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temps in the
mid-70s

BEVERLY PRESS

INSIDE

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Volume 34 No. 38

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

September 19, 2024

Wires Only auto dealer arrested in Beverly Hills

■ RD Whittington faces legal action from clients, city

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Luxury car salesman RD Whittington was arrested on Tuesday, Sept. 10, by the Beverly Hills Police Department on an out-of-state warrant before being released the same day.

According to BHPD Lt. Andrew

Myers, Whittington was arrested for a Nevada warrant related to a fraud/insufficient funds check offense.

"After being booked at BHPD jail, Whittington was released at the request of Nevada authorities," Myers said.

See **Auto dealer** page 26



photo by Tabor Brewster

The luxury car showroom on Wilshire Boulevard is the subject of numerous civil lawsuits.

Commission green-lights TV City project

■ Plan must still be approved by City Council

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Following a six-hour public hearing on Sept. 12, the Los Angeles City Planning Commission unanimously approved the Television City 2050 project, a plan to modernize and expand the historic 25-acre studio site at Beverly Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue.

The approval capped a five-year process during which the Planning Department conducted an environmental impact review, held public meetings and responded to hundreds of concerns raised by opponents. Planning Department staff recommended the commission grant approval. The project will next go before the Los Angeles City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee and later the full City Council.

Television City is owned and operated by Hackman Capital Partners, which is seeking to expand the studio to better meet



photo by Edwin Folven

The project will transform the studio site with new facilities while preserving the historic façade along Beverly Boulevard.

the needs of production companies. The plan calls for 1,724,000 square feet of sound stage, production support, production office, general office and retail

uses, with the retention of 264,377 square feet of existing uses. The Planning Commission approved a Specific Plan for Television City,

See **Commission** page 25

WeHo Council candidate arrested on felony charges

■ Sheriff's department plans to submit identity theft case to D.A.'s office

BY RANCE COLLINS

West Hollywood City Council candidate Zekiah Wright, 38, was arrested at 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 12 on felony identity theft and perjury charges. After their arrest, Wright was released on citation, which ensures a person will appear in court following release from custody.

In a three-page statement, Wright's attorneys at Green & Associates said that the charges relate to Wright removing themselves as an "authorized agent for service of process" from Five Foot Monster LLC, which is owned by Wright's former partner Patricia Bezner, more commonly known as Jackie Steele.

"Zekiah no longer wanted to be associated with Steele's business in any manner as an agent for service of process, so they removed themselves and added an individual who they believed Steele told them to add at least as a placeholder," the statement read. "In hindsight, Zekiah realizes they should have checked with Steele's friend who



photo courtesy of Zekiah Wright

Zekiah Wright previously ran for City Council in 2022.

was added to confirm that he consented to being an agent for service of process, but this was done with the understanding that these were Steele's instructions."

The statement goes on to state that, "Steele further updated the statement of information forms on file twice" following Wright's alteration. Other media sources have named Mayor John Erickson, who is seeking reelection to the City

Council, as the "friend" whose name was added by Wright, a point that Erickson would not confirm, though he did provide a statement.

"My understanding is there is an investigation into this matter and if you have further questions, please get in touch with the West Hollywood Sheriff's Department," Erickson said. "I am confident they will handle the matter appropriately."

The law firm's letter also described damage and theft they allege was done by Steele to Wright's property and social media accounts, and a restraining order filed against Steele, and suggested political motivations for the charges.

Steele said that she "did not have a comment at this time."

Detective Brandon Zeff confirmed the arrest was made and a court date was tentatively set for Nov. 13, though the case has not yet been sent to the District Attorney's Office.

"[The District Attorney] would determine if they're going to file charges or not," Zeff said. "If they don't file charges, then [Wright] wouldn't have to go to court."

The Nov. 13 court date is after the West Hollywood City Council

See **Wright** page 26



photo by Rance Collins

The West Hollywood City Council will receive suggestions at a later meeting for alternate surfaces in the William S. Hart dog park.

Council puts pause on turf replacement at Hart Park

■ WeHo approves funds to redesign off-leash dog area

BY RANCE COLLINS

After concerns were raised about the potentially harmful effects of synthetic turf, the West Hollywood City Council

approved the company Stoss, Inc., to provide professional design and engineering upgrades to William S. Hart Dog Park on the contingent that other materials would be explored. The plan had been to replace the wood chips that currently make up an off-leash section of the park with artificial grass. The park is located

See **Dog park** page 26

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CALENDAR

Beyond The Streets

Beyond The Streets has extended the exhibition “Dedicated to You,” featuring Estevan Oriol’s photography and the legacy of Teen Angel Magazine, from Thursday, Sept. 19, through Sunday, Oct. 27. The exhibition highlights the vibrant and often-overlooked Chicano culture of Los Angeles, emphasizing local representation and scenes of L.A. captured by Oriol’s lens. “Dedicated to You” blends art and cultural history in an authentic, raw portrayal of the city. Hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. 434 N. La Brea Ave. beyondthestreets.com.

Adoption and foster parenting

Families interested in adoption and foster parenting are invited to join an online presentation by All For Kids (formerly Children’s Bureau) on Thursday, Sept. 19, from 4-5 p.m., via Zoom. The program will be led by a hosted by an All For Kids team member and a foster parent. To RSVP, call (800)730-3933 or email rfrecruitment@allforkids.org.



Global Asian Moon Fest

Join the Autry Museum of the American West for Global Asian Moon Fest, a day dedicated to rejuvenation, reflection and reconnection on Friday, Sept. 20, from 2-9 p.m. The event celebrates Asian culture through

wellness, spirituality and creativity. It will focus on harnessing the moon’s power to transform lives. Group meditation, yoga, spiritual sessions and wellness programs are included, as well as DJs and food trucks. 4700 Western Heritage Way. theautry.org.

‘In the Unlikely Event of an Actual Emergency’

Enjoy the world premiere engagement of “In the Unlikely Event of an Actual Emergency” from Friday, Sept. 20, through Saturday, Oct. 26, at the Hudson Guild Theatre. Written by John Mullican, directed by Rickie Peete and produced by Andrea Meshel, the production is inspired by true events. The playwright based the narrative on his own experience as a survivor of a plane crash. With the intimacy of the Hudson Guild Theatre, the production design makes the show as immersive as possible, so audiences truly feel the experience. Admission is \$28.50. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Friday; 3 and 8 p.m., Saturday. 6539 Santa Monica Blvd. onstage411.com/newsite/boxoffice/cart.asp?show_id=6436&origin=guest.

‘The Joy Ride’

The Roots and Wings Project presents the world premiere of “The Joy Ride,” an immersive site-specific production running Friday, Sept. 20, through Saturday, Oct. 12 at the Graff Angeles Gallery in the Downtown Los Angeles Arts District. In “The Joy Ride,” four friends gather to ride out together but quickly realize they have much to reckon with. How, in a time of deep grief, do they dare to claim joy? Performances are outdoors. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Friday, and Saturday; 5 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are \$25. 2700 Front St. eventbrite.com/e/the-joy-ride-tickets-973833631607?aff=oddttdcreator.

Future Sounds of Jazz Festival

BroadStage presents the Future Sounds of Jazz Festival curated by Stanley Clarke on Saturday, Sept. 21, from 1:30-9 p.m. Musical performances will be held throughout the day by Judith Hill, Gretchen Parlato and Gerald Clayton, Alan Hampton, Clarence Penn, the Gemini Project, Isaiah Collier and Jeremiah Collier, Cameron Graves, Connie Han, Jahari Stampley and Ruslan Sirota, Instant Alter with Emilio Modeste and Natasha Agrama, Stanley Clarke with the SMC Jazz Combo and the Santa Monica High School Jazz Combo. The festival features a marketplace with Star Magic Tarot, Chess at Three, Rock & Roll Candle Co., Pico Roots, Sibylline Records, Fab Hatters and Famous Apples. All-day passes start at \$75; tickets for admission after 6 p.m. start at \$35. 1310 11th St, Santa Monica. broadstage.org.



‘Madame Butterfly’

Immerse yourself in the music and drama of Puccini’s “Madame Butterfly” performed by the LA Opera from Saturday, Sept. 21, through Sunday, Oct. 13, at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Against the backdrop of a 1930s film set, the tale focuses on an American officer seeking a bride in



turn-of-the-century Japan, and a scheming marriage broker who promises an easy dissolution of the marriage. Korean soprano Karah Son appears in the signature role. The opera’s opening night performance will be broadcast live at the Santa Monica Pier. Showtime on opening night is 6 p.m.; see schedule for additional showtimes. Tickets start at \$37.50. 135 N Grand Ave. laopera.org/performances/2025/madame-butterfly.

Heidi Duckler Dance

Heidi Duckler Dance is holding its 39th anniversary celebration “Dance in the Light of the Harvest Moon” on Saturday, Sept. 21, at 5 p.m. at Loyola Law School. The evening celebrates Heidi Duckler Dance’s history and blends artistry and community spirit. It includes a cocktail reception, performances and awards ceremony. Three new works will be showcased by Madison Olandt, Genna Moroni and Aleks Perez. Tickets start at \$300 and benefit Heidi Duckler Dance programs. 919 Albany St., downtown. heididuckler.org.

Blaine Krauss

Blaine Krauss, star of Broadway’s “Hamilton,” will perform at the Catalina Jazz Club on Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 8:30 p.m. Joined by a 12-piece band, Krauss will deliver an electrifying mix of music, from Prince to Sondeheim and Jasmine Sullivan. The show also includes a medley from his solo show “From the Soul.” Tickets start at \$35. 6725 Sunset Blvd. catalinajazzclub.com.



Contracting webinar

L.A. County is holding a virtual small business contracting workshop on Wednesday, Sept. 25, from 3-4:30 p.m. The free webinar is a component of the L.A. Regional Contractor Development and Bonding Program. It will provide information on navigating the complex and complicated construction contracting system including understanding key financial statements, budgeting and forecasting, managing project costs and profit margins, and improving financial decision-making. Registration is required. us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XP2IiKXSU6W-doNXRnlgw#/registration.

Hamilton High play

The Academy of Music and Performing Arts at Hamilton High School presents “You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown” on Thursday, Sept. 26, at 7 p.m. The play tells the story of an average day in the life of the famous comic strip hero. The vignettes reflect moments from Valentine’s Day to baseball season. Tickets start at \$15. Norman J. Pattiz Concert Hall, 2955 S. Robertson Blvd. hamiltonmusic.org.

Chinese Acrobats of Hebei

The Chinese Acrobats of Hebei perform at the Saban Theatre on Friday, Sept. 27, at 8 p.m. The multi-talented troupe includes unique acts such as Chinese poles, foot juggling and towering chair balance paired with martial arts. A soundtrack of traditional music accompanies each jaw-dropping act, accentuated with colorful costumes and props. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets start at \$49. 8440 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills. Tickets start at 8440 Wilshire Blvd. wheremusicsmeetsthesoul.com.



photo by Tabor Brewster

Two Coastal Redwoods and one London Plane Sycamore will be removed at 1001 N. Roxbury Drive.

Beverly Hills council approves tree removal on Roxbury Drive

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills City Council on Sept. 17 approved the removal of three heritage trees on a private property at 1001 N. Roxbury Drive. The removal of two coastal redwoods and one London plane sycamore was initially approved by the Planning Commission on June 26, as the property owners, Eric Baker and Dr. Nicole Cooper Baker, plan to construct a new home on the empty lot. However, Maple Leaf Ventures, LLC filed an appeal of the decision, alleging that the Planning Commission’s findings are not supported by evidence, that the decision violates the California Environmental Quality Act and that the city did not provide legally required notice to surrounding property owners. The appellant also argued that the removal of the trees negatively impacts the surrounding area. The City Council unanimously voted to reject the appeal on Sept. 17.

Heritage trees are defined by the city as trees with a circumference of 48 inches or more, and removal requires a permit granted by the city. The two coastal redwoods on the property are 94 and 107 inches, and the London plane sycamore is 75 inches in circumference. The Planning Commission, in its decision, added a condition that the trees must be replaced with three trees each at least 25 feet tall at the time of planting with a minimum mature height of 70 feet.

“Our property is a private residential lot. An empty lot at this stage. It is no different than any other lot in Beverly Hills. And we respectfully ask that it and we, the owners, be treated just the same as any other,” Cooper Baker said. “We are simply trying to build a home for our family. A home to raise our children, to have wonderful and memorable times with their grandparents, to gather with community and loved ones. A home that we hope will remain in our family for generations.”

Benjamin Hanelin, an attorney for the Bakers, pointed out that the landscaping plan only included the removal of three of the 30 protected trees on the property while preserving the remaining 27. Additionally, the plans call for the planting of 31 additional trees.

“[The] appellant has really lost the forest for the trees,” Hanelin said. “The three trees being replaced to enhance the landscaping – a former property owner planted [them] in the ‘90s – are not climate adapted and not native to the region.”

Many residents spoke out against the appeal in public comment, stating that the property owners went through every city requirement to have the trees removed, and that the Planning Commission made the correct decision after a lengthy and thorough review. Some said that a decision by the City Council to reverse the Planning Commission’s approval would erode trust in city government.

Environmental attorney Ellis Raskin, a former chair of the Santa Monica Planning Commission currently running for Santa Monica City Council, represented the appellant. He said that Beverly Hills and the greater Los Angeles region has seen a loss of canopy cover that detrimentally affects the environment. He argued that the removal of the trees would contribute to the loss of canopy cover, and that the replacement trees may not adequately solve the problem.

“Mature trees provide things that are truly irreplaceable and can’t be met through replacement trees,” Raskin said. “They provide habitat in a way that immature replacement trees can’t provide. They provide shade cover. They provide soil retention.”

The council ultimately sided with the property owner, voting unanimously to reject the appeal.

The three heritage trees will be replaced with Western sycamore, Southern magnolia, D.D. Blanchard Magnolia and Cathedral oak trees.

“It’s always sad to cut down a mature tree, but in this case they are replacing them,” Councilman John Mirisch said. “And in this case they are replacing them with the sycamores that are native, with the southern live oak that isn’t, but it’s still a nice tree.”

“I do believe that there is a right to an appeal. But not every case needs to be appealed,” Mayor Lester Friedman said. “I just don’t think that this one needed an appeal.”

The property at 1001 N. Roxbury Drive was bought by StubHub cofounder Eric Baker for nearly \$40 million in 2020. Prior to being a vacant lot, the property was home to a 1941 regency revival house designed by Carlton L. Burgess. The house was beloved by many local residents for its unique architectural style, but was demolished in 2022 despite public outcry. In 2022, the City Council voted 4-1 against granting historical status to the home, which would have prevented it from being demolished. Mirisch was the lone vote in favor of preserving the house.

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A LETTER TO

The Beverly Fairfax Community

To our Neighbors and Friends:

We first want to thank more than 100 of our neighbors for coming to City Hall to testify about the TVC project’s negative impacts on the Beverly Fairfax neighborhood. We know it is not easy to dedicate a full day to a City Hall hearing and we so appreciate everyone's support, patience, understanding and commitment. Together, we got the community’s concerns on the record.

While the TVC 2050 developer promotes the project as a studio, in reality they are asking the City for a blank check approval for **many types of potential uses**, a massive **increase in square footage**, and up to **20 years of phased construction**, all subject to minimal public review.

In recent months, more than **2,200 local residents** signed petitions against the project, and after the EIR was published, more than **450 residents, community organizations and businesses** submitted letters to the Planning Department opposing the project.

Additionally, **nine community groups and local businesses** in the Beverly Fairfax neighborhood submitted appeals **against the project**, including Beverly Wilshire Homes Association, Fix the City, Miracle Mile Residents Association, Neighbors for Responsible TVC Development, Park La Brea Impacted Residents Group, Save Beverly Fairfax, the A.F. Gilmore Company, Broadcast Center Apartments and The Grove.

We are deeply disappointed that our Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky and the LA City Planning Commission prioritize **speculative development over the community’s reasonable requests** for changes that would produce a successful studio compatible with our neighborhood.

We look forward to bringing our concerns to the LA City Council in the weeks ahead and remain steadfast in our mission to have the developer rightsize TVC 2050.

Thank you,

Neighbors for Responsible TVC Development

To learn more and get involved, visit: www.fixtvc.org

Council OKs more police funds in Yaroslavsky’s 5th District

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles City Council approved a motion on Sept. 18 introduced by Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, to allocate \$200,000 in additional police overtime funding to Los Angeles Police Department stations in the district.

The LAPD’s Wilshire and West Los Angeles divisions will each receive \$90,000, and the Pacific Division, which covers a smaller portion of the district, will receive \$20,000. The funds will support additional LAPD resources to protect religious institutions during the upcoming Jewish High Holy Days, which are observed from Oct. 2-12.

