WeHo residents challenge city on homelessness services gap

BY GREGORY CORNFIELD

With the homeless population rising in Los Angeles County, a West Hollywood business owner decided to open his store to people seeking shelter, putting the city in a unique situation.

In 2014, Nir Zilberman closed one of his profitable clothing stores and opened the Love No Hate house on Santa Monica Boulevard where he served homeless people dinner. But it evolved into a quasi-shelter with couches, televisions, showers, free haircuts, encouragement and an effort to change the stigma associated with homeless people.

“I don’t see anything bad in these people,” Zilberman said. “I don’t have a place to go.”

Zilberman was hosting dozens of homeless people each night until neighbors and nearby businesses complained to law enforcement. Now, Zilberman’s guests have to leave by 2 a.m., and they cannot reenter until 8 a.m., a rule enforced by the city.

Lt. David Smith, with the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station, said Love No Hate puts the city in a sticky situation. As of now, Zilberman is not breaking any penal codes and is allowed to continue the services he provides. The sheriff’s station will wait for direction from the city as to how they should proceed with Love No Hate.

“His intentions are good, but he just has to do it the right way,” Smith said.

Since Zilberman is not a medical expert and does not have permits or certification to help each homeless person, some fear it could be further risking health or wellbeing.

If it were not for the homeless men and women periodically forced to move to Love No Hate, they don’t have a place to go.”

Love No Hate

City ‘Pinks Out’ for anniversary of Roe v. Wade decision

BY PATRICIA SANCHEZ

Forty-three years after the Supreme Court’s landmark Roe v. Wade decision, West Hollywood commemorated the fight for women’s health rights with two events.

Roe v. Wade established that abortion is protected as a fundamental right under the guarantee of personal privacy. Any regulations limiting abortion would have to be justified by a compelling state interest.

On Tuesday night, West Hollywood hosted “Pink Out,” an event that encouraged people to wear pink to commemorate the 43rd anniversary and raise awareness about current issues affecting women’s reproductive rights. During Tuesday’s city council meeting, West Hollywood Mayor Lindsey Horvath spoke about the importance of women’s reproductive rights and the struggle many women have to be justified by a compelling state interest.

See Love No Hate page 22

See development page 22

The Homeless Court Program clinic held in Hollywood Wednesday offers people an opportunity to have citations, warrants and fees waived in exchange for accepting help with housing and other services.

See homeless court page 21

Homeless Court helps people get back on track

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Hundreds of people sought help Wednesday at a Homeless Court Program in Hollywood in which citations, warrants and fines will be expunged in exchange for accepting housing and other services.

The clinic was the sixth held since August by the Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office, which is partnering with the county to administer the Homeless Court Program. Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer said each individual is assessed on a case-by-case basis, and the requirements for expunging citations, fees and warrants differs. Feuer estimated that thousands of people could be eligible for assistance.

See homeless court page 21

City continues to build a taller Hollywood

BY GREGORY CORNFIELD

After 2015 saw a growing debate over the city’s development policies and decisions, the Los Angeles City Council approved another project that will create a taller Hollywood.

The city council unanimously approved plans to construct a six-story mixed-use building that will be up to 71 feet tall and provide 224 residential units – at least 24 of which will be set aside for very low-income families for 55 years – and 985 square feet of retail. The site is located at 8220 Las Palmas Avenue, above, and will be up to 71 feet tall and provide 224 residential units – at least 24 of which will be set aside for very low-income families for 55 years – and 985 square feet of retail. The site is located at 8220 Las Palmas Avenue, above, and will be used to construct a six-story mixed-use building that will provide 224 residential units – at least 24 of which will be set aside for very low-income families – and 985 square feet of retail.

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The project complies with the city’s General Plan, the Hollywood Community Plan and the Hollywood Redevelopment Plan, and although the project would appear noticeably taller and larger than neighboring structures, it incorporates design elements “so that the project would not tower over or otherwise overwhelm adjacent visual resources,” according to the city’s staff report.

Frances Offenhauser of Hollywood Heritage appealed the project because she does not believe it is allowed under the General Plan, and she has issues with aesthetics and height and is concerned that it will have 100 more apartments than should be allowed.

Offenhauser said city staff misinterpreted zoning laws that she helped write in 1988 during the development of the Hollywood Community Plan to allow a larger structure.

“Zoning code states specifically what has to be done to build something bigger, but they decided to jump over it and say, ‘OK, we’re not going to do that, we’re going to do what we think is right,’” she said.

See development page 22

Hollywood event offers chance with unpaid citations

BY edwin folven

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City ‘Pinks Out’ for anniversary of Roe v. Wade decision

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21 ‘Comedy and Cocktails’

Comedian孵’s “Comedy and Cocktails” show returns on Thursday, Jan. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hollywood Improv. Devlin mixes music by a band with some of the hottest stand up comedians in the country and surprise celebrity guests. 8162 Melrose Ave. (323)651-2583, www.hollywoodimprov.com.

‘Two Sisters’

Gail Louw’s production “Two Sisters” runs Thursday, Jan. 21 through Sunday, Feb. 21 at Theatre 40, in the Reuben Cordova Theatre on the Beverly Hills High School campus. The play is set on an Israeli kibbutz in 1999 and follows the story of two sisters who have secrets. Showtimes are 8 p.m., Thursday through Saturday; 2 p.m., Sunday. Admission is $38. 3186 1/2 N. Vermont Ave. (213)761-7061, www.skylighttix.com.

‘HAM: A Musical Memoir’

Broadway star, recording artist and author Sam Harris brings his show “HAM: A Musical Memoir” to the Renberg Theatre from Saturday, Jan. 23 through Feb. 7. Harris’ production is a hilarious and poignant theatrical piece. Showtimes are 8:30 p.m. Tickets are $20. 1125 N. McCadden Place. www.laphilcenter.org/theatre.

