from the Millers at Webster’s Pharmacy, the Lees at Fair Oaks Burger and Jessica and Michelle with Altadena Cookie Co. was moving and underscored how ingrained they all are in the community,” Caruso said. “I’m really proud that, through this initiative, they’ll have the resources to overcome the adversity they’ve faced

since the fires and get back to doing what they do best – serving their customers and remaining part of the fabric of Altadena.”

“As the largest independent bank based in Los Angeles, Banc of California takes pride in supporting small businesses that define the character and vitality of our communities,” Wolff added. “Seeing firsthand the strength and spirit these small-business owners bring to Altadena was inspiring, and they are exactly who our initiative was designed to help. We look forward to distributing more grants and helping more small businesses recover.”

Steadfast LA’s Small Business Initiative provides direct grants of up to \$50,000 to small businesses in wildfire-impacted communities in Altadena, Malibu, Pasadena and the Pacific Palisades. More than 500 small businesses have submitted applications for grants through the initiative. Grants will be distributed to small businesses in the Palisades and Malibu in the coming days. Banc of California donated the initial \$1 million to fund the initiative and Steadfast LA provides added support and solicits further donations.

For information, visit steadfastla.com.

Friedman supports state redistricting

From page 1

Friedman pointed out that voters in California are choosing the state’s districting path forward, unlike Texas’ legislature who made the move for its citizens.

Friedman’s own turf would be slightly altered if the measure is approved, although she would continue to represent most of her current district. While she would gain Afton, Agua Dulce and part of Palmdale, she would lose Sunland and Lake View Terrace.

“I’m simply moving up a little bit to capture some of their population centers. And they have a lot of similar issues that areas that I represent to the south of the Angeles Forest are facing – namely risk from wildfire and issues that they’ve been having over maintaining and being able to find

insurance for their property – so, I do feel equipped to help them with those issues,” she said.

Friedman noted that the mid-cycle change to the Congressional map, which typically happens every 10 years in alignment with the federal census, would be temporary as to level the political playing field. In 2030, the process would revert back to California’s typical redistricting protocols.

“California has been very happy with our process with the redistricting commission, and we did not choose this particular battle Donald Trump has chosen,” Friedman said. “And as much as we like our process, we have a responsibility to respond. And that is because there is a lot at stake for the people of California that if we

don’t have fair representation nationwide, we will continue to see this administration attack our funding for education, people’s health care access, the fact that this administration has defunded a lot of California specific infrastructure projects, etc. So, they chose this particular battle”

Neighboring districts would also be slightly altered if voters approve the proposition, though some – like Rep. Ted Lieu’s (D-Torrence) district – would remain as is. Currently, Republicans hold a slim majority in the House and U.S. Senate. The 2026 midterms will be the first major referendum of the divisive Trump administration.

“We lose, or we engage them in the arena that they have created,” Friedman concluded.

CicLAvia returns on Sept. 14 in Historic South Central

CicLAvia will celebrate its 62nd car-free open streets event catalyzing vibrant public spaces, active transportation and good health through car-free streets on Sept. 14 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

CicLAvia – “Historic South Central meets Watts” connects historic South Central, Florence, Firestone and Watts, welcoming people of all ages and abilities to enjoy the day-long 6.25-mile pop-up park. Always free, attendees can enjoy the day by walking, jogging, biking, roller skating, skating or simply spectating at CicLAvia. Participants can show up anywhere along the route between 9 a.m.-4 p.m. to enjoy the open streets, take the time to explore and see where the day takes them.

CicLAvia is a nonprofit that has been opening streets throughout Los Angeles County for nearly 15 year. It transforms city streets into

car-free celebrations of community, connection and possibility – places where participants can slow down, connect and appreciate the city in a new way.

CicLAvia – “Historic South Central meets Watts” includes five hubs filled with plenty of activities and programs along the route. Hubs offer family-friendly activities, restrooms, free water refilling stations, free basic bike repair, bike parking, places to sit and meet up with friends and family and first aid. For information, visit ciclavia.org.