“This funding is critical for bolstering public safety across the board, especially in light of

the challenges posed by LAPD’s staffing shortages,” Yaroslavsky said. “Whether it’s increasing patrols, ensuring safe streets or supporting no-camping enforcement efforts near schools and parks, these resources will help us address a wide range of public safety priorities throughout the district.”

The money comes from the district’s Neighborhood Service Enhancements fund. The LAPD will determine how to best deploy resources.

“The council member is focused on making sure there are enough patrols in Council District Five,” Yaroslavsky’s spokesman Leo Daube added. “This comes from a discretionary fund in our budget and will increase the amount of resources to help bolster public safety.”



photo courtesy of the LASD

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Department investigators released security camera video of the suspect.

Man sought for attack on Barney’s Beanery valet

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Detectives with the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station have located video they hope will help identify an unknown male suspect who attacked a valet attendant on Saturday, Sept. 14, outside Barney’s Beanery at 8447 Santa Monica Blvd.

Around 10:30 p.m., the suspect approached the victim, identified as Frankie Zarazua, and without provocation punched the victim in the face. The victim fell, hit his head on the ground and was knocked unconscious. The suspect then kicked the victim approximately 10 times in the head and torso before fleeing eastbound on Santa Monica Boulevard, authorities said. The victim sustained critical injuries and remains hospitalized in an

intensive care unit. The entire attack was captured on security camera video.

Through a subsequent investigation, detectives found additional video of the suspect and identified two additional victims of battery. Detectives believe the individual may be homeless, but it has not been confirmed. Authorities are asking for the public’s help in identifying him and are asking any additional victims or witnesses to call authorities at (310)855-8850. To remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at (800)222-TIPS, or visit lacrimestoppers.org.

A GoFundMe page created by the victim’s family is raising funds to assist with medical expenses. For information, visit gofundme.com or shorturl.at/YRqJJ.

Fire damages former studio

Firefighters extinguished a blaze in a vacant building at 6110 Santa Monica Blvd. on Sept. 13. The fire was reported around 7:25 p.m. and firefighters arrived minutes later. The building was secured, and firefighters had difficulty in initially accessing the structure, LAFD spokesman Nicholas Prange said. The fire was located in space that formerly housed a business called Studio 09. The fire was extinguished in one hour and 22 minutes and the cause remains under investigation.



photo by Edwin Folven

The damaged building is located at 6110 Santa Monica Blvd.

Unhoused man seen naked arrested for lewd conduct

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A 51-year-old homeless man who was repeatedly seen naked in public in the neighborhoods around La Brea Avenue and San Vicente Boulevard and allegedly committed other crimes is in custody after being arrested on Sept. 6 and booked for multiple counts of lewd conduct and indecent exposure.

Police believe the suspect, Sean Rowan Barnes, also known as Dushman Barnett, suffers from mental health and addiction issues. Barnes was arrested on Aug. 25 for allegedly burglarizing a garage in the 1300 block of South Redondo Blvd. and stealing clothes and tools. He later entered the backyard of a nearby residence, where officers found him naked. Barnes was booked for misdemeanor burglary and trespassing and was released on a citation pending a court hearing – which is routine for people accused of non-violent, low-level offenses, authorities said. He returned to the neighborhood near La Brea Avenue and San Vicente Boulevard and was seen naked again by residents, said Detective Brent Hopkins, with the LAPD’s West Bureau Sexual Assault Detail.

“After Mr. Barnes was arrested on Aug. 25, the neighbors around there started talking and came forward. It was the kind of thing where it had gone on for a while and many people saw him, but no one had made a police report up to that time,” Hopkins added. “Once they came together and formalized the



photo courtesy of YouTube

Police used security footage to identify and arrest a homeless man who has appeared naked in public multiple times.

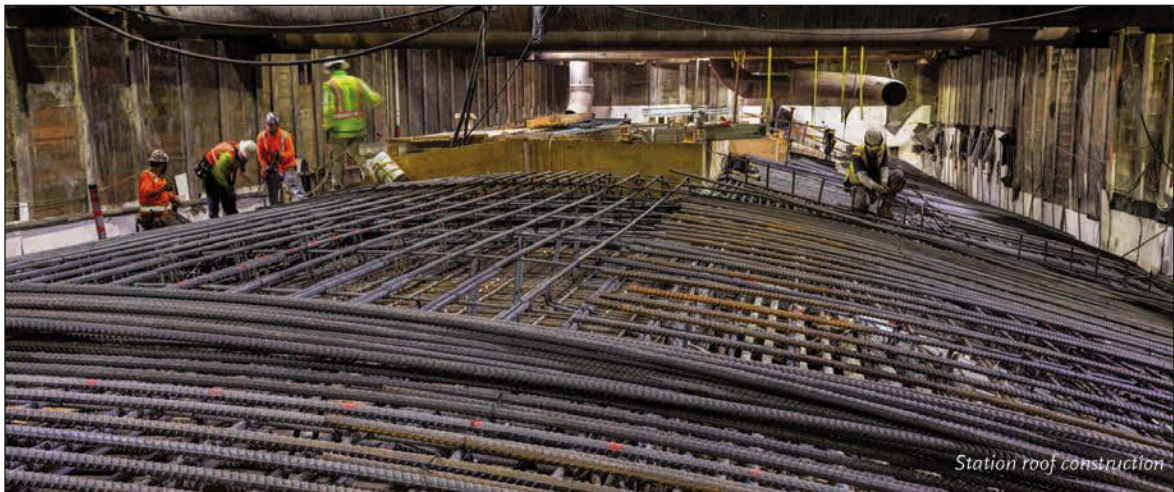
crimes in police reports, unfortunately Mr. Barnes had been released from jail on his own recognition in early September and while we were putting the case together, he returned and the lewd conduct continued.”

Barnes is now being held on \$50,000 bail for seven counts of lewd conduct and indecent exposure.

“On Sept. 6, during the early morning hours, we got two new lewd conduct calls about him trespassing on people’s properties and taking his clothes off,” Hopkins added. “We arrested him and he has been held since. He had the previous burglary charge, which allows us to keep him off the streets while the new charges are filed.”

Hopkins did not know if the suspect has a connection to the neighborhood or why he returns to the same community around South Redondo Boulevard. Barnes does not approach people, but his appearing naked is illegal and offensive, Hopkins added. Police have taken reports from at least seven residents in the area and are asking anyone else with information to call investigators at (213)473-0447.

“From what people in the neighborhood have told me, they just want him to get help and to stay out of the area,” Hopkins said. “It’s unfortunate it took something like this, but we are certainly glad that they were good citizens and brought this to our attention.”



Station roof construction

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Section 2 – Beverly Hills

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September Updates

The contractor is completing construction of the station appendage located on S Canon Dr.

S Canon Dr at Wilshire Bl will be fully closed to support this work.



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Your support was HEARD!

The Los Angeles City Planning Commission unanimously approved the TVC Project after a thorough review process.

This is a huge milestone for TVC and we couldn't have done it without the support of our Beverly/Fairfax neighbors.

Thank you for your continued commitment to ensure that this community landmark will remain a studio and meet the needs of today's entertainment industry.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TVC PROJECT, OR TO SCHEDULE A TOUR OF THE STUDIO, PLEASE VISIT WWW.TVCSTUDIOS.COM OR SCAN THIS QR CODE:





photo courtesy of the 5th District council office
Beverly Hills Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian, left, and L.A. Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky dedicated Women Life Freedom Square.

Women Life Freedom Square honors legacy of Mahsa Amini

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, and the Women’s March Foundation unveiled Women Life Freedom Square on Sept. 15 in Westwood, honoring the life of Mahsa Amini, who died in Iranian police custody after being arrested for allegedly violating morality laws.

Yaroslavsky was joined by Beverly Hills Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian and representatives from numerous women’s organizations. The new landmark is located at Westwood Boulevard and Rochester Avenue.

“The Women Life Freedom movement is a global call for justice, and I am immensely proud

that our district – and particularly Westwood, home to the largest Iranian American community outside of Iran – has played such an important role in honoring Mahsa Amini’s legacy,” Yaroslavsky said.

“The establishment of the Woman Life Freedom Square in memory of Mahsa Amini symbolizes our commitment to stand up for women’s rights everywhere,” Nazarian said. “If we truly want to be a voice for women, we must advocate for all women, regardless of their religion, cultural background or ethnicity. The struggle for freedom and equality is not isolated to one country or one group; it is a global fight.”

Concrete bollards roll out on Rodeo Drive

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The city of Beverly Hills in August completed installation of 232 barriers along a busy thoroughfare in the Golden Triangle. The bollards – gray spheres of concrete 39 inches wide – now line the three blocks of Rodeo Drive north of Wilshire Boulevard as well as nearby sections of Brighton Way and Dayton Way.

“With continued and expanding activations on Rodeo Drive, the bollards are part of ensuring the safety of visitors and employees not only on Rodeo Drive but some adjacent streets,” Rodeo Drive Committee President Kay Monica Rose said.

The installation of 310 bollards was approved by the City Council in February. According to a staff report, they were proposed by the Rodeo Drive Committee and meant to replace the green K-rails that were on Rodeo Drive since 2017. The city installed the 232 spheres between June 4 and Aug. 16. The overall number was reduced to 270, and 23 were not installed due to private construction barriers while 15 were removed due to an artwork installation. The city paid Concept Consultant, Inc. \$808,888 to install the bollards.

“The green K-rails were aging and these new bollards are an aesthetic improvement while continuing to provide safety measures such as preventing vehicles from entering the sidewalk,” Beverly Hills Public Information Manager



photo by Tabor Brewster
Over 200 concrete bollards now line the iconic Rodeo Drive.

Lauren Santillana said. “The bollards are placed with 5.5 to 6.5-foot opening between them. This is the recommended distance to prevent a vehicle from driving between them and onto the sidewalk.”

The original K-rails were installed in 2017 as part of a seating initiative which included installation of patio chairs, tables and planter boxes along Rodeo Drive. By 2019, the amenities had been removed, but the K-rails remained until earlier this year. According to the city, the bollards were meant to

replace the green K-rails. However, only 24 K-rails had been in place on Rodeo Drive, compared to the 232 bollards currently in place.

“The spacing was set based on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security recommendations while keeping in mind the needs of pedestrians and ADA compliance,” Santillana said. “The bollard quantity is a function of the spacing.”

Santillana emphasized that the K-rails were a temporary installation and the bollards are a long-term safety measure.



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Memorials planned on Oct. 7 anniversary

Oct. 7, 2024, will mark the first anniversary of one of the deadliest terrorist attacks in the history of the Jewish people. It also marks one year since a violent new wave of anti-semitism began.

The repercussions of that day, and the year that followed, are still being felt by the Jewish people of Los Angeles – home to the second largest Jewish population outside of Israel.

Events and tributes will take place over a 24-hour period starting the evening of Oct. 6 at the Museum of Tolerance and commencing on the evening of Oct. 7 with a special night at the Saban Theatre organized by the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, the Israeli-American Council and StandWithUs.

Given the shared trauma the community has endured, coming together

in a unified response is important to honor the memory of those lost and to pray for the hostages still in captivity.

“As we prepared to honor this solemn day of reflection and remembrance, it was vital that we do so together – as one united Los Angeles community, one family. We will continue to keep the memory of those we lost in our hearts and stand in solidarity with the hostages and their families until they are all home,” JFED-LA president and CEO Rabbi Noah Farkas said. “These events have been organized with our partners to show that despite the tragedy of Oct. 7, we remain and will forever be a resilient, hopeful and united people.”

“The tragic events on and since Oct. 7 represent the most difficult time in Jewish history since the end of the Holocaust,” StandWithUs founder and CEO Roz Rothstein said. “Not only are Israelis impacted,

but Jews around the world feel the ongoing collective shock and loss connected to our hostages still being held by Hamas terrorists, and the soldiers and nation of Israel still engaged in war. Coming together to commemorate Oct. 7 offers all of us an opportunity to gather strength as we share a sense of community that supports Israel and fights to keep the faces of the hostages front and center in everyone's hearts until they all come home to their families.”

For information, visit jewishla.org.



NOTICE INVITING SEALED BIDS FOR BATTERY BACK-UP SYSTEM (BBS) INVENTORY AND MODERNIZATION PROJECT, CIP 2502 IN THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of West Hollywood as AGENCY, invites sealed bids to be received only by submitting electronically at <https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/public-works/bids> or <http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=22761> for the above stated project and will only receive such bids no later than the hour of **5:00 P.M. on October 31, 2024**, at which time or thereafter said bids will be electronically opened and available online. Bids received after this time will be considered to be non-responsive.

No pre-bid meeting is scheduled.

The work to be done consists of furnishing all materials, equipment, tools, labor, and incidentals as required by the Plans, Specifications, and Contract Documents for the above state project. The general items of work include installation/replacement of battery back-up systems (BBS) and universal power supplies (UPS), and all appurtenant work and other items not mentioned that are required by the plans and specifications.

Bids must be submitted electronically for the exact item(s) requested in the bid specifications. Copies of the plans, specifications, and contract documents are available for free from the City of West Hollywood website:
<https://www.weho.org/city-government/city-departments/public-works/bids> or
<http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=22761>

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

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

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

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

The AGENCY will deduct five (5) percent retention from all progress payments as specified in Subsection 7-3.2 of the standard specifications. The Contractor may

substitute an escrow holder surety of equal value to the retention. The Contractor shall be beneficial owner of the surety and shall receive any interest thereon.

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

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

The successful bidder shall be licensed in accordance with the provisions of the Business and Professions Code and shall possess a valid **California State Contractor's License Class C-10** at the time of bid submittal.

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

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

The California Air Resources Board ("CARB") implemented amendments to the In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulations ("Regulation") which are effective on January 1, 2024 and apply broadly to all self-propelled off road diesel vehicles 25 horsepower or greater and other forms of equipment used in California. A copy of the Regulation is available at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/barcu/regact/2022/off-road-diesel/appa-1.pdf>. Bidders are required to comply with all CARB and Regulation requirements, including, without limitation, all applicable sections of the Regulation, as codified in Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations section 2449 *et seq.* throughout the term of the Project. Bidders must provide, with their Bid, copies of Bidder's and all listed subcontractors the most recent, valid Certificate of Reported Compliance ("CRC") issued by CARB. Failure to provide valid CRCs as required herein may render the Bid non-responsive.

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

Beverly Hills opposes L.A. County Board expansion

BY TABOR BREWSTER

The Beverly Hills City Council on Sept. 17 voted to oppose upcoming ballot measure G, which would update and expand county government. The expansion, co-authored by L.A. County Board of Supervisors Chair Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, and Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th district, would establish a County Executive Office, expand the number of supervisors from five to nine and establish an independent County Ethics Commission, among other changes. L.A. County residents will vote on whether to implement the measure in the Nov. 5 General Election, although most changes would take years to come to fruition.

“Los Angeles County communities are one step closer to having a more representative, transparent

and accountable government – positioning the county to more effectively deliver the services and outcomes our residents deserve,” Horvath said.

However, the city of Beverly Hills will formally oppose the measure. Most council members agreed with the basis of expanding county governance, but disagreed with some specifics of the proposal.

“Expanding the five member board from five to nine is probably a good idea given the population growth since 1912. But the rest of the program, I have questions about,” Councilman Craig Corman said. “We’re going to create a large bureaucracy that’s just going to require more tax dollars or take tax dollars from other programs that we desperately need.”

“I appreciate so much about this – all of these things driving towards better governance and better representation, but my fear is that the

elected county executive and the veto power could undo the very goals of making this a more functioning and a better functioning group ... I would remain neutral at this point,” Councilwoman Mary Wells said.

“I do appreciate the supervisors who did bring this forward. I just think it needs a little more work before we can wholeheartedly support it and get behind it,” Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian said.

“I agree that having a supervisor representing two million people doesn’t make sense,” Mayor Lester Friedman said. “I don’t like a lot of the other aspects of it. I don’t like the county executive, I’m not even sure what the county executive does ... I’m concerned about the cost of this.”

Councilman John Mirisch was the only council member strongly



photo by Diandra Jay/courtesy the office of Lindsey Horvath

L.A. County Board of Supervisors Chair Lindsey Horvath and Supervisor Janice Hahn announced the sweeping reform proposal on July 3.

supporting the measure.

“Anytime someone asks, ‘Do you want to expand the board?’ people say, ‘Well do you really want more politicians?’ I don’t look

at it that way. I look at it as, do you want more representation and better representation?” Mirisch said. “I think it is desperately important for us to expand that representation.”

Beverly Hills gala raises over \$2.5 million for students



photo courtesy of Robert Lurie Photography

More than 200 guests attended this year’s Bel Air Affair gala to raise money for scholarships to assist students impacted by the Oct. 7 attacks in Israel.