22 Music and Art

Young Projects Gallery presents a multimedia performance by Steve Roden on Friday, Jan. 22 at 8 p.m. Roden has created numerous site-spe-
cific sound works for spaces such as MOCA at the Pacific Design Center and The MAK Center for Art and Architecture. Mr. Roden will perform an improvised sound piece to Stas Orlovski’s video installation “Skazka” in the main gallery at Young Projects Gallery. 8867 Melrose Ave. (323)377-1102, www.youngprojectsgallery.com.

23 Murder Mystery Lunch Train

Board a vintage train for the Fillmore & Western Railway’s “Murder Mystery Lunch Train” departing at noon on Saturday, Jan. 23. Passengers can help solve a hilarious and outrageous murder mystery and comedy performed by the P Maxwell Production troupe while enjoying the Fillmore & Western Railway’s signature orange blossom chicken three-course lunch. Passengers may also shop and browse at the Loose Caboose Garden Center and Gift Emporium during intermission. Adult tickets are $65, $40 for children ages 7-12. Trains depart from 364 Main St., Fillmore. (805)934-2546, www.fwry.com.

‘Alice and the Wonderful Tea Party’

Santa Monica Playhouse presents a special engagement of the original Rudie-DeCarlo Family Theatre musical comedy “Alice and the Wonderful Tea Party” running Saturday, Jan. 23 through Sunday, March 20. The production follows a grown-up Alice who goes back through the looking glass to visit the Wonderland characters of her youth. Showtimes are 2 p.m., Saturday; 12:30 p.m., Sunday. Adult tickets are $15, $12 for children 12 and under. Santa Monica Playhouse’s The Other Space, 1211 4th Street. www.SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com.

Frank Colletto

Enjoy “A Glass of Prosecco with Frank Colletto,” an evening of art and photography on Saturday, Jan. 23 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Perfect Exposure Gallery. Colletto is known for his photographs of Carnevale in Venice, Italy, which will on display in the gallery. 316 W. Sixth St. (213)381-1137, www.theperfectexposuregallery.com.

‘Forever House’

Skylight Theatre Company presents the world premiere of playwright Tony Abateur’s “Forever House” running Saturday, Jan. 23 through Sunday, Feb. 28. The play follows Jack and Ben, who are buying their first home, which happens to be where Jack was born. From the day they close the sale, a host of unexplained demons seem to invade their lives, testing the strength of their bond and bringing new meaning to the limits of square footage. Showtime on Jan. 23 is 8 p.m. Regular showtimes are 8:30 p.m., Friday; 8 p.m., Saturday, and 3 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are $18. 1651 N. Vermont Ave. (213)761-7061, www.skylighttix.com.

24 John Proulx Quartet

Enjoy the music of the John Proulx Quartet on Sunday, Jan. 24 at 4-6 p.m. in Phummer Park. Proulx is a Grammy-winning composer who will present a program of jazz and standards. The free concert is part of West Hollywood’s Winter Sounds series. 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. www.welos.org.

25 John Wilder

Book Signing

Author Sam Harris brings his show “Empowered Eating Health Fair” on Wednesday, Jan. 27 at 6:30 p.m. Speakers will focus on the topics of healthy food and lifestyles: Presenters include nutritionist Elizabeth Baron Cole; Yosef Ghalai, executive chef for FIG Restaurant at the Fairmont Miramar; Rabbi Shmuel Kedem; Rabbi Steven Car Reuben, rabbi emeritus of Kehillat Israel and author of five books; and Sharyn Winters, author of “The Pure Cure: A Complete Guide to Freeing Your Life from Dangerous Toxins.” 1619 W. Sunset Blvd. Admission is free; RSVP required by calling (323)241-7453, or visit www.onKF.org/HealthFair.

Eating Health Fair

Empowerd Eating Health Fair

26 Japanese Shitsu

Taste your way to Japan at the Culture Fest and relaxation on Thursday, Jan. 28 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles (JFLA). A specialist will provide free three to five-minute shiatsu sessions. Calming Japanese music selected by JFLA director Hideki Hara will also be played. 5700 Wilshire Blvd., Ste 100. www.jflalc.org.

27 Empowered Eating Health Fair

28 Japanese Shitsu

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The Los Angeles City Council approved a measure Tuesday directing the city’s Office of Finance to stop issuing new business tax registration certificates (BTRCs) to medical marijuana dispensaries.

Voters approved Proposition D in 2013, granting potential immunities to approximately 135 medical marijuana dispensaries that had been operating prior to a 2007 moratorium. Since 2013, the Office of Finance has continued to issue and renew BTRCs to dispensary owners without checking whether they are Proposition D compliant.

The council determined that there should be a clear distinction between medical marijuana businesses who might be operating lawfully and those who are not. They took a step to eliminate any potential confusion whether a business is operating lawfully.

Feuer added that the practice of issuing BTRCs to non-compliant medical marijuana dispensaries was not “loophole,” because BTRCs do not designate whether a business is legal or not. He said medical marijuana dispensaries that used the certificates to show they are Proposition D compliant are misleading the public.

The council approved the measure by a 13-0 vote. Feuer said the Office of Finance has continued to issue or renew BTRCs to dispensaries that are operating legally, according to authorities.

Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer said the Office of Finance is not an investigative agency and does not question whether dispensaries, or any other business, is operating legally when BTRCs are issued or renewed.

"We have a treasure in this neighborhood. We have a two-story neighborhood. The street from the proposed project is too big for the neighborhood. The project complies with the city’s Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Omelczenko didn’t have enough evidence to overturn the Planning Commission’s decision. Berberian explained that when Empire Property Group bought the residential structure, some units were in bad shape and “just past their useful life.” While there were 21 units in the three buildings, two were not habitable and two were vacant. Of the remaining 17, only five were rent-controlled, the same number of rent-controlled units the new project may offer. He said it is true that the company plans to rent the units out, but that plans could change as the market shifts.

City Attorney Mike Jenkins explained that while there are laws restricting what dispensaries can do with existing units, developers can handle new units however they choose.

"There’s nothing illegal about it, there’s nothing fraudulent about it. From a land use perspective, there’s absolutely nothing inappropriate or incorrect about it,” he said. "The distinction of rental units or condominium units is not a significant one as far as the processing of this application is concerned."