Prepare for emergencies in WeHo

West Hollywood is offering free American Red Cross CPR, first aid and AED certification training on Saturday, Oct. 11. Community members are encouraged to sign up for training sessions from 9 a.m.-noon or 1-4 p.m. in the West Hollywood Park Aquatic and Recreation Center’s Fairfax/La Brea Room, 8750 El Tovar Place.

The American Red Cross certification training will cover adult and pediatric CPR, first aid and AED

topics. Participants will learn how to respond to medical emergencies. Prior to meeting in-person, participants will be enrolled in an online learning session that takes approximately two-and-a-half hours to complete. In-person section reviews will be held with tests for participants to receive certification. The online learning session link will be sent seven days prior to the session. For information, email wehoaquatics@weho.org or visit weho.org.

WeHo seeks input on traffic study

The city of West Hollywood is asking community members to provide input on the North San Vicente Traffic Study at the West Hollywood Transportation and Mobility Commission meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

City staff will present a summary of a traffic study on San Vicente Boulevard between Melrose Avenue and Beverly Boulevard that examined physical parameters, collision history and traffic counts. Staff will present potential considerations for changes to the intersections of Rangely, Dornington and Ashcroft avenues that include vehicular turning restrictions and signalization.

Community members interested in providing public comment are encouraged to attend. The meeting agenda will be posted in advance of the meeting on the week of Sept. 15 at weho.org/agendas (follow links to the Transportation and Mobility Commission). For those who cannot attend, public comments on matters

before the Transportation and Mobility Commission may be emailed no later than noon on Sept. 17 to TMCPublicComments@weho.org.

The meeting will be held in the community meeting room at West Hollywood City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Blvd. For information about the N. San Vicente Traffic Study, email jgilmour@weho.org or visit weho.org.

Answers From Page 23

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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across

1. Planet's path
6. Mexican peninsula
10. PC alternatives
14. Trigger, for one
15. Spam followers
16. Yucca's kin
17. Bible story
20. Giant slugger Mel
21. Tease
22. Queen of India
23. Opening time, maybe
24. Fried-chicken device
26. Bipedal primates
29. Besmirched
30. End early
31. The "I" of "The King and I"
32. ___-de-cologne
35. Religious orders
39. Ballpark figure, for short
40. Clean the yard in a way
41. Texas A & M student
42. Chicken feed
44. Gray matter
45. "La Desserte" painter
48. Purse bauble
49. Clarifying phrase
50. Shopping centers
52. Police call for short
55. Biblical place of confusion
58. Stereo knob
59. Bring ___ play

60. For all to see
61. Sign of damage
62. Flower supporter
63. Pound sounds

Down

1. "Say it ain't so!"
2. Underground plant part
3. Sitter's headache
4. Somewhat, suffix
5. Attack verbally
6. Symbol of authority
7. Karen Carpenter, for one
8. Metaphysical poet
9. Noshed
10. Bug, perhaps
11. Beside
12. Aborigine's signal cry
13. Sacred meal
18. A Bobsey twin and namesakes
19. Fingerboard ridge
23. Drug agent
25. Away
26. "Unimaginable as ___ in Heav'n": Milton
27. Above, in Berlin
28. DaVinci's subject
29. Curve
31. Awe
32. Many a tech. sch. grad
33. Arguing
34. Operates

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61						62				63				

36. Dr.'s orders
37. Guy tied up in apron strings
38. Gadzooks!
42. Buddy
43. Concerning
44. Person referred to
45. Hands, in slang
46. Improvised
47. "Lovergirl" singer ___ Marie
48. Be at the high point of one's career
51. Comic Johnson

52. First murder victim
53. Criminal
54. Some diner orders
56. Neighbor of Ill. and Mich.
57. Fifth, e.g., abbr.

answers on page 22

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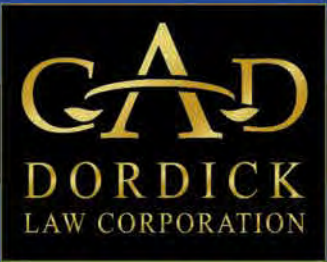
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