The 15th Annual Bel Air Affaire, hosted at the iconic Papillon Estate in Beverly Hills, raised over \$2.5 million for scholarships to assist Hebrew University of Jerusalem students impacted by the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks.

This year’s honorees, Drs. Eric and Melina Esrailian, received the AFHU Humanitarian Torch of Learning Award at the prestigious event, hosted by the Western Region of American Friends of the Hebrew University, for their community philanthropy and longstanding support of the Hebrew University Armenian Studies Program.

Keyboardist David Foster, 16-time Grammy Award-winning writer and producer and his wife, singer and actress Katharine McPhee Foster, feted gala participants as the surprise evening musi-

cal entertainment. Among those who provided tributes were Cher, Barbra Streisand and Jeffrey Katzenberg.

For decades, the Esrailians have been active in the Los Angeles philanthropic, medical, academic and Armenian communities. Eric is chief of the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Division of Digestive Diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, as well as an Emmy-nominated producer, investor and entrepreneur. Melina is a practicing dentist with a background in public health and a successful real estate investor.

The Esrailians have been closely involved in creating The Promise Institute for Human Rights at the UCLA School of Law and The Promise Armenian Institute at UCLA, formalizing an organization to protect Armenian scholarship, history, language and culture.

“The AFHU Humanitarian Torch of Learning Award, for us, is truly a mechanism to build a bridge between the Armenian community and the Jewish communities,” Eric Esrailian said. “Melina and I are grateful to AFHU and Hebrew University, which educates people from all backgrounds and faiths in one of the world’s most historic cities.”

The Hebrew University offers Armenian cultural studies through its Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies. The program, which began in 1966, encourages students to explore the rich history, culture and language of Armenia, and to foster a deeper understanding of the Armenian experience in both historical and contemporary contexts.

The 220 guests dined on sumptuous cuisine prepared by a four-star list of Los Angeles area celebrity chefs.

BH honors Maple Counseling Center



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

On Tuesday, Sept. 10, Beverly Hills Mayor Lester Friedman recognized the Maple Counseling Center for all their achievements and for providing services regardless of income.

El Rodeo hosts Beverly Hills Reads



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Moderator Julie Goler, left, Human Relations Commissioner Noelle Batista, chair Laura Margo, commissioner Rose Kaiserman, vice chair Vered Nisim and author Georgia Hunter celebrated the event at El Rodeo.

The Beverly Hills Human Relations Commission and Beverly Hills Unified School District teamed up once again for another successful summer reading event, Beverly Hills Reads, at El Rodeo Elementary School. This year’s book was “We Were the Lucky Ones” by Georgia Hunter.

“We Were the Lucky Ones” tells the emotional story of a Polish family – two parents, five children and others – and their experiences during the horrors of the Nazi regime.

Hunter shared insights into the nine years she spent researching and documenting her family’s story and its historical context. “We Were the Lucky Ones” incorporates many significant historical events through the family’s struggles, with beautifully detailed settings and action-packed scenes. It was also adapted into a Hulu series starring Beverly Hills High School alum Logan Lerman.

For information, visit beverlyhills.org/492/human-relations-commission.

Notable Quotes

“Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,
Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore –
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,
As of someone gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door.”

The Raven, 1845

Edgar Allen Poe
1809-1849

*Source: Bartlett’s Familiar Quotations

Beverly Hills council honors first responders



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Park Rangers Patrick Ferris and Joshua Hecker were honored by the Beverly Hills City Council for their help assisting a driver who had a medical emergency, getting them the aid they needed quickly.

WeHo narrowly approves Fountain Avenue grant

■ City will study plans to redesign the streetscape

BY RANCE COLLINS

The West Hollywood City Council narrowly accepted an \$8.2 million grant from the Sustainable Transportation and Equity Program on Sept. 16 that will contribute to a streetscape redesign of Fountain Avenue. STEP grants come from the California Air Resources Board, and are specified for pedestrian, bicycle, roadway safety and transit electric fleet and service improvements.

The 3-2 vote followed an hours-long discussion and public comment period over the grant's language on bike lanes.

“We must do all that we can to invest in transportation and infrastructure around the city,” Mayor John Erickson said. “Our roads and sidewalks are out of compliance and this street, along with so many others, is due for improvements that improve the lives of everyone.”

Last year, the council first approved Fountain Avenue's streetscape plan, and a pilot program was later approved. A permanent bike lane, however, has not come before the council. Councilwoman Lauren Meister had initially brought the language of the grant, which specified its use for bike lanes on Fountain Avenue, to the council's attention. She said she did not believe the city should accept money for something that hasn't been approved.

"I looked back at the meeting from Aug. 21, 2023, and what we voted for was a streetscape project that would include studying Fountain and gathering community input to come up with a design that makes sense," Meister said. "Staff has not done their due diligence on this front. The community feels deceived as do I."

A six-person Fountain Avenue streetscape steering committee has been formed to help guide the project. The committee is tasked with helping formulate plans for the future of Fountain Avenue's appearance. The makeup of that group came under scrutiny during the meeting, with Meister alleging a pro-bike slant of body. An additional three members were approved, along with the grant.

Twenty-three members on both sides of the issue appeared at the meeting. Those against bike lanes on the street pointed out the potential for major traffic congestion if Fountain Avenue is reduced to two car lanes to accommodate protected bike lanes.

"I'm very concerned about the loss of two traffic lanes on Fountain," resident Slade Lin said. "I do all my errands that I can on my bike, and I have to drive my car a lot, too, because a bike can only fit so much and [I] have to go different places that are beyond West Hollywood. Fountain has at night two lanes designated to parking. Where would all of the people in various apartments who don't have parking [go], when we know all of those streets are already filled up?"

Others felt that it was unrealistic to reimagine West Hollywood as a bike-powered city.

"If proper traffic studies were done, and especially during peak traffic hours, you would be hard pressed to find even one cyclist

during this period. Taking away car lanes to accommodate perhaps a rider or two is insane. Creating a bike lane is not going to encourage any more riders, either.”

Vice Mayor Chelsea Byers disagreed.

"This isn't for everyone, for sure, just like driving isn't for everyone. Not everyone is able to," Byers said. "We're all trying to find and create more opportunities for everyone to get around our community safely ... The constraints we have in our built environment, is why Fountain specifically becomes such an incredible opportunity for this broad transforma-

tion.”

Some pointed out how the grant also helps provide for other city improvement projects.

"I want to thank staff for all their work in obtaining this highly competitive grant. They're not easy to get ... These monies will go to support a wide variety of projects, including Vision Zero, which aims to reduce injuries and fatalities in West Hollywood streets, bicycle lanes, electric vehicle transit and other transit projects," West Hollywood Bicycle Coalition member Kevin Burton said. "We would like point out that the delay

See **Fountain** page 25



photo by Rance Collins

Fountain Avenue's streetscape could change significantly under the plans.

METROPOLITAN FASHION WEEK

LOS ANGELES OPENING NIGHT

PRESENTED BY

kendi lux

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THE ORIGINAL FARMERS MARKET
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024, 6:00PM
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[THEMETROPOLITANFASHION.COM](https://www.themetropolitanfashion.com)

@FarmersMarketLA @MetropolitanFashionWeek

Can you feel it? It's finally fall

Fall stirs me like soup.
I like the energy of it, the cable knit, the bloody Mary blush.
One of the best weddings ever was in the fall – my friends Doug and Janet – at a little white country church. The whole scene seemed made of flannel. To this day, I don't know why everyone doesn't get married in October.
"Summer me, winter me ..." goes the great song.
And autumn me, baby. Autumn me all night long.
Our most-popular sport happens in the fall, on sunny afternoons that smell like Toll House cookies.
To think that some cities choose to play football indoors still puzzles me. Sure, you're more comfortable indoors during brutal Decembers. But you miss the fall, you miss the seasonal magic. It's the difference between a long dull marriage and a first wonderful smooch.
Indeed, fall is America's zingy



photo by Chris Erskine
Fall is America's zingy first kiss. Everything tastes better.



by
Chris
Erskine

first kiss. We coronate our kings and queens in autumn, debut new TV shows, elevate the kids another grade. The first day of fall represents the start of things more than January ever did.
January is the month for undertaker conventions and boxing away the holidays. January is the biggest, longest eulogy of all.
But September, October, November? Tailgates and pumpkin pies ... the last sailboat out on the lake, the first stew on the stove.
Food tastes better in the fall. Books seem more profound. As does baseball.
Americans celebrate fall the way the Romans celebrated virgins and virtue, then mocked them to excess.
We gather in cheery groups, around kegs and bonfires. We hold homecomings and reunions, as if they are Renaissance fairs. We sing fight songs till our throats are scratchy.
Pass the cough drops, Smartacus. Pour the scotch, Doc. In L.A., fall glides in a little late, then lasts six months.
You know, I'm still a little too young to know exactly what will

kill me. Based on my lifestyle, I'm guessing a bad oyster. An angry bartender? My own kids?
Spotted a cotton candy burrito the other day. That could kill me. Just looking at it gave me a neck rash.
Then I started imaging a lucrative line of cotton candy products. I mean, they've already bred cotton candy grapes. How far off is cotton candy ice cream? Or cotton candy Chardonnay?
So, yeah, perhaps cotton candy will kill me. Personally, I'd rather go with the marshy oyster. Leave it to me to be killed by a naked and succulent mini-metaphor of myself.
Would White Fang miss me? Hardly, though nobody rubs her belly with the same tenderness and circular devotion. No one sings her Sinatra every Halloween.
Summer me, winter me, and with your kisses morning me, evening me ...
All I ask, dear benevolent God: Please don't take me in fall, before I can finish my love songs.
I enjoy too many autumnal things: Kids. Bittner. Billable Bob. Suzanne. Her mom. The Cubs. The Dodgers. Paris Saint-Germain.
In fall, I love the way cheap American cheese sleds down the side of a tailgate burger ...
I love grilled onions. Deviled eggs. Halloween. Mini-Snickers. Chicken salad. Cranberries. Curve balls. Spit balls. Foul balls. First snows. Candy apples. Gum.
FYI, there are spring people, and there are autumn people. Bill Murray is an autumn person. So is Angie Dickinson. So is Snoopy. So am I.
Everything seems better in the fall. The old love letters you find



photo by Chris Erskine
Best smell of fall? When a candle sings the inside of a pumpkin.

crumpled in the back of a sock drawer on a rainy afternoon. The way my lovely older daughter threads her fingers through her daughter's hair, the color of sunsets.
We can get melancholy in fall, a good thing for the soul. We get extra boisterous, a good thing for the heart and lungs.
I love the roar of a crowd, the pud of a punt ... the click of a cue ball in a cozy bar.
I love the conversations you have at checkout while buying a 12-pack of seasonal beer. In fall, I love the way eggs crack so easy on the rim of that ancient cast-iron pan.
I love the leaves, Octoberfests and apple-dunking contests. I love blueberry pancakes and the pile of gourds and funny-colored corn.
Much of what I love seems to occur in these next few months, when the burning candle leans against the inside of the pumpkin, baking it a little. Or, that first cool night when the furnace finally thuds on again.
See, I dig London. I get France. But, in fall, I really cherish America.
For more columns, please go to ChrisErskineLA.com

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Sunday, September 22 @ 5 pm

Tickets (scan QR code or at the door): \$20, \$10 students and seniors.
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WeHo puts next year's Pride in motion

■ Festival will be held May 30-June 1, 2025

BY RANCE COLLINS

After last year's WeHo Pride, which saw record attendance and a rollicking performance from headliner Kylie Minogue, West Hollywood has announced its next festival, scheduled for May 30-June 1, 2025.

"I'm excited that WeHo Pride will continue to kick off the month-long celebration right here in West Hollywood," Mayor John Erickson said. "WeHo Pride gets better and better every year and I can't wait to see what 2025 brings."

At the Sept. 16 West Hollywood City Council meeting, funding and initial steps were approved for the festival.

"We have co-created an incredible, incredible West Hollywood Pride since I've been in office," Councilwoman Sepi Shyne. "I want to thank former Mayor John D'Amico, who served on the [Pride] subcommittee with me when the then-council had full trust in [us] ... I'm so proud of what we've done, where we've come ... every year it keeps getting better. We've created our own stamp, and it's just going to get better and better."

The OTULLOUD Music Festival, which in 2024 included Janelle Monae and Diplo, will include

major music acts, as well as local artists, each day of Pride.

Among the provisions approved was an extension through 2027 with the production services agreement with JJLA, the events company that has produced WeHo Pride since its inception in 2022. Shyne also proposed, and the council agreed to add, an extended collaboration with the historically lesbian-based nonprofit The L Project.

"To keep everything in sync – I know they're not the same entity, but there's a lot of partnership that goes together," Shyne said. "We are literally the only Pride – the only city in L.A. County that I know of – that dedicates funding for a Women's Freedom Festival, which is unique, forward thinking and remarkable."

Shyne also requested the addition of increased funding for the annual Dyke March, which she said "needs to be improved." Because of organizational negotiations, agreements with the organizations will come back before the council at a November meeting.

"They need more people involved to create more of a production," Shyne said.

Councilman John Heilman suggested that, in the future, the city try to keep the entire Pride weekend within the month of June, which is Pride Month.

Erickson pointed out that the scheduling is due to other cities' Pride celebrations, including Los

Angeles and the global World Pride, which will be held the weekend June 6, 2025, in Washington, D.C. Still, Heilman was impressed with West Hollywood's Pride.

"The Pride festival keeps getting better each year," Heilman said. "I'm excited that we are already planning for next year's event. Pride is a great opportunity to showcase so many of the organizations and businesses that serve the community all year round. We've also been able to attract world class talent to the music festival. I'm looking forward to another success next year."

The council also approved lifting parking restrictions for the weekend, as well as waivers, site plans and review fees for businesses and other organizations involved with the festivities. Ultimately, Pride is budgeted at over \$7 million.



photo by Jon Viscott

Increased funding has been proposed for the annual WeHo Pride festival.

WeHo pushes to get out the vote

The city of West Hollywood observed National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 17 and is continuing efforts to inform people about voting in the upcoming Nov. 5 General Election.

The West Hollywood's City Clerk's office will host a voter information meeting on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. The meeting is free and open to the public. Attendees can register to vote and learn about the upcoming election.

Two West Hollywood City Council seats and one ballot measure will be decided in the upcoming

General Municipal Election on Nov. 5. West Hollywood council members serve four-year terms and are elected at large.

All registered voters will receive a vote-by-mail ballot for the Nov. 5 General Election. The L.A. County elections office will begin mailing ballots by Oct. 7, and ballot drop-off locations open on Oct. 8. Vote-by-mail ballots can be returned by mail, at drop-off locations and Vote Centers, and at L.A. County elections offices. Many vote centers open for early in-person voting beginning on Oct. 26.

For information, visit weho.org/elections and lavote.gov.



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo
Ballot drop-off locations open on Oct. 8 for the upcoming Nov. 5 General Election.



OUTDOOR WARNING SYSTEM Audible Siren TEST Notification

The City of Beverly Hills has completed installation of its Outdoor Warning System (OWS) in furtherance of the City Council's goal of enhancing public safety.

Twelve sirens have been placed strategically around the City to ensure maximum sound coverage for outdoor emergency notifications. The OWS will primarily serve as a wildfire notification tool that may be utilized for any natural or man-made disaster.