Councilman John Duran said the three-story structure was originally a single-family home after an owner uses the Ellis Act may not be as extreme as some legal status. "It’s amazing to me the city was in the business of offering business tax licenses to illegal businesses," O’Farrell said. "I am proud to support this ordinance.”

The councilman added that the administration of medical marijuana businesses operating in the district has diminished significantly, although exact numbers were not available.

"It’s about 10 times better," O’Farrell added. "We have pretty much shut down all the non-compliant dispensaries in my district." Feuer added that the discontinuance of issuing BTRCs is part of the overall approach to regulating dispensaries, and that his office continues to work with the Los Angeles Police Department and community groups to identify and close dispensaries that are operating illegally. The city attorney said his office has closed approximately 700 non-compliant dispensaries since 2013.
Fire destroys garage behind house on Fairfax Avenue

Los Angeles County Fire Department inspectors are investigating a blaze that destroyed a garage on Dec. 15 at a residence in the 1200 block of North Fairfax Avenue. A neighbor reported shortly after 10 p.m. that firefighters arrived to find flames and smoke emanating from a detached garage at 1236 N. Fairfax Ave., said Inspector David Dantic, with the Los Angeles City Fire Department. The blaze was extinguished in approximately 45 minutes and firefighters prevented the fire from spreading to other structures. Dantic said the cause has not been determined and no estimate of damage is available. No injuries were reported.

Burglary suspects target Beverly Blvd. restaurant

Detectives hope video images will lead to arrests

Detectives with the Los Angeles Police Department’s Wilshire Division are searching for two suspects who were caught on video burglarizing a restaurant on Beverly Boulevard.

The burglary occurred at approximately 1:10 a.m. Dec. 20 at a restaurant in the 7600 block of Beverly Boulevard. Det. Stacie French, with the Wilshire Division’s burglary unit, declined to provide the name of the restaurant. French said the LAPD released information about the burglary last week after detectives exhausted leads and police obtained the surveillance video. The suspects are seen in the video forcible entry and breaking through the bathroom building.

“They started at an external door and went into that,” French said. “Then they pried open an internal door, got inside and gained access to the building.”

The burglars stole approximately $1,200 in cash and checks. French surmised that the suspects are inexperienced burglars because of their method of operation.

“They appear to be amateurs,” French said. “They didn’t wear masks. They took it all together and didn’t seem to be prepared.”

French said no other businesses on Beverly Boulevard were targeted, but he is investigating whether the suspects are responsible for other break-ins at businesses on Melrose Avenue. The detective said the total of two suspects appears to match a suspect in a burglary on S. La Cienega Boulevard at 3 a.m. on Jan. 17, 2016, in the 1700 block of South La Cienega Boulevard. In that incident, three suspects stole equipment valued at approximately $2,000.

“It’s hard to say with these types of cases,” French added. “We are at a dead end with this and are depending on the public’s help.”

Burglary suspect killed after confrontation with police

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Officers from the Los Angeles Police Department’s Hollywood Division shot and killed a burglary suspect on Jan. 16 after the man allegedly pointed a gun at police while trying to flee.

A resident in the 1800 block of Courtney Terrace came home at approximately 2:15 p.m. and discovered the suspect inside his residence, said LAPD spokesman Aaaron Jefferon. The resident fled the home and called police, who arrived a short time later. The residence is located in a neighborhood just north of Hollywood Boulevard and in the Nichols Canyon area.

Jefferson said the suspect also fled the residence before police arrived and hid from officers, who set up a perimeter in the surrounding neighborhood. At approximately 3:15 p.m. the suspect emerged from bushes and allegedly confronted two officers with a handgun. The officers shot the suspect, who was pronounced dead at the scene.

Los Angeles County Coroner’s Office spokesman Ed Winter identified the suspect as Alfred Courtney Terrace and identified him as a 41-year-old man. The suspect was last known to be residing in the 8300 block of Melrose Avenue. The incident occurred in the 8400 block of Melrose Avenue.

The suspect was armed with a handgun. The Los Angeles County Coroner’s Office was notified on Jan. 17.

City attorney warns about loan modification scams

Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer has launched a multi-pronged effort to prevent loan modification scams and to help homeowners who face losing their homes.

Feuer’s efforts include hosting two symposiums later this month in the San Fernando Valley and South Los Angeles as part of a public awareness campaign on the loan modification process and how to avoid scams. The city attorney also announced the filing of two criminal cases as part of his office’s aggressive work to stop loan modification scam artists.

“Even as we emerge from the foreclosure crisis, struggling homeowners remain targets for loan modification scams,” Feuer said. “We need to do everything we can to empower them and prevent them from being victimized.”

More than 2,000 homeowners in Los Angeles were in default on their mortgage in 2015, according to Feuer’s office. The symposiums – in the San Fernando Valley on Jan. 23 at 9:30 a.m. at Van Nuys High School, and in South Los Angeles on Jan. 30 at 9:30 a.m. at the South L.A. Sports Activity Center – will include information on how to avoid loan modification scams and navigate the loan modification process. Resource fairs, including HUD-approved housing counseling agencies and legal aid organizations, will be also be held.

Feuer also warned homeowners not to pay up front fees for services and not to make payments to individuals other than their lender or loan servicer. He also cautioned that homeowners should never transfer titles to individuals or companies promising loan modification.

For information on avoiding loan modification scams and the upcoming City Attorney’s Office symposiums, visit www.lacityat
torney.org.

Investigators hope someone will recognize the suspects who can be seen in video footage breaking into a restaurant on Beverly Boulevard.

Beverly Hills detectives are still determining the exact cause of accident

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A driver was killed last Friday when his truck went out of control and crashed on a steep stretch of Loma Vista Drive in Beverly Hills. The incident marks the third fatality on the street since March 2014.

Sgt. Max Subin, with the Beverly Hills Police Department, said the accident on Jan. 15 occurred at 8:19 a.m. approximately one block south of Doheny Road. Loma Vista Road runs north and south through a neighborhood in the Hollywood Hills above Sunset Boulevard. Subin said the collision is under investigation and no cause has been determined.

Los Angeles County Coroner’s Office spokesman Ed Winter identified the driver as a Hispanic man in his 20s. Paramedics took the driver to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center where he was pronounced dead. His name is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

Veteran Los Angeles Police Department officer Nicholas Lee Subin was killed on March 7, 2014 when his patrol car was struck by a dump truck that went out of control near Loma Vista Drive and Doheny Road. Off-duty LAPD detective Ernest Allen was also struck and killed in May 2014 when the vehicle was driving by a cement mixer near the same location.

Subin said the vehicle involved was a stake-bed truck that he described as commonly being used by landscaping companies. The city of Beverly Hills implemented strict regulations for trucks on Loma Vista Drive after the two collisions in 2014 and built a runway truck ramp. The driver in the accident last Friday did not use the ramp and instead struck a vehicle before hitting a retaining wall in the 800 block of Loma Vista Drive.

Subin added that no trucks over three tons are allowed on the road unless they undergo a special inspection and are cleared by authorities. The city also established alternate routes for trucks in the neighborhood that are not as steep. He said he did not know the weight of the truck involved in the accident on Jan. 15, and it is one of the things investigators are examining.

“The city put restrictions on heavy hauling when trucks are going to construction sites,” Subin added. “The city has taken an aggressive stance, and if something needs to be changed, the city will take those steps.”

Crash on Loma Vista claims third life in two years

Detectives with the Los Angeles Police Department’s Wilshire Division are searching for help identifying the driver of a 19-year-old victim on Jan. 17.

At approximately 12:12 p.m., patrol officers responded to a call about a suspicious death in the 7800 block of North Figueroa Street. They discovered the victim, Kacelyn Michael Tarin, inside a tent suffering from a gunshot wound. Paramedics responded and pronounced Tarin dead at scene. The motive of the murder is unknown.

The suspects in the restaurant burglary are both African American. One is described as 30-40 years old, 5 feet 3 inches to 5 feet 6 inches tall and 190 pounds. He had a dark mustache and was wearing a light-colored jacket, dark shoes and dark gloves.

The second suspect is 35-45 years old, 6 feet to 6 feet 2 inches tall with a dark mustache. He was wearing a light colored beanie, light jacket, light pants with dark shoes and dark gloves. The suspect can also be seen in the surveillance video holding a hammer in his right hand.

No other suspects in the auto shop burglaries in Beverly Hills are African American, approximately 40 to 55 years old, 5 feet 3 inches to 6 feet 2 inches tall and 170-175 pounds.

Anyone with information about the cases is urged to call French at (213) 972-8251. During weekends and off-hours, call the LAPD’s hotline at (877) LAPD247.
Los Angeles tourism surged to its fifth consecutive year of record-breaking growth in 2015. A total of 45.5 million tourists visited the city last year—an increase of 1.3 million over 2014—according to the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board. The latest numbers demonstrate this year’s numbers demonstrate Los Angeles welcomed more than 67 million international visitors last year. More than 70,000,000 Chinese tourists visited the city last year—13 percent more than in 2012. More than 7 million visitors from South Korea also spiked, with an increase of 11 percent over the previous year.

“The city operates six shelters and has an agreement with Best Friends to operate a seventh. She said the department has had challenges with missing systems to cool the kennels and heat failures to warm the kennels. “(Families) are presented with an unwanted litter that they can’t afford to take care of, can’t find homes for, can’t sell and they feel bad to turn them into a shelter,” Barnette said.

The department conducts outreach by giving spay/neuter presentations at schools and community meetings. Barnette said the city included in the money budgeted for the department the Administrative Canvassers and the department launched the Administrative Canvassers program. The group goes door-to-door checking for unlicensed and unaltered dogs and cats to encourage spaying/neutering. The group is also working hard to get vouchers or discount coupons to encourage spaying/neutering. Officials said that the group also has been approved hiring 32 new animal control officers, Llanos said. "He looks forward to continuing collaboration with our department and all animal-loving Angelinos as we continue building on the good work we’ve done thus far," she added.

Michael Bell, leader of the coalition, said Barnette is not doing her job to protect animals. “We continue building on the good work we’ve done thus far,” she added. Bell, leader of the coalition, said Barnette is not doing her job to protect animals. “We continue building on the good work we’ve done thus far,” she added.

animal activists hold vigil on Mayor’s block

A hearse is set up in front of Mayor Eric Garcetti’s house Sunday night. The Coalition for a Humane Los Angeles and community members joined to voice concerns and march around the Irving Boulevard.

“Mayor Garcetti appreciates the concerns that people are raising about animal shelters and services. As we continue building on the good work we’ve done thus far,” she added. Bell, leader of the coalition, said Barnette is not doing her job to protect animals. “We continue building on the good work we’ve done thus far,” she added.

Barnette pointed to the city’s live/save rate for dogs and cats leaving the shelter which is 77 percent this year—a 20 percent improvement since 2011-2012. There were 7,014 shelter deaths for dogs and cats in 2014-2015, more than 13,000 fewer than 2011-2012.