AUDIBLE TESTING DATES

(no action required of the community):

Sunday, September 29TH

During the 'Just in Case BH' Emergency Preparedness Event (3:15 PM Tested At Locations 1, 4 and 2)

ROXBURY PARK
471 S Roxbury Dr.
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

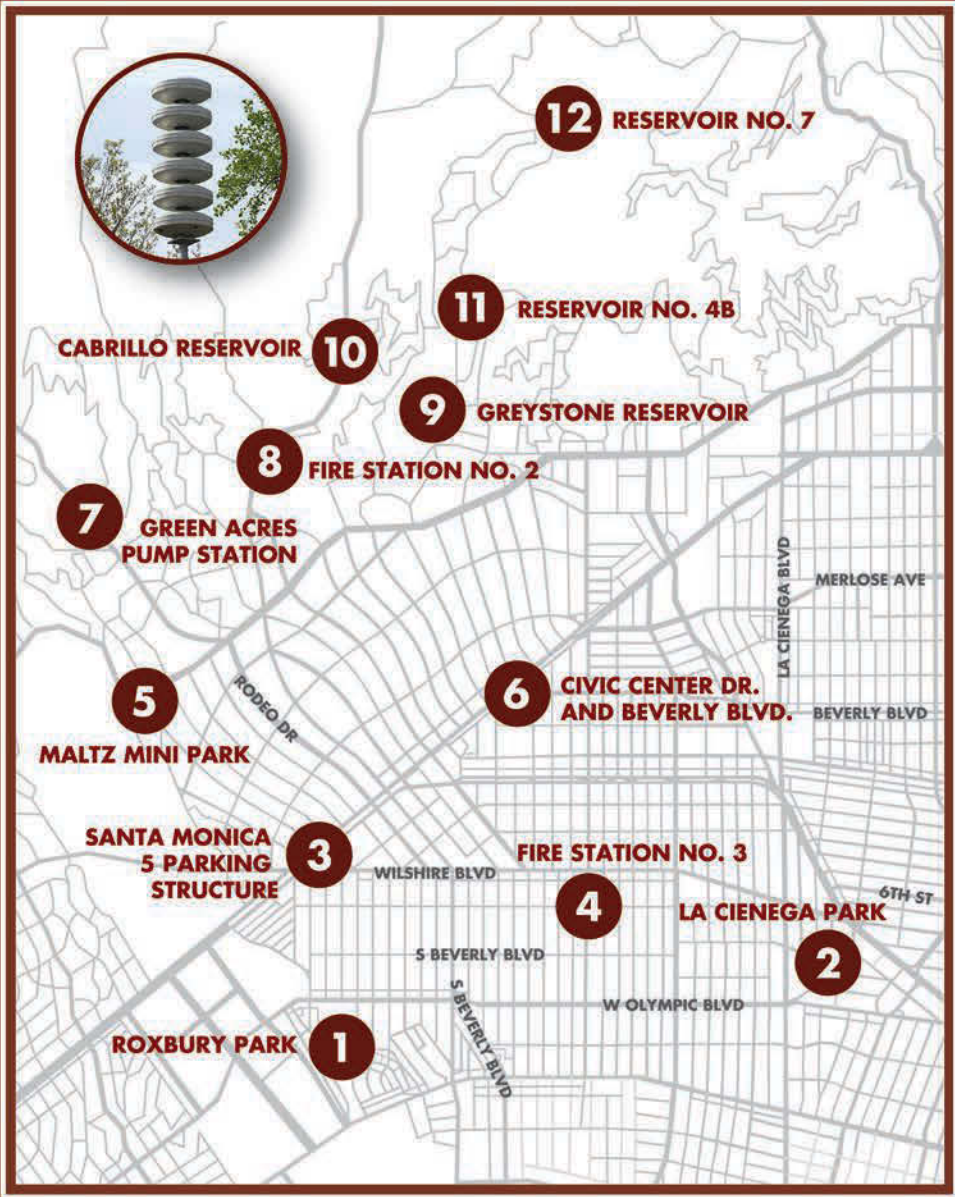
Thursday, October 17TH

All 12 sirens will be tested throughout the City

Testing will take place at approximately 10:30 AM.

AUDIBLE TONES WILL BE HEARD INDICATING IT'S A TEST.

To learn more, visit BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/OUTDOORWARNING or contact the Office of Emergency Management at (310) 285-1021.



Streets and sidewalks restored around D Line subway stations

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is advising about work in Beverly Hills and at many other locations along the D Line tunnel alignment. Lane closures are in place near the subway station sites on Wilshire Boulevard. Motorists are advised to plan accordingly.

At the eastern end of the project, crews are conducting restoration work on streets, curbs and sidewalks. Through November, Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction between Oxford Avenue and Saint Andrews Place.

At Wilshire/La Brea, street restoration is moving ahead, with crews repairing sidewalks and curbs on the north and south sides of Wilshire Boulevard. K-rail work zones are in place and Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction in the area. Eastbound Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to a single lane intermit-

tently through Nov. 18 between La Brea and Mansfield avenues.

Near Wilshire/Fairfax, crews are working in the construction staging yard at Wilshire Boulevard and Ogden Drive and are restoring the streetscape around the station. For approximately six months, a K-rail work zone will be in place on the north side of Wilshire Boulevard between San Diego Way and Orange Grove Avenue. Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in each direction in the area.

Crews are working on underground water lines through October near Wilshire/La Cienega. Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to a single lane in each direction on an intermittent basis between La Cienega and San Vicente boulevards. Work will begin on weeknights at 8 p.m. and continue through the following morning at 7 a.m. La Cienega Boulevard will be reduced to one lane in each direction between Clifton Way and a

location just north of Wilshire Boulevard from 8 p.m. on weeknights through 7 a.m. the following morning.

Street restoration work is also ongoing along Wilshire Boulevard near La Cienega boulevard. A K-rail work zone is in place in the center of Wilshire Boulevard between Tower and Gale drives.

At the Wilshire/Rodeo station, crews have closed Cañon Drive for deck removal and street restoration. Work will also include potholing on Wilshire Boulevard for future piling of appendage structures, which will continue through September. The full closure of South Cañon Drive is anticipated to continue through November. Work hours are 8 a.m.-6 p.m., daily, and 8 p.m.-7 a.m. at night.

Construction work for cross passages is ongoing for the next one to two weeks on Wilshire Boulevard and will include street restoration between Linden and Roxbury drives, and between Roxbury and Bedford drives. The work requires lane closures in both directions from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and 8:15 p.m.-7 a.m. on weekdays; 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday.



photo by Edwin Folven

Street restoration work is ongoing in a K-rail work zone near the subway station at Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue.

Construction is ongoing 24 hours at the Century City/Constellation station, where crews are working on the station interior and roof structures, and the structural concrete is substantially complete. Traffic lane closures are in place on Constellation Boulevard to support station construction and material deliveries. Westbound Constellation Boulevard, west of

Avenue of the Stars, and the northbound curb lane on Avenue of the Stars will be restricted during overnight work from 8 p.m.-5:30 a.m.

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.

Governor signs bill protecting actors against AI



photo courtesy of Gov. Gavin Newsom's office

Gov. Gavin Newsom, center, joined members of SAG-AFTRA to sign two bills on AI into law.

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed two bills on Sept. 17 to help actors and performers protect their digital likenesses in audio and visual productions.

The legislation will help ensure the responsible use of artificial intelligence and other digital media technologies in entertainment by giving workers more protection, Newsom said. Assembly Bill 2602, by Assemblyman Ash Kalra (D-San Jose), requires contracts to specify the use of AI-generated digital replicas of a performer's voice or likeness, and the performer must be professionally represented in negotiating the contract. It aims to help protect performers' and actors' careers by ensuring that AI is not used to replicate their voice or likeness without permission.

"I am grateful that Gov. Newsom has signed AB 2602, a bill that will safeguard a performer's right to their digital self and protect artists' livelihoods. While this bill was informed by negotiations during the historic strike by SAG-AFTRA, AB 2602 shows how California can strike the right balance between AI innovation and protecting workers in the digital age," Kalra said.

Assembly Bill 1836, authored by Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda), prohibits commercial use of digital replicas of deceased performers in films, TV shows, video games, audiobooks and sound recordings without first obtaining the consent of the performers' estates. It aims to curb unauthorized uses of digital replicas, encompassing any audiovisual work or sound recordings linked to performances delivered by artists when they were

alive. "California has always had the best protections for artists in order to safeguard their work and likeness, but artificial intelligence requires us to continue to update the law to ensure that we are fully protecting our amazing performers," Bauer-Kahan said. "It is now possible to create new performances of artists even after their death. Individuals and their estates deserve protections that extend beyond their life to ensure they control their own likeness and profit from it." "It is a momentous day for SAG-AFTRA members and everyone else because the AI protections we fought so hard for last year are now expanded upon by California law thanks to the legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom," SAG-AFTRA President Fran Drescher said. "They say as California goes, so goes the nation."

Letters to the Editor

WeHo's Hart Park should use cleaner ground cover

Re "WeHo dog park could get chipped with turf," Sept. 12 issue

There are no artificial turf products that do not contain PFAs. Not one. Zero. We obtained the independent analysis supplied by the company whose product is under consideration, and shared it with scientists who pointed out that it was utterly deceptive and self-serving. They only tested for things they knew they wouldn't find, they failed to test for things they knew they would find and used absurd thresholds to make it appear as if their products are safe.

The entire scientific community is unanimously in agreement. There is no safe artificial turf. The wood chip surface that is currently at the park has caused no problems for 25 years, and is absolutely navigable by someone in a wheelchair.

By the way, the excellent and exhaustive study on the subject was done by the Santa Clara County Medical Association and can easily be found online. The

users of the park are virtually unanimous in our desire not to have artificial turf at our park. Between that fact and the mountain of irrefutable scientific evidence we've provided, we are utterly baffled as to why this is still under consideration.

Bob Claster
West Hollywood

Thank you for your article about Hart Park. We frequently brought our dogs to the park over many years.

Due to the color of the chips (bark) many people do not see what their dogs have left behind and many of the dogs and people step on this. Proper attention and cleanup are lacking.

We reluctantly relocated to the West Hollywood Park at San Vicente. I'm not familiar with the composition of their manufactured grass but the big difference is the maintenance schedule. West Hollywood Park devotes considerably more attention to cleaning whereas Hart Park is filthy by comparison.

I guess we have to be glad that these parks exist.

Jeffrey Hersh
Los Angeles

West Hollywood has had a very long history of hiring high paid consultants to "listen to the community" only to skew the results to what they had in mind all along. In this case, the community outreach was interrupted by COVID and it never reconvened. Many of us were at the initial outreach and the overwhelming support was to keep wood chips. One idea the city unveiled at the time was to have some wood chips and some turf.

Nearly 100 people recently signed a petition to keep the wood chips. Although Bob Claster has taken the lead in opposing this turf, he has the support of many of us daily park patrons. The city has admitted in an open forum that it's less expensive to maintain wood chips than turf.

Many people who go to the WeHo turf parks complain that it gets very hot, which is incredibly harmful to dogs sensitive paws, is

very smelly, the parks are grossly small for the local dog population, the turf has caused abrasion injuries, the water trickles out of the fresh water fountain and if a dog has a loose stool, patrons simply cover it with a bag and rock until city staff can deal with the smelly mess.

If someone likes turf better, they already have an option to go to West Hollywood Park and soon to the Plummer Park dog park, yet another grossly small size for the number of local dogs who need a place to run and socialize.

The city of L.A. actually owns Hart Park and leases it to West Hollywood. L.A. is considering a citywide ban of this turf product due to its harmful properties and many cities around the globe have already done so.

I'm glad to hear there's talk amongst those involved to consider legal action, either before this project starts or after it's completed. Why is West Hollywood constantly wasting taxpayer monies for projects residents don't want?

Shawn Flannigan
West Hollywood

Leaders underestimate size of homelessness problem

Re "Council calls for report following Supreme Court Grants Pass decision," Sept. 5 issue

L.A. County has around 73,000 unhoused people. The current cost to construct an affordable housing unit is approximately \$600,000, according to an industry source. That means the cost of housing L.A. County's unhoused people is in the neighborhood of \$44 billion.

I applaud all efforts to house homeless people, but I have not heard any public official at the local or state level grapple with the enormity of this number, which means that instead of a real strategy, their approach is essentially, "Well, at least we're doing SOMETHING."

David Ewing
Venice

RESTAURANT NEWS

Novikov serves late in Beverly Hills

Novikov has been packed since opening in June, with the lunchtime scene bringing back the much-missed “power lunch” culture that Beverly Hills was once known for. It’s become the go-to spot for business leaders, celebrities and food enthusiasts alike, making Novikov the new place to see and be seen. The restaurant plans to be open until 1 a.m. Thursday-Saturday, with the kitchen serving until 12:30 a.m.

Under the culinary leadership of Chef Luca Maita, Novikov offers a menu rich in bright, vibrant Italian-inspired flavors. Guests can savor fresh seafood, salads, house-made pasta, grilled meats and simple yet uncompromising vegetable dishes. A few of the dishes include bluefin tuna tartare, gnocchi with pistachio pesto and buffalo mozzarella, black tagliolini with crab meat and courgette, and more. At \$35, Novikov’s pre-fixe lunch menu offers three

generous courses – appetizer, main dish and dessert. Various dishes on the menu require an extra charge, but with the exquisite quality of ingredients and freshly made pasta daily, it is worth a little splurge.

For information, visit novikovbeverly.com or call (310)300-0090. Novikov is located at 257 N. Canon Drive.

Spooky libations bring spirit to ‘haunted’ soirée

Creative team Meyer2Meyer Entertainment, in collaboration with the leading entertainment discovery platform Fever, is bringing back House of Spirits: A Haunted Cocktail Soirée this fall. Taking place at the Nocturne Theatre in Glendale, guests will be able to enter the enchanting world of Casa Vega, indulging in a curated selection of cocktails, each meticulously crafted to reflect the essence of the

characters and settings at the spooky mansion. Beyond the libations, guests will encounter live music, captivating dance performances, burlesque shows, tarot readings and mystical encounters.

The story of Casa Vega will draw guests into the dark and tragic tale of Francisco and Molly Vega. Their descent into madness and occult rituals is inspired by the life and art of Spanish painter Francisco Goya.

Pre-sale tickets are available by visiting feverup.com/m/193254. Events begin Oct. 4 and continue every weekend through Nov. 2. The Nocturne Theatre is located at 324 N. Orange. St., Glendale.

La Brea Bakery now at Target

Nancy Silverton’s beloved La Brea Bakery is officially rolling out its artisan “Take & Bake” breads in TARGET stores nationwide. The “Take & Bake” collection features three of La Brea Bakery’s beloved baked goods all filled with the irresistible flavor, signature aroma and high-quality ingredients the brand is known for,



photo courtesy of Madame Tussauds Hollywood
From Madame Tussauds a new restaurant is coming to Ovation Hollywood.

Hollywood restaurant opening at Ovation

Madame Tussauds Hollywood will celebrate the grand opening of its brand-new Hollywood-themed rooftop bar and restaurant – a first of its kind offering for the global brand. Guests can anticipate a film roll-cutting ceremony followed by a delicious sit-down dinner and craft cocktails among the attraction’s famed wax stars. The event, which will include general manager Tom

Middleton and head chef Shirlie Belloso, will be held Sept. 24 at 6 p.m. The restaurany opens to the public on Sept. 25. For information, visit madametussauds.com/hollywood/the-hollywood-rooftop or call (323)422-1806. The Hollywood Rooftop Restaurant & Bar by Madame Tussauds is located inside Ovation Hollywood at 6933 Hollywood Blvd.

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Sunset Blvd. completes ‘Puzzle’

Puzzle, a dining and nightlife destination from the team behind Amour, quietly opened its doors on Sunset Boulevard. Nestled in a jewel box space, on an inconspicuous corner, Puzzle’s opulence is revealed the moment guests walk through the door. 111 Hospitality created the space to serve as an avant-garde yet luxurious French restaurant; once dinner service ends, the space transforms into a nightlife destination with incredible international DJs performing.

At Puzzle, guests enjoy Chef Kevin Dray’s French cuisine, drink high-end spirits, gather in one of the

club’s five intimate alcove booths and dance the night away with house DJ Zuza and guest appearances. With only 15 tables, plus a bar, Puzzle was created as an intimate gathering space. Puzzle is located at 8947 Sunset Blvd. For information, visit puzzle.love or call (213)657-9552.

Crustacean celebrates Wine Wednesday

For Angelenos who love Wine Wednesday, Crustacean Beverly Hills just launched their Uncharted Wine Journey, a new promotional menu curated by 28-year expert sommelier Peter Meemalayath, aka “Peter Pan.” Each week he will be dancing through the dining room offering complimentary tastings of lesser-known wines, giving vino enthusiasts have the opportunity to learn interesting facts and discover new varieties to add to their favorites collection. Guests can explore his hand-picked selections of “Spanish

See page 16



photo courtesy of Mr. T

The new café and bakery is the new “place of life” in Hollywood.

Mr. T opens café in Hollywood

Mr. T, renowned for its fusion of global flavors with classic French techniques, has opened in Hollywood. Spearheaded by esteemed Michelin Star restaurateur Guillaume Guedj, the café and bakery promise to be the new “lieu de vie” – or “place of life” – in Los Angeles. Representing their core values, Mr. T is all about passion, generosity and respect, nourrir (“to feed”), experience and culture.

Guedj has brought in acclaimed French pastry chef, François Daubinet, who has already cemented his place as one of the most acclaimed pastry chefs of his generation. His journey began with

eight years of training with the Compagnons du Devoir, leading to stints at prestigious establishments such as the Michelin Star Hôtel de Crillon and Three Michelin Star, Plaza Athénée in Paris. He gained recognition as the head pastry chef at Two Michelin Star Le Taillevent and later as the creative force behind Fauchon’s international sweet creations. Now, Chef Daubinet brings his innovative approach and artistic flair to Mr. T Café, bringing his skills from his Michelin Star restaurants to create a casual café concept.