“Somebody documented a dog in one of our kennels that we were told was being neglected, and we get there and we can’t find the dog. This is really concerning because this animal’s rights can seriously affect your quality of life. If you’ve ever put your puppy or your cat in a shelter, you have sought professional advice and you have found out that the actual cause is caused TMD (Temporomandibular Joint Disorder), and the forecasting thing is that this is an easily undiscovered condition more veterinarians are poorly trained about how to treat the disease and can only identify it based on symptoms, you can only see it in solid food this kind of thing, this is truly concerning because this animal’s rights can seriously affect your quality of life. If you’ve ever put your puppy or your cat in a shelter, you have sought professional advice and you have found out that the actual cause is caused TMD (Temporomandibular Joint Disorder), and the forecasting thing is that this is an easily undiscovered condition more veterinarians are poorly trained about how to treat the disease and can only identify it based on symptoms, you can only see it in solid food this kind of thing, this is truly concerning because this animal’s rights can seriously affect your quality of life. If you’ve ever put your puppy or your cat in a shelter, you have sought professional advice and you have found out that the actual cause is caused TMD (Temporomandibular Joint Disorder), and the forecasting thing is that this is an easily undiscovered condition more veterinarians are poorly trained about how to treat the disease and can only identify it based on symptoms, you can only see it in solid food this kind of thing, this is truly concerning because this animal’s rights can seriously affect your quality of life. If you’ve ever put your puppy or your cat in a shelter, you have sought professional advice and you have found out that the actual cause is caused TMD (Temporomandibular Joint Disorder), and the forecasting thing is that this is an easily undiscovered condition more veterinarians are poorly trained about how to treat the disease and can only identify it based on symptoms, you can only see it in solid food this kind of thing, this is truly concerning because this animal’s rights can seriously affect your quality of life. If you’ve ever put your puppy or your cat in a shelter, you have sought professional advice and you have found out that the actual cause is caused TMD (Temporomandibular Joint Disorder), and the forecasting thing is that this is an easily undiscovered condition more veterinarians are poorly trained about how to treat the disease and can only identify it based on symptoms, you can only see it in solid food this kind of thing, this is truly concerning because this animal’s rights can seriously affect your quality of life. If you’ve ever put your puppy or your cat in a shelter, you have sought professional advice and you have found out that the actual cause is caused TMD (Temporomandibular Joint Disorder), and the forecasting thing is that this is an easily undiscovered condition more veterinarians are poorly trained about how to treat the disease and can only identify it based on symptoms, you can only see it in solid food this kind of thing, this is truly concerning because this animal’s rights can seriously affect your quality of life. If you’ve ever put your puppy or your cat in a shelter, you have sought professional advice and you have found out that the actual cause is caused TMD (Temporomandibular Joint Disorder), and the forecasting thing is that this is an easily undiscovered condition more veterinarians are poorly trained about how to treat the disease and can only identify it based on symptoms, you can only see it in solid food this kind of thing, this is truly concerning because this animal’s rights can seriously affect your quality of life.
Expansion celebration continues where the laughing in class is OK

BY PATRICIA SANCHEZ

Lyric Lewis started her journey at The Groundlings School nearly seven years ago. She entered the program, after graduating from Syracuse University to hone her improvisation skills and pursue her ambition to explore her sketch comedy actor and writer. With just a few months left in her final training program, she is excited to see The Groundlings School expand.

“I’ve always wanted to do sketch comedy. I really catered to my character,” Lewis said. “I feel like this has been the best thing for me.”

Lewis, originally from New Orleans, said she feels right at home living in Los Angeles and believes the school’s location has also helped push her to develop her writing and acting skills.

“I think there’s something about L.A. that nurtures your character and creative side,” Lewis said. “It really gives you the space to think freely and expand.”

Lewis said she’s excited to see how the programs will develop in the new, expanded space. “I think it will be more of an outlet for students and provide them with a lot more classes and activities,” Lewis said. “It will give them a platform to grow and make things happen.”

Allain Rochel, The Groundlings School’s new manager, said with seven rooms, a student performance space and state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems, the new building adds to the school’s capacity to cater to its students.

“One thing I was struck by during my first three months here is how much care and detail the school puts into its students and performances,” Rochel said. “This new building will give us a boost not just with the quality of our classrooms, but also with providing the adequate space to house more students and activities. It will give students the chance to socialize, meet and collaborate with far more people than previously possible.”

He said Saturday’s performances and workshops will be a small introduction to what the school will be able to do.

“I think it’s going to be a really busy day,” Lewis said. “We will be free classes, hours of student team performances and an open house. And I think this will help us to explore our new space.”

The city of West Hollywood hosted the official launch of CitylineX the city’s new free rush-hour commuter service to connect West Hollywood with the Metro Red Line Station at Hollywood and Highland.

The Hollywood Mayor Lindsey P. Horvath and city council members joined the “Tacos and Transit” kick-off reception at West Hollywood Library’s Auto Court at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. At 5:30 p.m., the shuttle departed for the Hollywood and Highland Metro Red Line Station.

CitylineX will operate during morning and evening commuting hours on weekdays, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from approximately 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., bookending regular Cityline service, which runs within West Hollywood. CitylineX will offer seven trips in the morning and five trips in the evening with mini-bus shuttles providing service at approximately 15- to 20-minute intervals.

For CitylineX information, including a map and schedule, visit wcho.org/cityline.

Students suspensions, expulsions down in CA three years in a row

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson announced a 13.9 percent decline in the number of students expelled during the 2014-15 academic year, and a 12.8 percent decrease in the number of students suspended compared to the year before. This marks the third year in a row significant declines in both areas.

Since 2011-12, when the California Department of Education (CDE) began collecting and reporting detailed data, suspensions have declined by 33.6 percent and expulsions have dropped 40.4 percent. Statewide, 919,900 students were expelled in 2014-15 compared to the year before. Similarly, 35,780 fewer students were suspended during the school year.

The latest figures reflect efforts by the CDE and school districts to provide alternative programs and options to keep more children in school.

The research and data are abundant in this area. Removing children from school and keeping them away from an educational environment can be very harmful,” Torlakson said. “This continuing decline in suspensions and expulsions is a tremendous credit to CDE staff, local districts, administrators, teachers and parents who are all working together to develop effective solutions to increase school attendance and learning.”

The CDE initiated forums and workshops to make districts, administrators and teachers aware of “restorative justice” programs that help students understand the nature and consequences of their actions. Other strategies include teaching life skills and emotional control.

CDE data revealed that students in certain ethnic groups experienced a disproportionate percentage of expulsions and suspensions. Lawmakers sought to reduce those offenses and passed Assembly Bill 420 in 2013 that limits suspensions and expulsions for disruptive behavior in certain grades. A disparity persists, as African-American students represent 6 percent of total statewide enrollment but make up 16.4 percent of students suspended, a rate identical to last year. White students represent 24.6 percent of total enrollment, but make up 20.9 percent of those suspended. Hispanic students account for 53.6 percent of total enrollment and represent 54 percent of those suspended.

The suspension and expulsion data are available on the CDE’s DataQuest. Downloadable data files are available at cde.ca.gov/ds/std/dfilesEd.asp.

WeHo launches CitylineX at Tacos and Transit event

The daylong event on Jan. 30 takes place in the new school building and includes a series of one-hour specialty workshops from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for past and present students and new sketch and improv shows free and open to the public, featuring students, Sunday Company, Teachers, Main Company and alumni, from 3:00 p.m. -11:30 p.m.

Lewis said she is excited about performing and looks forward to exploring the new school building “I can’t wait to check out [the building],” Lewis said. “I think it’s going to be a little taste of everything that The Groundlings School has to offer to its students and the community.”

In addition to the new building, Rochel said The Groundlings School is creating more outreach opportunities for the community.

“We’re working to increase our diversity outreach programs, and just a few months ago we connected with Fairfax High School to offer free classes to high school students,” Rochel said. “[The new space] will help to elevate our programs and uphold the philosophy of this school.”

The Groundlings School, he said, also offers quarterly scholarships and is accepting applications for the fall through April.

Lewis said although she has four months left before she finishes her final six-month program at The Groundlings School, she is excited to see all the positive new changes it will undergo this year and is grateful for the time she has spent at the school.

“The Groundlings School helps you to explore every little bit of yourself and teaches you how to put it out there in a creative and productive way,” Lewis said. “I feel like this has been the best thing for me.”

The daily CitylineX event on Jan. 30 takes place in the new school building and includes a series of one-hour specialty workshops from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for past and present students and new sketch and improv shows free and open to the public, featuring students, Sunday Company, Teachers, Main Company and alumni, from 3:00 p.m. -11:30 p.m. Lewis said she is excited about performing and looks forward to exploring the new school building “I can’t wait to check out [the building],” Lewis said. “I think it’s going to be a little taste of everything that The Groundlings School has to offer to its students and the community.”

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State lawmaker launches new effort to regulate drones

Law would require license plates, GPS and insurance

BY EDWIN POLOVEZ

State Assemblyman Mike Gatto (D-Glendale) has authored legislation that would allow the city to regulate unmanned aircraft known as drones purchased by hobbyists and other non-commercial operators.

Known as the Drone Act of 2016, the legislation would require drones sold in California to have physical or electronic license plates that authorities could use to identify the aircraft and its owner. The plates would need to be displayed at all times and could be assigned at the time of sale or registration.

The legislation would also require drones to be equipped with GPS technology that would automatically force them to land if they are flown near an airport or other sensitive site, and for a requirement that drone operators buy insurance when the aircraft are purchased, much the same way automobile insurance is required when a vehicle is purchased.

Gatto’s call for tighter regulations for drones comes on the heels of the Federal Aviation Administration requiring hobbyists who operate unmanned aircraft to register them with federal authorities. The cities of Los Angeles and West Hollywood have also approved regulations for drones that augment federal regulation. Los Angeles’ ordinance prohibits drones from being flown within five miles of major airports and out of an operator’s line of sight. Federal laws also prohibit drone operators from flying near airports and ban them from being flown higher than 400 feet in elevation.

The West Hollywood City Council granted final approval Tuesday to an ordinance requiring drone operators to apply for a permit to operate drones in the city. The city’s ordinance also prohibits them from being flown within 25 feet of people, capturing images of people on private property without their consent and operating out of the operator’s line of sight or at an elevation higher than 400 feet.

Gatto likened drones to automobiles needing to be licensed and said the insurance requirement has not been addressed. He added that state regulations are needed because there are no federal or local laws that address all of the issues pertaining to drone flight.

“A situation where you have piecemeal laws isn’t effective,” Gatto said. “You need to have uniform regulations in place statewide that protect the well-being of all residents in our state.”

The amount of insurance to be required and the cost has not been worked out. Gatto said it could cost as little as $1, and would ensure people are covered for liability if drones go out of control and crash into people or property. He cited laws enacted in the early 1900s at the beginning of the automobile revolution in requiring insuring蜻蜓到的 insureance policies.

“While people may think that flying a drone is a minor or victim-less crime, the results could be devastating,” said Councilman Mitchell Englander, 12th District, chair of the Los Angeles City Council Public Safety Committee. “We saw firsthand what happened during a major brush fire where drones grounded firefighting helicopters. A single drone can take down a helicopter or an airplane. If drones fly, first responders can’t.”

Assistant supervising attorney Benjamin Karahan is prosecuting the cases.

City attorney files charges against drone operators

Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer announced Wednesday that his office has filed two criminal cases against drone operators, the first prosecutions under the city’s new ordinance restricting drone operation.

“Operating a drone near traffic-fraught places places pilots and the public at serious risk,” Feuer said. “We’ll continue to use our new city law to hold drone operators accountable and keep our residents safe.”

Michael Ponce, 20, and Arvel Chappell, 35, were each charged with two criminal counts stemming from separate incidents. The charges allege the defendants operated a drone within five miles of an airport. Ponce allegedly operated the device at an altitude higher than 400 feet. Chappell was also charged with one additional count of operating a drone at a time other than during daylight. If convicted, Ponce and Chappell could face up to six months in jail and a $1,000 fine. Arraignment for both defendants is scheduled for Feb. 22.

On Dec. 9, Ponce was allegedly observed by an LAPD helicopter operating a drone in excess of 400 feet over Griffith Park and within three miles of hospital heliports. The drone was seized and Ponce was cited.

On Dec. 12, 2015, Chappell was cited by police for allegedly operating a drone at an altitude higher than 400 feet and within a quarter-mile of Hooper Heliport, the LAPD Air Support Division base in downtown Los Angeles. A helicopter coming in to land allegedly had to alter its path to avoid the drone. Officers on the ground were notified and the device was seized.

The Los Angeles City Attorney’s office has prosecuted drone operators under existing laws – including trespassing – for flying over certain areas and obstructing police activity.

While people may think that flying a drone is a minor or victim-less crime, the results could be devastating,” said Councilman Mitchell Englander, 12th District, chair of the Los Angeles City Council Public Safety Committee. “We saw firsthand what happened during a major brush fire where drones grounded firefighting helicopters. A single drone can take down a helicopter or an airplane. If drones fly, first responders can’t.”