The restaurant has been redesigned as a versatile and

dynamic space for the café and bakery, offering a breakfast and lunch concept from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., seamlessly transitioning to a dinner service, and guests can enjoy a dedicated happy hour from 4-6 p.m. True to its “place of life” ethos, the café will feature games and live artist performances throughout the day, making it an ideal spot for work, meetings or simply relaxing.

Mr. T Café will serve an array of house-made pastries such as the classic croissant as well as some unique pastries. The menu will also include various breakfast and lunch items like the Mr. Croq (sourdough, turkey, béchamel, comté and mimolette foam), salmon tartine, Alisa’s Fave Breakfast Burrito (chicken sausage, hash browns, soft scrambled egg, spinach, salsa) and the Mr. T Burger. The café will also have coffee brewed from Mr. T’s special unique blend of coffee beans, along with creating signature iced lattes in a sealed cup.

For information, visit mrtrestaurants.com or call (310)953-4934. Mr. T is located at 953 N. Sycamore Ave.

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‘No Prior Art’ opens at Central Library

The Los Angeles Public Library and the Library Foundation of Los Angeles will open “No Prior Art: Illustrations of Invention” at the Central Library’s Getty Gallery as part of PST ART: Art & Science Collide. The exhibition is inspired by the library’s patent and intellectual property resources, and delves into the unexpected stories and perspectives of more than a dozen artists and inventors at the intersection of art, science and social impact.

“Los Angeles Public Library’s newest exhibit No Prior Art exemplifies how libraries are centers of inspiration and invention,” city librarian John F. Szabo said. “We support Angelenos in achieving their own creative goals, offering

robust in-person and online resources and also providing do-it-yourself makerspaces where residents can bring their ideas to life.”

No Prior Art features 150 sculptures, photographs, drawings and inventions that celebrate the imaginative spirit of creators throughout American history and showcase the library as a place for creation and invention.

“We are thrilled to participate in PST ART: Art & Science Collide with No Prior Art, a dynamic initiative that celebrates the universal impulse for creation, shining a spotlight on unique stories of interdisciplinary ingenuity and lesser-known inventors,” said Stacy Lieberman, president and CEO of the LFLA.

“This landmark exhibition and exciting range of public programs at libraries across the city will help more Angelenos connect with the free access to information, cutting-edge technology and endless inspiration that the Los Angeles Public Library provides.”

“The library has always been a major supporter of the arts, be it theater, dance, music, literature or the visual arts.”

*Valerie Lynne Shaw,
president of the Board
of Library Commissioners*

A special commission for No Prior Art, “The Utopia Machine” by Ellen Harvey, invites the public to be a part of the exhibition by responding to the question: what would make our world into a utopia? Selected suggestions inspired fictional patent drawings created by Harvey that combine to form a larger artwork. Harvey will continue to add additional ideas to the exhibition.

“The library has always been a major supporter of the arts, be it theater, dance, music, literature or the visual arts,” said Valerie Lynne Shaw, president of the Board of Library Commissioners. “The new exhibit, ‘No Prior Art: Illustrations of Inventions,’ joins a longstanding tradition of the Los Angeles Public Library hosting an array of exhibitions to make art accessible to Angelenos.”

No Prior Art will be on view through May 11, 2025, in the Getty and Annenberg galleries on the second floor of LAPL’s Central Library, located at 630 W. 5th St. The exhibition is free and open to the public during Central Library’s standard operating hours.

For information, visit lapl.org.



photo courtesy of Ellen Harvey

Ellen Harvey’s work “The Utopia Machine” invites the public to be a part of the art piece by adding their own suggestions.

From page 15

Treasures Under \$100” and “Californian Hidden Gems,” chosen for their exceptional value, unique character and ability to pair perfectly with chef Helene An’s legendary fusion dishes. Crustacean is located at 468 N. Bedford Drive. For information, visit crustaceanbh.com or call (310)205-8990.

It's Negroni Week at 1 Hotel

1 Hotel West Hollywood is celebrating Negroni Week through Sept. 22 with a special take on the classic cocktail that is not only delicious but also supports an incredible cause. The Rose Blanc is a refreshing white Negroni made with Junipero Gin, Suze Liqueur, Lillet Blanc and a vibrant grapefruit garnish. This unique cocktail blends herbal essences, hints of vanilla and awakening spices, offering a fresh twist on the traditional Negroni. The cocktail will be available all week in Juniper Lounge and Garden, with a portion of the proceeds supporting the NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council), giving guests the chance to enjoy exquisite flavors while making a positive impact. 1 Hotel is located at 8490 Sunset Blvd. For information, visit 1hotels.com/west-hollywood/taste.

Starbird shines up Cali Gold menu

Starbird has launched its mouth-watering Cali Gold BBQ menu,

bringing bold flavors and crispy perfection to the fall food lineup. Whether gearing up for game day or just craving something seriously delicious, these limited-time offerings are sure to be a hit. The brand new, limited-time offer is officially available system-wide until December. Menu items include the Cali Gold Bacon BBQ Sandwich, the Cali Gold BBQ Salad, Cali Gold Wings, peach iced tea and berry bliss lemonade. “Game Day” packages are priced at \$64.97 and \$104.97 for the small and large sizes, respectively. For information, visit starbirdchicken.com. Starbird Chicken is located at 7150 Beverly Blvd.

Mid-Autumn Festival held at Merois

Wolfgang Puck’s Mid-Autumn Festival is back on Sept. 20 at Merois, the rooftop of Pendry West Hollywood. The festival features Wolfgang Puck restaurants Meoris, Spago, Chinois and CUT that will be popping up and serving dishes. In addition, Nancy Silverton’s Chi Spacca, Osteria Mozza, Pizzeria Mozza will be there as well as Baadmash, Pizzeria Sei, The Lonely Oyster and Mr. T.

Activating the whole rooftop, each restaurant will have their own stations, serving dishes that highlight their own menu, as well as dragon dancers and a DJ all night.

For information and tickets, visit sevenrooms.com/experiences/meroiswesthollywood/mid--autumn-festival-5655305722232832. Tickets are \$125 for general admission and \$175 for VIP. For information, call (310)928-9000. Merois is located at 84030 Sunset Blvd.

Other Art Fair is back in L.A.

Presented by Saatchi Art, the Other Art Fair returns to Los Angeles in celebration of its 100th global fair edition, bringing together over 140 emerging and independent artists, plus interactive installations and unforgettable experiences for art enthusiasts and collectors alike. Taking place from Sept. 26-29 at the iconic Barker Hangar in Santa Monica, this edition will be the start of the Other Art Fair’s celebrations for their milestone achievement of presenting 100 Global Editions.

“We are so excited about reaching the milestone of 100 Editions of The Other Art Fair,” Global Fair director Nicole Garton, said. “We have had 14 editions in Los Angeles and we’re excited about continuing to provide a platform for emerging artists in L.A. and host our international artists as they sell into this market. We’ve had some exciting collaborations emerge over the years including artists finding gallery representation, artists getting spotted for creative opportunities including creating album covers for award-winning bands and finding notable collectors including royalty. The Other

Art Fair has been frequented by seasoned collectors and celebrities alike as the place to go to buy artwork directly from artists themselves.”

In celebration of the Other Art Fair’s 100th edition, the Los Angeles fair will be the first to celebrate this milestone by featuring a shoppable exhibition, featuring works by exhibiting artists priced for \$100 and under. All proceeds will benefit “HUMNKIND COLLECTIVE,” an organization committed to overcoming the loneliness epidemic in Los Angeles by fostering authentic human connection through social clubs and events that bring people back to a shared humanity – like nature, the arts and mindfulness. As an inspiring, inclusive and fun event that reframes how art can be perceived and creates lasting connections between artists and art lovers, the Other Art Fair is proud to help continue this mission beyond the scope of the fair.

The Other Art Fair Los Angeles will be held at Barker Hangar, located at 3021 Airport Ave., Santa Monica. Tickets are available for purchase online at theotherartfair.com/la/tickets.



photo courtesy of The Other Art Fair

Pet portraits will be available at the Sept. 26-29 Other Art Fair.

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Tel Aviv comes to life at Carmel

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Carmel, one of the newest eateries on Melrose Avenue, is not just any Mediterranean restaurant. From the moment one steps inside, it's clear that Carmel is abuzz with excitement. The restaurant's mission is to recreate the atmosphere and flavors of the Shuk HaCarmel, an open-air market in the heart of Tel Aviv, and it has succeeded.

I sat at the chef's station, a countertop at the corner of the lively dining room that looks directly into the open kitchen. "Dinner and a show," the maître d' said. And what a show it was. The chefs and line cooks seemed to relish in their work. Rolling, kneading, chopping and frying all while shouting fraternally to each other and the guests – at one

point they stopped to toast and take a shot with the couples dining at the chef's station. Needless to say, Carmel was alive. And it was only Wednesday night.

Like any good party, the evening started with drinks. The “limonarak” cocktail blends arak—an anise-flavored Levantine liquor akin to pastis or absinthe—with lemon, demerara sugar and mint. The result is a boozy lemonade with much more depth and a licorice-tinged zing. Still light and refreshing, it’s a perfect way to kick off a night at Carmel, and pairs excellently with the first appetizer I tried, the Peruvian sea scallops.

The menu boasts many raw seafood plates – Kumamoto oysters, bluefin tuna tartare and kam-pachi crudo. Uncooked, in my opin-

ion, is the best way to enjoy seafood, and the scallops are a perfect example of why. Their full, delicately sweet flavor is preserved on the half shell with a vibrant tomato seed vinaigrette and thin slices of spicy green chiles.

The next plate was a mushroom cigar. Specifically, “my grandma’s mushroom cigar.” Not my grandma, but chef Asaf Maoz’s. Originally from Israel, Maoz has Syrian and Italian heritage. He clearly pulls inspiration from many places, but notably the home cooking of his grandparents.

A long brown stogie – the kind Tony Soprano might puff – is instead made of crispy dough and filled with finely minced mushrooms, pine nuts and Baharat – a spice blend common in North Africa and the Middle East. Served with a side of chuma paste – an aromatic garlic and red chili sauce that’s also a Libyan Jewish tradition – the plate is an irresistibly earthy and complex snack. And vegan.

Another drink came my way, this time a Carmel margarita. I know what you're thinking: a margarita? How is that Mediterranean? But the combination of the herbal genepy, habanero tincture and ras el hanout – another North African spice mix – makes this a uniquely Carmel cocktail, hence the name.

An important note: nearly everything at Carmel is slightly spicy. Nothing crazy, but noticeable nonetheless. If you're a spice fanatic like me, then you'll surely love it. But for those whose palates align with the very bottom of the Scoville scale, you may want to ask your server to cut back on the heat on some of the dishes.



All Saints' Beverly Hills launches new season of music with classical concert

All Saints' Beverly Hills will host the first concert of its 2024-25 season on Sunday, Sept. 22, at 5 p.m., featuring a chamber music performance that promises to delight music enthusiasts. The program showcases a diverse range of classical works, brought to life by an ensemble of talented musicians on saxophone, harp, flute, bassoon and clarinet.

The concert features a selection of compositions that span multiple centuries and styles. The ensemble will open with "Entr'acte" by Jacques Ibert, arranged for soprano saxophone and harp, followed by a rendition of Claude Debussy's "La fille aux cheveux de lin ("The Girl with the Flaxen Hair")" from

Preludes, Book 1, which will also be performed with soprano saxophone and harp. The program will also feature Debussy's "Premiere Arabesque," offering listeners a chance to experience the familiar works in a fresh way.

The evening continues with Antonio Vivaldi's "Chamber Concerto in G Minor," showcasing a delightful combination of flute, oboe (soprano saxophone) and bassoon. Nino Rota's "Sonata for Flute and Harp," composed in 1937, will follow. Also on the program is "Suite for Flute, Bassoon, and Harp" by All Saints' Beverly Hills' Music Director Dr. Craig Phillips. The evening will conclude with "Blackberry Winter" by Alec

Wilder, arranged for flute, tenor saxophone, bassoon and harp.

The wide-ranging program includes compositions by some of the most celebrated names in classical music, from the ethereal works of Debussy to the innovative compositions of Phillips. The arrangements blend classical and contemporary elements in a way that will resonate with audiences.

"We're excited to begin the concert season with such a dynamic program," Phillips said. "The repertoire chosen showcases both timeless classical works and contemporary pieces played by some of L.A.'s leading concert artists."

The performance will take place at All Saints' Episcopal Church,



photo courtesy of All Saints' Beverly Hills

All Saints' Beverly Hills presents a dynamic evening of chamber music to start its new season.

504 N. Camden Drive, in Beverly Hills. All are welcome at the evening of music in an elegant,

serene setting. Tickets will be available at the door. For information, visit allsaintsbh.org.

Enjoy The Great Outdoors at Greystone

The city of Beverly Hills Community Services Department invites readers to The Great Outdoors at Greystone on Saturday, Sept. 21, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at Greystone Mansion and Gardens, located at 905 Loma Vista Drive. Guests will have an opportunity to interact with the natural beauty of Greystone's green space through various experiences planned for the day.

Greystone was dedicated as a city of Beverly Hills park just over 50 years ago in September of 1971. September also marks the month the Doheny family moved into their home in 1928. Since the city acquired the estate, it has been a great place just minutes away from the busyness of the city where people arrive to rest and relax while taking in the natural splendor of the 18 acres of green space.

In celebration of the treasured gem of Greystone and its 53rd anniversary as a public park, The Great Outdoors at Greystone Celebration of Nature will honor healthy living – physically, mentally, soulfully and creatively – with an array of activities for everyone.

Planned activities include: have a personal poem written. Visit the courtyard between 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and request a personalized, custom poem; Wander among the cypress trees, transformed into Poetry Lane, and read winning submissions; Bring a seedling home. Visit the demonstration garden and learn about the classes and volunteer opportunities year-round; Use nature to make art. Visit the willow pond between noon-3 p.m. to make a cyanotype; Show your love of nature and get your face painted from noon-4 p.m.; Take a deep breath by the reflection pond and listen to guitar music on the terrace between 3-4 p.m.; Bring a notebook and sketch the visions of nature, write a poem, or make a list of plants for your garden; Complete the scavenger hunt, bring the answers to the welcome

table in the parking lot, and receive a prize. The seedling and art project are offered while supplies last.

Visitors are encouraged to bring their nature journal and walking shoes and enjoy the tranquil retreat

of the grounds of Greystone. The event is free and no advanced registration is required.

For information and updates to activities, view beverlyhills.org/greystone.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Attendees can enjoy music at the reflection pond during the event at Greystone Mansion on Sept. 21.

'Le Mural' screens at Renberg Theatre

The city of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs has partnered with Outfest and the Los Angeles LGBT Center to create Queer Sports & Joyous Expression. The event premieres the screening on Sept. 26 of Barbara Bingley-Verseman and Josh Beavers' documentary film "Le Mural," followed by panel discussions celebrating the many colors of queer identity, sports and cultural expression. This evening is made possible with the additional assistance of Community Partners, LA28 and the LA County Department of Arts & Culture.

The film documents Bingley-Verseman's twin sister and L.A. designer KATBING and Parisian graffiti artist Kekli as they design and paint an original monumental mural that overlooks the transit plaza in the Quartier Porte de Clignancourt in a suburban neigh-

borhood of Paris, France. The mural celebrates sports and symbolizes shared enthusiasm between the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the forthcoming Los Angeles 2028 Games. After the screening, there will be a Q&A session with the film crew to hear about their experience. Additionally, there will be a conversation with queer athletes and sports sponsors to discuss the influence of representation by those who have paved the way for today's diverse Olympians and professional athletes.

The celebration takes place at the L.A. LGBT Center's Renberg Theater. Light beverages and hors d'oeuvre will be offered during the reception at 6 p.m. Tickets are required. Reserve at eventbrite.com/e/queer-sports-joyous-expression-tickets-1008710439077.



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Temple Beth El and Congregation Beth Israel host joint High Holy Days services

The High Holy Days, beginning with Rosh Hashanah on Oct. 2 and culminating with Yom Kippur on Oct. 12, has always been a period of personal and collective introspection. Members of the Jewish community start with spiritual meditations on thoughts of what they have done during the past year and conclude with a triumphant blast of the Shofar.

Hollywood Temple Beth El and Congregation Beth Israel invite members of the Jewish community to join them during the High Holy Days as a mark of fellowship and as testimony to hope and faith in a better tomorrow. Rabbi Norbert Weinberg and members of Hollywood Temple Beth El will join cantor Steven Walfish, rabbinical scholar Michael Jacoby and the members of Congregation Beth Israel for the special joint services. The egalitarian services will include a blend of the unique liturgy and centuries old cantillation, with contemporary readings and teachings for the period of internal examination and communal cohesion.