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State Assemblyman Mike Gatto is proposing an additional level of regulation for non-commercial drone operators in California.

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Be a part of one of the largest volunteer events in L.A.

On Jan. 28, the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council, in partnership with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Agency (LAHSA), will join with many other neighborhood councils throughout Los Angeles to conduct the annual census of men, women, youth and families experiencing homelessness. LAHSA is calling for more volunteers.

The GWNC count will begin at 8 p.m. at the Wilshire Methodist Church, at 4350 Wilshire Blvd. and will take about three hours. Volunteers will count each of the 14 census tracts by walking and driving in teams of four.

The Mid City West deployment site is at NCJW, at 543 N. Fairfax Ave, and pizza from Fairfax Avenue’s Prime Pizza will be served. To register for your local count, visit thecountwillyou.org/volun-teeer_registration_home.
New art show invites community interaction

BY PATRICIA SANCHEZ

When local artists Michael Haight and David Festa discuss art, they speak with fluidity and confidence as they go into deep conversation about community involvement and social change. Their passions, they said, come from the expressive release they get by creating art, an experience they believe everyone should have access to and the foundation for their newest project.

Being Present Mafia, Haight and Festa’s new art exhibition running Jan. 22-27 at the Soze Gallery in West Hollywood, is a six-day exhibition that includes changing interactive art projects and lectures meant to probe and evoke reflective thoughts about various facets of life.

Being Present Mafia is influenced by literature and other artists, they explained. Haight said when he was thinking about the direction for a new art project, he thought about an expert from Plato’s “Allegory of the Cave” where individuals are stuck in a cave with their backs turned against the world.

“It’s that idea of pulling people out of the cave to experience art for themselves,” Haight said. “We give them the opportunity to have this therapeutic and engaging experience with art and see if they want to go back into the cave afterward.”

Festa said Being Present Mafia is an exhibit created first and foremost as a therapeutic tool.

“You see a lot of art being used in therapy, but we want to go beyond that and create art for the sole reason of being therapeutic to communicate with our audience,” Festa said.

Festa explained that the name stems from a joke the two artists made and from a reference to another performing art showcase.

“There was an artist in New York who sat in an art gallery and engaged with people passing by,” Festa said. “We thought, ‘Well, what if we could do something similar, only with a mafia of people?’”

Both artists have Masters in Fine Arts degrees from Claremont Graduate University and said school was important in shaping their artistic careers. Festa said he and Haight wanted to find a way to incorporate scholarly lectures and workshops into their art projects to teach a little bit of their practice to anyone interested.

“Art school was imperative in shaping and teaching me a lot of the skills I utilize in my artwork,” Festa said. “I think that schooling was necessary, so why not open it up to others.”

Haight said for him, the interactive portion of their exhibit poses important questions on an individual and societal level.

“What is it that you need or want? Why do you think you need those things? Why do others think you need those things? Why do others think they need those things themselves?” Haight asked.

According to Haight, each night is meant to evoke certain emotions and questions. From fear to ecstasy, he said, all emotions are encouraged as a result of the workshops. Each day is meant to challenge, entertain and help audience members come to terms with themselves and use art as a medium for that expression.

“If you think about art as a tool, then it makes sense to make it interactive and tangible,” Haight said.

“Tools aren’t meant to be kept on display. If they’re kept in pristine condition it means they aren’t being used for what they’re made to do.”

Toowee Kao, director of the Soze Gallery, said she’s excited to host the exhibition. In an area saturated by pristine art and “don’t touch” galleries, she said, it’s great to have the opportunity to step outside the norm.

“I wanted to do something different and … I saw their works last year and was really impressed,” Kao said. “It was very interactive and you could touch things and participate. When you think of galleries and art exhibits you usually think of barriers and distance to the art, but this is different.”

Kao said she’s looking forward to the transformation of her gallery space and to see the reaction from participants and onlookers.

“I like everything that they’re doing because it’s a different direction from where I was going before,” Kao said. “Each day is different. It’s interactive and has workshops. It’s an art lover’s dream, and everybody needs a little change. I think this will surprise a lot of people.”

Art therapy, instruction, collaboration, critique and discussion all come together in Being Present Mafia to incite audience participation and bring forth a new way of thinking.

“We’re going to have workshops, lectures and even dance parties,” Haight said. “What we really want to do is get people to think from a different perspective and see things from every possible angle.”

Being Present Mafia will be held at the Soze Gallery located at 935 N. Fairfax Ave. Gallery hours are from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and during the evening Haight and Festa will hold interactive performances from 7-10 p.m.
Mayor appoints new general manager of finance department

Mayor Eric Garcetti on Tuesday appointed executive Claire Bartels, general manager of the Los Angeles Office of Finance.

"Claire brings institutional knowledge, years of experience running complex operations and fiscal acumen as executive officer for the Office of Finance," Garcetti said. "Her knowledge and understanding of customer service, and her commitment to transparency, give her the tools necessary to enhance and modernize the department."

A central support department, the Office of Finance oversees tax and short-term investments. The department, led by Bartels, works with the Los Angeles Controller’s Office and the City Administrative Officer, among others, to ensure that Los Angeles maintains financial stability and transparency.

Bartels has been serving Los Angeles for nearly 30 years, beginning in the General Services Department. Later, she served as a special projects deputy for Councilwoman Cindy Mucci-Kowski and as chief of staff for then-Councilwomen Nury Martinez and Gurel. She was also appointed by former Mayor Richard Riordan to head his European Union Department in 2000 where she was responsible for developing and administering a $36 million program to assist European communities with resources to increase economic development and to reduce high in the community. She is also a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School’s John F. Kennedy Jr. Fellow Program.

Bartels is a lifelong resident of Los Angeles and has received numerous awards and recognitions for her work on the Board of Water and Power, including a commendation by the California State Assembly in 2011 for her exemplary service.

ANNUAL REPORTS: DUTY OR OPPORTUNITY?