It is a unique opportunity as both

congregations are “firsts” in Los Angeles, marking over a century of continuous service to the community. Temple Beth Israel is the oldest still existing Orthodox synagogue in Los Angeles, and Temple Beth El is the oldest still existing synagogue in Hollywood, founded to serve Jews who had come to the area with the film industry.

The services will be held at 8338 Beverly Blvd., second floor, at Temple Beth Israel’s temporary location between Kings Road and Flores Street Parking is available on streets around the temple; the city of Los Angeles waives restrictions on the High Holy Days.

The services include Rosh Hashanah Eve on Oct. 2 at 6:15 p.m.; Rosh Hashanah, first day on Oct. 3 at 9:30 a.m.; and Rosh Hashanah, second day on Oct. 4 at 9:30 a.m. A Yom Kippur Eve Kol Nidrei service will be held on Oct. 11 at 6:15 p.m., and a Yom Kippur Shabbat service will be held on Oct. 12 at 9:30 a.m. followed by Yizkor at 11:30 a.m. and Neilah at 6 p.m.

Admission to services is based on

pre-registration for security and safety. A \$100 donation is requested to help meet costs. To register through Temple Beth El, visit eventbrite.com/e/rosh-hashanah-and-yom-kippur-tickets-1001620282227 or mail information and payment to Hollywood Temple Beth El, 1317 N. Crescent Heights Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046. To register through Congregation Beth Israel, call (323)651-4022 and leave a name and phone number, or mail to 8338 Beverly Blvd, Second Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90048.



photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Observe Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur with Temple Beth El and Congregation Beth Israel.

Join Cantor Estherleon Schwartz for High Holy Days observances

Cantor Estherleon Schwartz is holding High Holy Days observances for Rosh Hashanah on Wednesday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m., and Thursday, Oct. 3, at 10 a.m., followed by services for Yom Kippur on Friday, Oct. 11, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 12, at 10 a.m. at the Matrix Theatre on Melrose Avenue.

Schwartz welcomes people to come together and join the observances, which are filled with peace and hope. She encourages people to bring a prayer, poem or story to share during the services.

“I invite them to light a candle for compassion, for brotherhood and togetherness,” she added. “It’s all about coming together and bringing a prayer to share for memories and healing. My hope is that they search their hearts and really listen to what’s important to them.”

The Matrix Theatre is located at

7657 Melrose Ave. For information, email estherleon@estherleon.com, or visit estherleon.com.



photo courtesy of Cantor Estherleon Schwartz

Cantor Estherleon Schwartz will lead annual High Holy Days services at the Matrix Theatre.

BHUSD celebrates National Merit semifinalists



photo courtesy of BHUSD

Five Beverly Hills High School students were announced as National Merit semifinalists.

The Beverly Hills Unified School District recently announced this year’s students who have earned National Merit semifinalist standing. The students are among the less than 1% of the nation’s top high school seniors who qualify as semifinalists. Semifinalists receive standing based on their performance on the PSAT and will have the opportunity to advance in the

competition for Merit Scholarship awards. Join BHUSD in celebrating and congratulating Benjamin Bakshian, Tali Goldkorn, Vincent Li, Andrew Smiler and Sarah Zhang as National Merit Semifinalists. They were honored by the Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Michael Bregy on Sept. 10.

For information, visit bhUSD.org.

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Enjoy the ‘Little Women’ ballet experience at Heritage Square

Little Women Ballet returns with a site-specific immersive ballet experience from Sept. 27-29 at Heritage Square Museum, where audience members will go inside Louisa May Alcott’s beloved story “Little Women.”

Each of the five immersive experiences are entirely unique and feature a different season, music, desserts and refreshments, and different parts of the “Little Women” story told through dance. Join Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy inside the Victorian houses of Los Angeles’ Heritage Square as they tell their story of sisterhood, love, loss and family. Meet all the characters up close, go on an immersive walking tour of the Heritage Square Museum, enjoy autumn-themed desserts and refreshments and join the cast in Victorian dancing at the end of each performance.

When attendees arrive, each receives a bag with items to be used throughout the experience, including a colored ribbon which lets guests know the route they will follow. Complementary autumn beverages and desserts are provided, and the finale invites guests to join in Victorian Folk dancing. Guests are also invited to a meet and greet including complementary photos with the cast following each performance.

Pioneering more ballets about women and their stories, Little Women Ballet pairs heartwarming life lessons with progressive ideas about women’s roles in 19th century America. Be part of the story as Little Women Ballet dancers perform in the historic mansions and beautiful private grounds of the iconic landmark. Heritage Square is a living history open-air architecture museum with eight historic

structures located beside the Arroyo Seco Parkway.

A combination of 20 dedicated and professional ballet dancers ranging in age from 10-75, donned in 19th century handmade costumes, make up the cast. Several of the musical compositions used for the production are composed by Daniel Robbins, combined with classic Victorian pieces. Robbins is a noteworthy music educator, composer, orchestrator and classic film music reconstructionist.

The events are the second installment of Little Women Ballet’s immersive trilogy. The third and final site-specific experience will take place from Nov. 22-24 at the Heritage Square Museum with a new seasonal theme and new parts of the novel. On Dec. 7 at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre, Little Women Ballet will present a full-length original ballet based on the novel. A delightful tale of family, friends, finding yourself and growing up, “Little Women” will warm the hearts of audiences of all ages.

The autumn Little Women Ballet



photo courtesy of Little Woman Ballet

Audience members are part of the experience with Little Women Ballet.

immersive experience takes place with five performances on Friday, Sept. 27, at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 28, at 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Sept. 29, at 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$60. Heritage Square Museum is located at 3800 Homer St. For information and tickets, call (626)792-0873, or visit littlewomenballet.com.

Fountain Theatre builds community with ‘the beat’

The Fountain Theatre joins forces with Design for Sharing, CAP UCLA’s K-12 arts education program, to showcase the culminating performance of “Walking the Beat,” the Fountain’s transformative community-building program that sees cops and teens working together to create theater. One public performance of “In the Crossfire,” a new multimedia work created by 15 teens and eight police officers, will take place on Sunday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. at the UCLA Nimoy Theater. Admission is free, but reservations are required (subject to availability). A free student matinee will follow on Monday, Sept. 23, allowing 250 students from across Los Angeles County to experience the finished work and talk with the cast and creators.

Written by Fountain Theatre arts education manager Nathan James, “In the Crossfire” was devised by students and police officers based on their own writings, conversations and improvisations about the effects of gun violence on them, personally, and within their communities.

Students this year represent five local high schools, including Hollywood High School, Valley Oaks Center for Enriched Studies, Orthopaedic Hospital Medical Magnet High School, Ramón C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts and Hawthorne High School.

Now in its fifth year at the Fountain, “Walking the Beat” provides a life-changing experience for underserved youth. Founded by the Elizabeth Youth Theater Ensemble and led by executive and artistic director Theo Perkins, participants in the hands-on program are guided by facilitator and director Angela Kariotis and teaching artists ReSheda Terry and Alex Ubokedom.

The UCLA Nimoy Theater is located at 1262 Westwood Blvd. Parking is \$3 (flat rate) after 5 p.m. in the structure located at 10866 Wilshire Blvd. For information, call (323) 663-1525 or go to fountaintheatre.com.



photo by Jay-Ar Ignacio/Fountain Theatre

“Walking the Beat” is a new work devised by students and police officers.



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The Shofar Calls For You

Join with Hollywood Temple Beth El and Congregation Beth Israel



Rabbi Norbert Weinberg



Cantor Steven Walfish & Choir



Michael Jacoby

Joint Services at:

8338 Beverly Blvd, 2nd floor, between Kings and Flores, Los Angeles, CA 90048

Advance registration required. Limited Seating! \$100 donation suggested payable to either congregation

Mail with name, contact, and donation to:

Hollywood Temple Beth El, 1317 N Crescent Heights Blvd, West Hollywood, CA 90046

Congregation Beth Israel, 8338 Beverly Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90048

Or online <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rosh-hashanah-and-yom-kippur-tickets-1001620282227>

For more information: HTBE 323-656-3150 or CBI 323-651-4022

High Holy Day Services

All Are Welcome

Rosh Hashanah: Wednesday, October 2, 7 pm
Thursday, October 3, 10 am

Yom Kippur: Friday, October 11, 7 pm &
Saturday, October 12, 10 am

Come light a candle
of memories and
healing together.



Matrix Theatre

7657 Melrose Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90046

estherleon.com  estherleon@estherleon.com

POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Sept. 8 and Sept. 14. 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

Sept. 8

At 11:10 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near Civic Center and Burton.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of Maple at 10:23 p.m.

Sept. 9

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9000 block of Wilshire at 8:03 a.m. Another petty theft was reported in the same area at 10:23 a.m.

At 1:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9900 block of Durant at 8:45 p.m.

Sept. 10

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of S. Elm at 8:35 p.m.

At 11:49 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 600 block of N. Alta.

Sept. 11

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 3400 block of S. Cañon at 11:55 a.m.

At 2:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9100 block of Charleville.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9700 block of Wilshire at 2:31 p.m.

Sept. 12

At 5:02 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 100 block of N. La Cienega.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of S. Doheny at 8 a.m.

At 10:56 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 9000 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of N. Bedford at 7:30 p.m.

At 8:48 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 300 block of N. Cañon.

Sept. 13

An unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 600 block of N. Whittier at 12:46 a.m.

At 3:44 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 100 block of N. Robertson.

An unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 400 block of S. El Camino at 6:46 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9100 block of Wilshire.

At 9:05 p.m., an unknown suspect

committed a residential burglary in the 700 block of N. Trenton.

Sept. 14

At 1:34 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 300 block of N. Rodeo.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9800 block of Santa Monica at 3:25 p.m.

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

Sept. 8

At 10:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 900 block of N. Fairfax.

Sept. 9

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 8900 block of Keith at 1 a.m.

At 7:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle near Santa Monica and La Peer.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1000 block of N. Formosa at 7:45 p.m.

Sept. 10

At 1:10 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1000 block of Formosa.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7300 block of Santa Monica at 1:35 p.m.

At 11:35 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1000 block of Sierra Bonita.

A robbery was reported in the 600 block of Alta at 11:49 p.m.

At 11:50 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near Beverly and Clark.

Sept. 11

At 10:58 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

Sept. 12

At 4:20 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

Sept. 13

At 2:10 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8200 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 800 block of N. Larrabee at 11 p.m.

Sept. 14

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of Robertson at 1 a.m.

At 2:30 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near Santa Monica and Hildale.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8400 block of Santa Monica at 10:10 p.m.

Los Angeles Police Department

Sept. 8

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 1700 block of N. Vine.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1700 block of N. McCadden at 3 a.m.

At 10:15 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5600 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 1700 block of N. Hudson at 12:10 p.m.

At 12:20 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1300 block of N. Martel.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1600 block of N. Ivar at 12:30 p.m.

At 12:35 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6100 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of S. La Brea at 12:42 p.m.

At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 400 block of Hauser.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 5500 block of Sunset at 2:40 p.m.

At 3:05 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1600 block of N. Vine.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of The Grove at 4:21 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 1500 block of S. Holt.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5200 block of Wilshire at 9:05 p.m.

Sept. 9

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 6700 block of Colgate at 11:15 a.m.

At 2:01 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near La Cienega and Beverly.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 300 block of S. La Brea at 3:15 p.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 300 block of N. Stanley.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 6600 block of Franklin at 10 p.m.

At 10:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 8300 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle near Clinton and Lucerne at 11:15 p.m.

Sept. 10

At 12:01 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 5600 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 700 block of N. Wilton at 3:30 a.m.

At 4 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 500 block of N. Highland.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near La Brea and Melrose at 6:30 a.m.

At 10:27 a.m., an unknown sus-

pect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Las Palmas.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6100 block of Sunset at 1 p.m.

At 1:38 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5200 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Beverly at 5:31 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Vine.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 700 block of S. Sycamore at 8 p.m.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 500 block of N. Poinsettia.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 1500 block of N. Vista at 9:30 p.m.

At 10:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 6200 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 500 block of S. Gramercy at 10:30 p.m.

Sept. 11

At 1:30 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 1800 block of S. La Cienega.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near Romaine and Hobart at 2:15 a.m.

At 12:50 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5200 block of Wilshire at 3:05 p.m.

At 3:40 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 500 block of N. Sycamore.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 100 block of The Grove at 7:34 p.m.

At 9:20 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 6100 block of Franklin.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of N. Edinburgh at 11:59 p.m.

Sept. 12

At 3 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1800 block of Wilcox.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near Bronson and Carlos at 1 p.m.

At 2:36 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5200 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1600 block of N. Cherokee at 5:40 p.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 5600 block of Lexington.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Eighth and La Brea at 7:32 p.m.

At 8:30 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8400 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 1600 block of Cherokee at 11:15 p.m.

Sept. 13

At 3:20 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1600 block of N. Stanley.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1600 block of N. El Centro at 6:30 a.m.

At 8:30 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 300 block of N. Detroit. A second vehicle was stolen from the same area at approximately 6:30 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5200 block of Wilshire at 9:54 a.m.

At 1 p.m., an unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 7000 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 5800 block of Sunset at 4 p.m.

At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect pickpocketed a victim in the 1600 block of N. Formosa.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Orange and Hawthorn at 6 p.m.

At 6:40 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. Sycamore.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6200 block of Hollywood at 11 p.m.

Establishing a Family Trust

Thinking about what happens to your assets once you’re gone is never fun but spending just a few hours preparing for the inevitable could save your family months of confusion, arguments, court costs, attorney’s fees, and grief.

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Call us for a courtesy consultation to learn more about the benefits of creating a trust and determine whether it’s the right choice for you and your family.

THE KRAMER LAW GROUP

Stephen W. Kramer

5757 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 535

Los Angeles, CA 90036

(323)964-7100

Getty returns ancient art piece to Turkey

The J. Paul Getty Museum and the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism announced on Sept. 17 the return of an ancient bronze funerary couch dating to 530 B.C.E.

The object was acquired in 1982 from a Swiss dealer who provided false provenance indicating the piece had been in European collections since the 1920s. Research conducted by the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the J. Paul Getty Museum determined the claim was false and that the artifact was illicitly excavated in the early 1980s from an ancient tomb in the region of modern-day Manisa. Fragments of linen adhering to the object match others remaining in the tomb that were subsequently recovered by Turkish archaeologists along with fragments of wood and bronze sheet, and the remains of marble and ceramic vessels, that helped date the tomb.

“With this return, we are pleased to bring to a conclusion a long-running investigation of the couch’s origins by Turkish and American scholars,” said Timothy Potts, Maria Hummer-Tuttle and Robert Tuttle Director of the Getty Museum. “Their research helped recover the archaeological and historical context for this exceptional object, while Getty conservators analyzed its materials and manufacturing technique.”

“I believe that each return of cultural property illegally removed from its lawful place sends a strong message to traffickers,” Turkish Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism Gökhan Yazgı said. “The bronze couch is a rare archaeological artifact that was unlawfully taken from its home. Thanks to the renewed dialogue between Türkiye and the Getty Museum, it will now

be preserved where it belongs. Better protection of cultural heritage can only be achieved through mutual understanding, and by rectifying past actions.”

The couch, or “kliné” – a day bed used for banqueting – is a rare surviving example of ancient luxury furniture otherwise known largely from depictions in other media, such as frescoed walls and painted pottery. With legs and rails of cast bronze over an iron framework, and perforated copper sheets riveted together and wrapped around iron rail cores, the metal couch replicates more common wooden couches with turned legs, projecting tenons at the corners and a latticed surface to support cushions. Decorative details such as incised lotus friezes and rosettes suggest Lydian or East Greek manufacture.

“We seek to continue building a

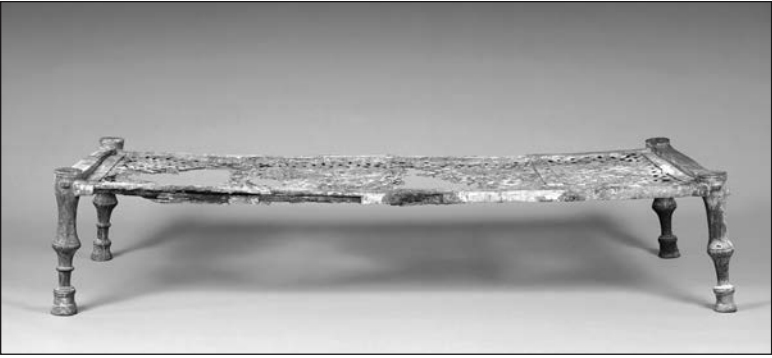


photo courtesy of The Getty

A funerary couch circa 530 B.C.E. was returned by the Getty through a collaboration with the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

constructive relationship with the Turkish Ministry of Culture and with our archaeological, conservation, curatorial and other colleagues working in Türkiye, with whom we share the common mission to advance the preservation of ancient cultural heritage,” Potts said.

“Türkiye and the Getty Museum may hold differing positions on the matter of return and restitution.

However, the announcement can be seen as a sign of closer cooperation in the future toward the shared goal of combating the illicit trafficking of antiquities. I believe both sides are now much closer to understanding each other’s perspectives,” Yazgı added.

The Getty is located at 1200 Getty Centre Drive. For information, visit getty.edu.



photo by Colin Arndt

Tim Robbins (center) wrote and directed “Topsy Turvy.”

‘Topsy Turvy’ returns to Culver City theater

The Actors’ Gang audience favorite “Topsy Turvy (A Musical Greek Vaudeville),” written and directed by artistic director Tim Robbins, returns for a limited engagement Sept. 26-Nov. 16. The production returns to Los Angeles after performances at the Sibiu International Theatre Festival in June, and the Malta Theater Festival in Poland and The Csokonai National Theater in Hungary in early September.

Set in a humorous and comedic hybrid world of classical Greek theater and a raucous vaudeville show, in Topsy Turvy the unity of a Greek

chorus is shattered by a mysterious illness. The chorus desperately invoke the gods, seeking divine intervention to help mend their divisiveness and restore their ability to sing together.

There are visits from a Vegas inspired Bacchus and Cupid, the Aztec goddess Coatlique, the biblical character Onan, and Dionysus and Aphrodite. Mixed in with the gods are magicians, hypnotists, an acrobatic monkey and the master of ceremonies, the Great Distracto. Music plays a key role in “Topsy Turvy” with six original songs written by Robbins, brought to life by a

small orchestra of musicians and the choral harmonies of fifteen actors.

The result, “Topsy Turvy,” addresses topics making the headlines every day and is among the earliest stage works in response to the distress of the last four years. Everyone, gods and mortals alike, gets to have their say before the evening is over.

Tickets are available at theactors-gang.com and by phone at (310)838-4264. Pay-what-you-can performances are on Thursday evenings, tickets are available at the door. The Actors’ Gang is located at 9070 Venice Blvd., Culver City.



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The City of Beverly Hills is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and has prepared a Draft Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for the proposed 450 North Roxbury Project (herein referred to as “Project”).

Project Description: The Project would redevelop a 6,797 square foot portion of the ground floor of a five-floor, partially subterranean parking garage (the upper two levels are above ground) with rooftop parking located at 450 North Roxbury Drive to retail space. The parking garage and office building together are considered the Project Site; however, the remainder of the parking garage and the attached office building would not be redeveloped as part of this Project. The Project would also remove 29 existing parking spaces, add 300 square feet of planter area, and restripe the remaining ground level of parking to replace the 3 removed Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) parking spaces. Project construction is anticipated to occur over one phase, lasting approximately 14 months, beginning as early as January 2025 and ending as early as February 2026. The Project includes a requested a Zone Text Amendment (ZTA) and General Plan Amendment (GPA) to allow for properties within the Business Triangle an increase in the maximum floor area ratio (FAR) as a result of the conversion of the ground level of an existing parking structure abutting a public street to retail business(es), as defined in Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC) Section 10-3-100, up to a depth of 70 feet from the front property line, subject to approval of a Development Plan Review pursuant to BHMC Section 10-3-3100.

Project Location: The Project Site is located on a 0.8-acre parcel (Assessor’s Parcel Number 4343-024-020), and the ZTA/GPA covers the Business Triangle, which is defined in BHMC Section 10-3-2703 as the area bounded by the centerline of Wilshire Boulevard, the centerline of Santa Monica Boulevard (south roadway), and the centerline of the alley between Canon Drive and Crescent Drive.

Hazardous Waste Disclosure: The Project Site is not included on any lists enumerated under Government Code Section 65962.5, which includes but is not limited to lists of hazardous waste facilities, properties, and disposal sites.

Findings/Environmental Effects: The City, as the Lead Agency has prepared an Initial Study (IS) for the 450 North Roxbury Project to provide the public, trustee and responsible agencies with information about the potential effects on the local and regional environment associated with the proposed Project. The analysis provided in the IS determined that there are no potentially significant impacts, and no mitigation measures would be required. The IS concludes that the Project will not have a significant effect on the environment. The City hereby proposes to adopt a Negative Declaration (ND) for this Project.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:

The Draft IS/ND will be available for public review beginning on September 11, 2024 and the comment period will be from September 11, 2024 to October 3, 2024. The document will be available at the following locations:

City of Beverly Hills City Hall
Planning Division and Office of the City Clerk
455 North Rexford Drive,
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Beverly Hills Public Library
444 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

It will also be available on the City’s website at <https://www.beverlyhills.org/environmental>. If a digital copy cannot be obtained by an interested party, please contact the staff listed in this notice and alternate arrangements will be made.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE AND COMMENT:

Written comments on the Draft IS/ND must be submitted during the comment period, and should be addressed to:

Minjee Hahm, AICP, Associate Planner
City of Beverly Hills Community Development Department
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, California 90210
Email: mham@beverlyhills.org

Minjee Hahm,
AICP, Associate Planner



‘Rebel Ridge’ is the surprise of fall

If you’ve never heard of civil asset forfeiture, it’s a topic that might make your blood boil. A rant from John Oliver’s “Last Week Tonight” summarizes its dubious role in law enforcement when applied beyond its original intent to jam up organized crime. Not interested in an informative video? Luckily Netflix’s top flick “Rebel Ridge” offers us the CliffsNotes chased with choice fight sequences along the way.

Terry Richmond (Aaron Pierre) just exists, riding a bike with earbuds that prevent him from hearing police sirens. That’s enough to warrant an aggressive response from Officer Evan Marston (David Denman), who immediately accuses him of running and eventually confiscates money meant for his cousin’s bail. This is just the opening scene, so effective at evoking anxiety and then anger. Terry might feel something too, but he holds it in.

He desperately tries to reacquire at least some of the money to get his kin out of jail, but Chief Sandy Burnne (Don Johnson) won’t budge. There’s more to this story, as court assistant Summer (AnnaSophia Robb) says, and Terry will spend the rest of the film figur-

ing out the whole story. Until then, the police appear unbothered by a vet who commutes by bike and camps in the nearby woods. They don’t know what kind of threat he poses.

What comes next isn’t what you might think. A few select action set pieces transpire, but “Rebel Ridge” is more of a conspiracy thriller, not a shoot-em-up movie. It cares more about ripping topics from the headlines: racial profiling, corruption in sheriff’s departments and small-town obsolescence. It certainly serves up a degree of catharsis, but neither vengeance nor rage infects the story.

Certainly, some viewers will expect the next “John Wick,” but it shares more in common with “First Blood.” Not the hardbody Rambo actioners that would follow but the first installment portraying a Vietnam vet rushed out of town. The point isn’t grand fight sequences but the blatant disrespect – the ungratefulness even – someone in power can show to another.

This is hardly a criticism, but the plot twists along the way don’t necessarily need to occur. A more direct focus on civil forfeiture would’ve worked, no need to tack on layers of police corruption. That

ON SCREEN WITH TIM POSADA

practice alone deserves more coverage. Regardless, writer-director Jeremy Saulnier concocts a pulsating experience. If Saulnier is an unfamiliar name, please go watch “Green Room,” a horror-action flick from A24. “Rebel Ridge” is tame by comparison but no less intense.

Most shocking, this one remains strong despite a complicated journey from pitch to screen. Production faced two delays, first COVID-related in 2020, and then original lead John Boyega exited in 2021 during filming. Filming finally happened the following year.

“Rebel Ridge” shows no signs of aging, no signs of setbacks five years in the making. It’s polished, concise and well-crafted. This isn’t throwaway Netflix content. It’s one of the few high-quality entries that



photo courtesy of Netflix

Aaron Pierre shines as Terry Richmond in “Rebel Ridge.”

seem to occur by accident.

Congratulate Saulnier for keeping the ship from sinking and Pierre for an incredible performance. All respect to Boyega, but it’s difficult to imagine anyone else in this role. Pierre sports a modest body of work, including roles in Syfy’s “Krypton,” “The Underground Railroad” and 2022’s “Brother,” which earned him a win at the Canadian Screen Awards.

He’s about to explode, and rightly so. Whatever he does next will

certainly be worth checking out. And if he reunites with Saulnier, perhaps for a sequel (no news to report there), then fireworks will follow.

“Rebel Ridge” packs a lot into two hours: mystery, thrills, political commentary and stellar performances. It’s a light R film, but one whose content makes it feel heavier. It sure knows how to evoke a host of responses, from apprehension and fury to sadness and satisfaction.



photo courtesy of Netflix

Netflix’s “Rebel Ridge” has mystery, thrills, political commentary and stellar performances by Don Johnson, left, and Aaron Pierre.

‘Hocus’ Pocus’ flies into El Capitan

Tickets are on sale now to see Disney’s “Hocus Pocus” Sept. 27-Oct. 3 at the El Capitan Theatre, including an opening night fan event screening Friday, Sept. 27 at 7 p.m.

Guests attending a “Hocus Pocus” screening are invited for a spellbinding movie going experience complete with a movie prop display and Sanderson Sister themed photo op.

The Hocus Pocus fan event screening will include a special introduction by composer John Debney and screenwriter David Kirschner. Tickets are \$40 and include popcorn, fountain beverage and event credential. A special “Witches Night Out” ticket offer is available for \$68 and includes

two tickets and two Ghirardelli Put a Spell on You Ice Cream Sundaes, which features mint chocolate chip ice cream, rich hot fudge, fluffy whipped cream, witch waffle cone hat and purple sprinkles. Advanced reservations are required by calling 1(800)DISNEY-6. Limited tickets are available.

Daily showtimes for “Hocus Pocus” are 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. A 9:55 p.m. screening is available on Friday and Saturday.

Tickets are on sale now at elcapitantickets.com and fandango.com/el-capitan-theatre-aacon/theaterpage. All seats are reserved. Tickets are \$20 for all ages. The El Capitan Theatre is located at 6838 Hollywood Blvd.



photo courtesy of Disney

“Hocus Pocus” will ring in the Halloween season later this month.



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PST Art opens at NHM

The Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County present two groundbreaking exhibitions for PST Art: Art & Science Collide. Both “Reframing Dioramas: The Art of Preserving Wilderness” at the Natural History Museum in Exposition Park and “Mark Dion: Excavations” at La Brea Tar Pits opened to the public on Sept. 15 and will be on view for a year.

“Mark Dion: Excavations” is an immersive, uncanny installation of a behind-the-scenes museum space. Displaying new work alongside early museum murals, dioramas and maquettes of Ice Age mammals, the playfully irreverent presentation is in keeping with Dion’s well-known meticulous yet mischievous approach.

The exhibition is centered around a 10-foot-long glow-in-the-dark sculpture of a pack rat “fossil” that stands atop a mix of natural and cultural detritus from the Tar Pits and the Hancock Park neighborhood. Six new drawings by Dion of mammal skeletons commonly found in the Tar Pits – artworks labeled with the names of locally important scientists, artists, historical figures and landmarks – further blend artifice and reality, revealing Dion’s critical and satirical approach to museum didactics.

“Reframing Dioramas: The Art of Preserving Wilderness” explores the history of dioramas and deconstructs the art and science that makes them so compelling. Set in a newly refurbished diorama hall that

had been closed for decades, the exhibition features three habitat installations made by contemporary artists.

NHM’s historic diorama halls showcase more than 75 incredibly detailed habitats from Arctic tundra to tropical rainforest. Sixteen installations in the reopening hall feature animals and habitats from Africa, Asia, Australia and South America — now fully restored and updated. Standouts in the hall include forgotten masterpieces of diorama art like the snow leopard and tiger habitat groups.

The exhibitions are among more than 70 exhibitions and programs presented as part of PST Art. Returning in September 2024 with its latest edition, PST Art: Art & Science Collide, this landmark regional event explores the intersections of art and science, both past and present. PST Art is pre-



photo courtesy of NHMLAC

“Reframing Dioramas” deconstructs the art and science that makes preserving wildlife so compelling.

sented by Getty. For information, visit pst.art.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is located at 900 Exposition Blvd. The La Brea Tar Pits and Museum are located at 5801 Wilshire Blvd.

Rappel Andaz for cancer victims

Andaz West Hollywood, a rock ‘n’ roll icon since 1963, has a storied history on the Sunset Strip — from Keith Richards tossing a TV out the window to Axl Rose grilling steaks and setting off fire alarms.

Guests now have a chance to make their own mark at the legendary venue. In collaboration with Cancer Support Community Los Angeles, Andaz West Hollywood invites participants to go “over the edge” and rappel down its iconic 14-story building on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

The fundraiser provides a unique chance to experience the adrenaline rush of rappelling and allows participants to honor loved ones affect-

ed by cancer. For those not rappelling, there are many ways to get involved including volunteering. Guests can enjoy a variety of food and activities throughout the day at the fun and engaging event.

Participants can secure a spot by pledging to raise \$1,000 or more for the cause. Cancer Support Community Los Angeles offers free mental, emotional and social support programs to people impacted by cancer, including support groups, counseling and educational programs. Founded in 1982, CSCLA’s mission is to ensure that no one faces cancer alone.

For information and to register, visit cancersupportla.org.



photo courtesy of Cancer Support Community Los Angeles

The fundraiser offers the unique opportunity to rappel down the exterior of the 14-story Andaz West Hollywood.

Artists, productions highlight UCLA 2024-25 season

UCLA’s Center for the Art of Performance will present its inaugural season under the leadership of executive and artistic director Edgar Miramontes. Featuring over

80 visionary artists representing over 10 countries, CAP UCLA’s 2024-25 season unites the global and local, reflecting our common humanity and embracing cultural

inclusivity. The 2024-25 season exemplifies CAP UCLA’s commitment to the global community to which everyone belongs, emphasizing themes of unity, equality, and connection across genres like poetry, dance, theater, multimedia and music, including classical, electronic and mambo.

With over 30 projects across the UCLA Nimoy Theater, Royce Hall, The United Theater on Broadway, Glorja Kaufman Dance Theater, Freud Playhouse and UCLA’s Little Theater, the season offers a diverse range of creative expressions. CAP UCLA’s commitment to cultural equity extends beyond the stage, with affordable ticket options to ensure accessibility for all audiences. This season encourages recognition of commonalities through the arts, encouraging broader engagement, understanding, and appreciation for both our own and different cultural traditions.

“Throughout my experience as an undocumented individual, from my time as a UCLA student to my career as a dance-theater artist, the study of geography — the social, cultural and political — became a study of the imaginary for me, the study of places I could not visit,” said Miramontes.



photo by Wannes Cré

Dancer Rianto, a master of central Javanese lenger dance, will perform on June 7, 2025.

VINTAGE
PARKLABREA NEWS

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The Musso and Frank Grill ran an ad in the Sept. 24, 1964, issue of the Park Labrea News during its 45th anniversary celebration. The restaurant touted its fine dining and the expertise of Chef Jean Rue. Musso and Frank still operates at 6667 Hollywood Blvd. and is currently celebrating its 105th anniversary. From Sept. 24-26, Musso’s will offer complimentary chocolate and orange mousse cake desserts stamped with the venue’s 105th anniversary logo on top. The restaurant originally opened on Sept. 27, 1919. For information and reservations, call (323)467-7788, or visit mussoandfrank.com.

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ECLECTICALS STORY TIME 11:00-11:30 am

 SYDNEY RANÉE 12:30-2:15pm	 BRIAN FALDUTO 2:30-3:15pm	 ABIGAIL FIERCE 3:30-4:15pm
 MICHAEL PAIK 12:30-2:15pm	 ETHAN SHERMAN & PAUL SMITH 2:30-4:15pm	

Commission approves TV City project

From page 1

which creates a special site where specific uses – such as studio production – are allowed, as well as the project itself.

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, 5th District, worked with Hackman Capital Partners during the past year to reduce the size of the project by 150,000 square feet. On Sept. 11, she called for an additional reduction of 50,000 square feet as well as greater setbacks and lower building heights along Fairfax Avenue as a condition of her support. Combined, the 200,000-square-foot reduction amounts to a decrease of 10% from the initial project plan. At the meeting on Sept. 12, Hackman Capital Partners agreed to meet the councilwoman’s requirements.

“We are grateful to the Planning Commission for their vote of approval, which will help to improve the Beverly/Fairfax neighborhood while keeping and creating thousands of good entertainment industry and ancillary jobs in Los Angeles,” Hackman Capital Partners founder and CEO Michael Hackman said. “We are especially grateful to Councilmember Yaroslavsky for her direction and support, helping to guide refinements to the project in response to feedback raised by residents and stakeholders.”

Yaroslavsky said the agreement on reductions will create a project more beneficial to everyone.

“I’m grateful to everyone who provided feedback throughout this process, and worked with my team and I to ensure the compatibility of the project with the neighborhood,” Yaroslavsky said. “Together, I am confident that we’ve achieved a solution that benefits both the long-term viability of the entertainment industry in Los Angeles and our community.”

The approval marked a milestone for Television City, which opened in 1952. The Television City project is supported by numerous organizations and individuals such as the Mid City West Neighborhood Council, Fairfax Business Association, Melrose Business Improvement District, Park La Brea Residents Association, Los Angeles Conservancy and Jewish Family Services. Hackman Capital Partners and the project’s supporters believe it will be a catalyst for economic growth in the city’s film and television production industry, and will create thousands of jobs. Hackman Capital Partners is also committed to providing more than \$4 million for improvements in the surrounding community.

“We are incredibly grateful for the support that the community and the industry showed for the TVC project, the overwhelming number of individuals who attended both in person and on Zoom – I think it was a greater than a two-to-one margin speaking in support of the project. I think it’s a reflection of years of

authentic engagement and outreach to the community, to listening to folks’ concerns and to the meaningful changes that [were] represented in our in our modified studio project,” said Zach Sokoloff, senior vice president of Hackman Capital Partners.

Opponents believe the project is too large and will adversely affect the surrounding neighborhood with more density and traffic. They contended the project description is too vague and does not limit Hackman Capital Partners to using the site as a production studio. Opponents include Caruso and The Grove, the A.F. Gilmore Company and Original Farmers Market, the Broadcast Center Apartments, the Beverly Fairfax Community Alliance, Save Beverly Fairfax, Miracle Mile Residential Association, Beverly Wilshire Homes Association and Neighbors for Responsible TVC Development.

The Planning Commission denied nine appeals of the environmental impact report’s certification filed by the opponents before approving the specific plan and the project itself. Opponents denounced the commission’s decision and said the reductions called for by Yaroslavsky are not enough.

“Our council member and the commission gave their blessing to a speculative development that drew well over 400 comment letters, that raised very serious questions about



photo by Edwin Folven

The Television City 2050 plan will next be heard by the City Council’s PLUM Committee and later the full City Council.

the process and the application, and they brushed aside nine well-grounded appeals that were brought by stakeholders ranging from the Caruso and Gilmore companies to Save Beverly Fairfax and the Miracle Mile Residents Association. I would have to say it was not a good day for the city,” Neighbors for Responsible TVC Development co-chair Shelley Wagers said. “We will continue to articulate community issues throughout the hearing process.”

“Disappointing is an understatement,” added Neighbors for Responsible TVC Development co-chair Danielle Peters. “In addition to disappointing, it was also quite shocking, because what it came down to in the end was very

antithetical to what Katy’s representations to us were all along. We knew that she was going to make a statement, but the contents of the letter were quite a surprise.”

Dates for the Los Angeles City Council review are still pending. The Planning Department is in the process of creating a report that will be turned into a council file submitted for consideration by the council’s Planning and Land Use Management Committee. Once submitted, the motion will be placed on the agenda by the city clerk. The agendaizing process usually takes at least six weeks, Yaroslavsky’s spokesman Leo Daube said. The public will have further opportunity to weigh-in at the City Council hearings.

Fountain Avenue redesign remains under review

From page 9

that has occurred since the passage of the 2017 bicycle and pedestrian mobility plan in installing bicycle lanes has partly been blamed on a lack of funding. There are eight different bicycle lanes on eight different streets proposed, about five miles worth, and in the past seven years only one-half of one block has been installed, so this funding will partly overcome that roadblock. Once we have a continuous, connected network of protective bike lanes throughout the city, many more bicyclists than you see now will be on our streets.”

“Change is hard, but change is constant and necessary,” resident Brianna Kaufman said. “While car deaths rival gun deaths in number nationally, we do nothing to bring the danger of our roads into the national conversation. [The redesign] will make our roads slower, safer and encourage different kinds of transit ... Cities like Seattle are making these changes and have demonstrated that bike lanes do not cause delays.”

“The Fountain Avenue bike lane plan continues to be incomplete and ill conceived,” Councilman John Heilman said. “The proponents have not identified where existing vehicular traffic is going to go, nor have they explained what happens to the bike lanes when Fountain ends at La Cienega. Will they next try to reduce La Cienega to one lane in each direction? In addition, the proponents haven’t offered any realistic plan for residents who are dependent on Fountain for street parking. It appears that the support-

ers of this plan will ignore the needs of these residents in the same way they are ignoring the parking needs of the residents on Gardner. Even some cyclists recognize that the current proposal is half-baked. If we are going to put in bike lanes, we should make sure we address the legitimate concerns of our residents and businesses.”

It will take years to finalize and implement the Fountain Avenue plans.

“In totality, we are probably a couple years away from presenting a final plan,” West Hollywood long range planning manager Francisco Contreras said. “That includes a lot of engagement with the steering committee and review of the concept plans with the community for feedback.”

“Some of the critical steps for the year ahead will be to take those concept plans back out, get as much community input as we can before bringing a recommendation to this body from staff about whether to move forward with the project or whether to move forward with perhaps a modified project,” West Hollywood director of community development Nicholas Maricich said.

The grant, however, is a step toward something, perhaps dramatically, new.

“I’m thankful to everyone that came out to express their opinion and there is still plenty of time to ensure that community is directly involved with this project, and more to come, that make our city more walkable and safer for all,” Erickson said.

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Auto dealer faces mounting legal troubles

From page 1

According to TMZ, Whittington owed the MGM Grand Casino \$13,525, which he paid shortly after his arrest, resulting in a case dismissal. Beverly Press has not been able to independently verify the report.

The recent arrest represents the tip of the iceberg for Whittington’s legal troubles. According to the city of Beverly Hills’ Code Enforcement Manager Leslie Medina, the city prosecutor is currently taking action against Whittington’s business, Wires Only, which operated as a showroom and dealership at 9030 Wilshire Blvd. since 2022 without proper licenses or permits. The dealership boasted exotic and luxury cars with price tags reaching up to \$2.3 million, and was the subject of the Jamie Foxx-produced reality television show, “Million Dollar Wheels.”

The dealership in Beverly Hills came before the Planning Commission in heated meetings earlier this year, in which Wires Only – represented by former planning commissioner Hamid Gabbay – sought a conditional use permit to operate as a showroom, although it was already doing so. Following a cease and desist letter, many code violations and unfulfilled promises from Whittington, the commission voted to deny the permit request in June. Whittington initially appealed the commission’s decision, but failed to pay the appeal fee, result-

ing in a ratification of the city’s denial.

Medina did not share further details regarding the city prosecutor’s current action against Wires Only, citing the active status of the code enforcement case.

“In general, cases at the city prosecutor level are the result of escalated enforcement efforts after conventional methods to gain voluntary compliance, such as notices of violations or administrative citations, have not been effective,” Medina said. “Depending on the nature of the violation(s), we can file criminal or civil charges against the responsible parties. Sometimes the use of our attorney can work to encourage involved parties to comply before we initiate legal action.”

Over the past two years, while Whittington was operating Wires Only out of the Wilshire Boulevard location in Beverly Hills, at least a dozen lawsuits were filed against Whittington, Wires Only and his company, Whittington Motor Sports, Inc.

In July, Irvine resident Lin Zhang filed a lawsuit against Whittington for breach of contract, civil theft, fraud and deceit, negligent misrepresentation and violation of vehicle code. Zhang alleged that in January, he bought a 2020 Rolls-Royce Cullinan from Wires Only for \$321,315 and paid in full. Wires Only agreed to transfer the vehicle’s title and registration to Zhang, but never did, even after Wires

Only charged Zhang for the transfer. According to the lawsuit, Wires Only also falsely claimed that the car came with a manufacturer warranty.

Zhang’s attorney, Michael Klitzke, questioned whether the Rolls-Royce was ever under Whittington’s legal ownership, stating it appeared Whittington “never actually owned the car.”

“Mr. Zhang purchased this vehicle from RD Whittington and Wires Only, paid in full, and then we found out it appears neither RD Whittington or Wires Only had the right to sell the car, and they have not registered or transferred title like they were supposed to,” Klitzke said in an interview with the Beverly Press. “It also appears they didn’t actually pay taxes and license fees and registration fees at the DMV like they were supposed to.”

Klitzke confirmed that Zhang picked up the Cullinan from the location in Beverly Hills, although he did not confirm the location where the actual sale took place. Wires Only also operated out of a secondary location at 2134 S. Sepulveda Blvd. in West L.A., in a showroom currently listed for sale.

Klitzke is representing another plaintiff who has filed a similar lawsuit against Whittington, and said additional people have reached out to him with nearly identical claims.

Whittington also faces a lawsuit



photo by Tabor Brewster
Two cars remain in the Wires Only showroom, with signs posted on them that read, “Not For Sale.”

from former Lakers point guard Spencer Dinwiddie, who alleged that the dealership reneged on a promise to help sell Dinwiddie’s Ford Mustang after he purchased a \$1.05 million Ferrari from Wires Only.

In August, Whittington was ordered to pay over \$11 million across three separate lawsuits filed by a single plaintiff. The ruling was based on a sister-state judgement out of Arizona.

Despite many city code violations, lawsuits from customers and a near-total lack of any permits or licenses – including no conditional use permit, no business tax license and no DMV license for Beverly Hills – Wires Only continued to operate as a vehicle showroom and

dealership in Beverly Hills from at least September 2022 until earlier this summer. The dealership submitted a conditional use permit application to the city in December 2022, although the city did not hold its first Planning Commission hearing on the application until 15 months later, in March 2024.

For the past few months, the luxury cars have been removed from inside the showroom on Wilshire Boulevard. On Sept. 18, two cars and two motorcycles were still visible within the showroom, with the cars displaying signs that read “This vehicle is not for sale. See the dealer for resale date. This sticker must remain in place until a federal used car buyers guide is affixed to this vehicle.”

Dog park plan receives more consideration

From page 1

ed at 8341 De Longpre Ave., just south of Sunset Boulevard and adjacent to Sunset Tower.

“What I heard from the community and my colleagues was that we want to move forward with continued improvements and for staff to come back with suggestions on the best materials after listening to the community,” Mayor John Erickson said. “These are wins for everyone and I’m thankful to everyone that made their voices, and barks, heard at the meeting.”

During the Sept. 16 City Council meeting, community members discussed their fears about toxins found in artificial turf.

“We’ve made it clear that the users of the park unanimously do not want to see this plan of enacted,” said resident Bob Claster, who led the charge against the turf. “Artificial turf is an ecological disaster that spreads disease and would be harmful to the health of the community. It’s hot. It’s smelly. It’s plastic.”

“Science and real-world experience show that artificial turf does not live up to its promises,” Stop Artificial Turf Task Force chair Terry Saucier said. “WeHo promotes itself as a pro-

gressive city dedicated to environmental responsibility. How does artificial turf align with these values? When other cities and states are banning the use of plastic grass, why do you want to install this toxic surface?”

But the company that produces the turf, Forever Lawn, also provided the material used in the West Hollywood Park dog parks, where city staff said there have not been issues. Forever Lawn purports to make turf that eliminates perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS.

“All of our research indicates the turf is non-toxic,” facilities and field service manager Helen Collins said. “A lot of the newer products for dog parks do not contain PFAS.”

Forever Lawn did not respond to a request for comment.

Other materials were discussed, including decomposed granite and pea gravel. The council ultimately choose to approve funding for the park’s redesign, but instructed city staff to come back with more alternatives and reports on materials for the dog park’s surface.

“They’re directing the design firm to come up with something other than the artificial turf,” Claster said. “My conversation with the project’s architect after the meeting sounded like they would be exploring different brands of wood chips ... There are other things we don’t much like about the redesign, but in reality, apart from the changes in the council’s makeup [changing after the November election], it’ll be many months before a design is submitted, and then the whole process could start all over again.”

“Our staff did an excellent job of identifying the possible materials for the Hart Park dog area,” Councilman John Heilman said. “Each option has

pros and cons. There has been a lot of attention on what material should be used in the dog area, but that is just one component of the plan. We will be improving accessibility on the paths and restoring the AIDS Monument located at the park. I’m glad we were able to move forward with getting the team in place to implement the plan.”

Hart Park, which is owned by the city of Los Angeles despite being in West Hollywood, has been leased by West Hollywood since 1989. The house on the property, once owned by silent screen actor William S. Hart, has been home to the West Coast branch of the Actors Studio since 1968.

“I have confidence that staff will come up with an alternative that the Hart Park dog guardian community will find acceptable, and I’m pawstive that the dogs will be happy with the outcome,” Councilwoman Lauren Meister said.

Wright faces charges in WeHo

From page 1

election, though this is a coincidence.

“That’s just set based on 60 days from the time that it happened. It’s a 60-day calendar,” Zeff said.

He also said that the District Attorney’s Office likely would not review the charges until early November.

Wright was a member of the West Hollywood Lesbian and Gay Advisory Board prior to joining the Rent Stabilization Commission. In June, Councilwoman Sepi Shyne removed Wright from the commission for undisclosed reasons. Shyne has not responded to a request for comment.

Wright joined the City Council race just before the Aug. 14 filing deadline and was recently endorsed by the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee. The chamber

said it would continue to monitor develops in the case, but as of Sept. 16 had upheld its endorsement.

Wright placed fourth in the 2022 City Council election.

Wright remains a candidate for City Council, and told the Beverly Press they intend to participate in a Sept. 22 forum hosted by Congregation Kol Ami, located at 1200 N. La Brea Ave. The event starts at 3 p.m.

Of the nine remaining West Hollywood candidates, eight are expected to appear, including Erickson.

Over the weekend, resident Rachel Schmeidler announced her exit from the race.

“I stepped down because of the playing field. It became crazy. Reputable candidates who are attorneys are getting arrested and marked as felons,” Schmeidler said.

Answers From Page 27

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47	P	Y	R	E	48	N	O	D	49	S	P	E	E	D			



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Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

- Across
1. Approximately, 2 words
5. Good works ad
8. Mamma Mia singers
12. “Project Runway” host Klum
14. Execute perfectly
15. Airport rental fleet
16. “If ___ be the food of love, play on”: Shakespeare
17. Ireland
18. Greek vowels
19. Green vegetable
21. Like broccoli
22. Yours and mine
24. Winter month
25. Some votes
29. Elmo
31. Morning moisture
34. Candle holders?
36. Reply to “Shall we?”
37. Environmental watchdogs, for short
38. Mediterranean dish
42. Title character in Shakespeare
43. Big holders for coffee
44. Like Cheerios
45. Soak
46. “___ Weapon”
49. Fluid-filled sac
50. Guileful
51. Shout of approval
53. Vegetable protein sources
56. Salad ingredient
61. Tibetan monk
62. Prefix with pad
65. Desert highlight
66. It’s fine (2 words)
67. Fashion magazine
68. Turn aside
69. Rhyming word in “Light My Fire”
70. Doze (off)
71. Broke the speed limit
- Down
1. Electrical resistance units
2. Sign on for another tour
3. __, __, senior!
4. Father of Balder
5. ___ gow poker
6. Round Table title
7. Porter
8. Caustic
9. Soak leather
10. Slope to the sea, to Sean
11. Org.
13. UN aircraft group
14. India’s first P.M.
20. Chalice
21. Bugs
23. Ostentatious
24. Greek salad ingredient
25. Bank holdings, abbr.
26. Country bumpkin
27. Straining to survive
28. Not sweet
30. Animation
31. God

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13		14				15			
16						17				18			
19					20					21			
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25	26	27	28		29			30			31	32	33
34				35			36				37		
38					39	40					41		
42				43						44			
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				50				51			52		
53	54	55						56			57	58	59
61					62	63	64			65			
66					67					68			
69					70						71		

32. Sporting blades
33. “Rome ___ built in a day”
35. Halloween decorations
39. Victim
40. Med. specialty
41. Center X or O
47. Hard-to-reach nest
48. A member of a Buddhist people
50. Moccasin, for one
52. Managed care grps.
53. Radar screen image
54. Like pie?

55. Marc Antony’s love
57. Cries of delight
58. Bats
59. Emergency CB channel
60. Abbreviated business sign
62. It might have a clutch
63. Rock group from the 70s, abbr.
64. Legal scholar’s deg.

answers on page 26

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(left to right) Dylan Dordick, Esq., Taylor Dordick, Esq., Gary A. Dordick, Esq., Nava Dordick, Esq., Michelle Dordick, Esq.

Gary A. Dordick

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