Section 216 of the Los Angeles City Charter provides that every officer or board of the City government shall make and present to the Mayor and council an annual report relating to their work.

And since council member and departmental Chief Administrative officers are, by definition, Officers of the City, the 58 officials named on the city’s list of Department Heads must surely regard Section 216 as a duty.

But there’s more than one way to consider Section 216. It could be viewed as a new way to tell Angelenos what City government is doing for them — what they’re getting for the money they send City Hall.

Consider how a clever Councilmember might make his annual report. At the outset, he’d describe the constituent services his Council District had provided. In the course of the work, he’d document the workforce available to him (and using a year’s worth of notes) he’d document the number and kind of constituent services his Council District had provided. In addition, he’d document (again, from notes) his work on the Council floor and his service on Council Committees.

OK. But imagine, if you can, the impact annual reports of 18 elected officials might have on the people of Los Angeles! How would Angelenos respond to the Mayor, the City Attorney, the Controller and the 15 City Councilmembers?

And what if the other 40 City agencies also reported to the people of Los Angeles? The Police Department, the Fire Department, the Department of Water and Power, etc. — what if all 40 send the people a year-end report explaining what their organization has been doing to make life better in Los Angeles — WOW!

Friends, with the Office of Finance, the Zoo, the Bureau of Sanitation — with the Department of Recreation & Parks, the Library, the Ethics Commission, the City Engineer, the Purchasing Agent — with every other entity in the City government reporting to the public, it really looks like a new day is just around the corner!!

THE DUTY EXISTS; THE OPPORTUNITY? WELL, THAT DEPENDS ON OUR LEADERS!

Samuel Sperling

samuelmsperling@yahoo.com                    (626) 576-8396             01-21-16

LADWP Board calls for higher electricity rates

The Los Angeles Board of Water and Power Commissioners unanimously approved power rate increases Tuesday to continue transforming the city’s power supply to renewable energy sources, as well as to modernize and upgrade power infrastructure to increase efficiency and reliability.

The proposal also creates new accountability measures and check-in periods to assess progress toward goals over the five-year rate period. The proposed electric rate ordinance will now be sent to the Los Angeles City Council for consideration.

The recommended power rate ordinance provides a $5.85 average monthly increase for residential customers using a typical amount of energy (500 kilowatt-hours per month) at the end of five years. That represents an average monthly increase of $1.17, or 1.56 percent each year.

Depending on the amount of power a customer uses, a monthly bill for electric service could increase between $4.20 to $26.30 at the end of five years. The proposed ordinance will provide average annual revenue increases of $144 million over the next five years, for a total of $720 million.

The board’s approval came after more than six months of public outreach and inputs from residents, businesses, stakeholders and the Office of Public Accountability/Ratemaker Advocate.

"Without this rate increase, we will default on our mandates and risk power disruptions that would have astronomical costs and significant impacts to our quality of life." -Mel Levine, president of the Board of Water and Power

The five-year electric rate proposal will allow the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to accelerate the replacement of aging power infrastructure, continue modernizing power plants to reduce ocean water cooling, improve efficiency and increase the utility’s ability to support renewable energy.

The funding will also support the growth of rooftop solar projects and will enable LADWP to continue expanding renewable energy and energy efficiency programs to meet state climate change mandates.

"This power rate increase will fund two main things — meeting the local, aging and broken infrastructures as well as to modernize and upgrade our power infrastructure to increase efficiency and reliability," said Mel Levine, president of the Board of Water and Power.

"Without this rate increase, we will default on our mandates and risk power disruptions that would have astronomical costs and significant impacts to our quality of life." Approximately 80 percent of new power revenues are necessary to meet clean energy and climate change goals and regulatory requirements.

After the next to 15 years, LADWP will eliminate the use of coal power in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, expand renewable energy to 33 percent of power sales by 2020, and increase energy efficiency to reduce electricity use by 15 percent by 2020. The LADWP expects the proposed power rate ordinance to be considered by the city council in the coming weeks along with the water rate ordinance approved by the board on Dec. 15.

For information, visit www.MyLADWP.com.
AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) commemorated Martin Luther King Jr. Day by participating in the MLK Day parade in South Los Angeles and hosting an HIV testing event in nearby as a way to spread support for free community college education for all residents. The goal is to build widespread support for free community college education for all residents and students to create a broad public understanding that free community college is an investment in America’s future and a necessary continuation after K-12 education.

The LACCD Board of Trustees will work collaboratively with business partners, chambers of commerce, economic and workforce development organizations, philanthropic associations and elected officials to achieve the goals, and they will advocate for legislation that provides the framework and sustainable funding for a statewide California Promise Program.

Since President Obama introduced America’s College Promise, the White House has worked to form coalitions that advocate for universal two-year college, stressing the need to increase the number of Americans with a postsecondary degree or credential by 2020. The campaign has a national advisory board headed by honorary chair Dr. Jill Biden, former VP Joe Biden, and honorary vice chair Jim Geringer, former governor of Wyoming. Scott Svonkin, president of the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees, is one of the 18 members of the advisory board.

“I am honored and humbled to be a part of this campaign. It is a great responsibility to represent Los Angeles in the effort to convince Congress and the nation of the need to make community college tuition free,” Svonkin said. “It is clear to me that President Obama understands that community colleges can be the path to a brighter future for so many. I myself am a high school dropout, and the goal is to give students like I was the chance to go to college.”

The LACCD Board of Trustees has passed other resolutions in support of the America’s College Promise Act. The LACCD has become a necessity for thousands of people of all ages to attain lucrative and satisfying jobs and careers, and to four-year university, Svonkin added.

Assemblyman Mike Gatto (D-Los Angeles) has authored a package of reforms that will make parking policies more fair and affordable for motorists.

The California Parking Bill of Rights will change substantially how cities and other local governments govern parking laws, providing relief from unjust citations. The legislation will prohibit cities from fining motorists who park at broken meters, prohibit valet-parking operations from falsely reporting spots or loading zones, prohibit cities from hiring private companies as parking “bounty hunters,” and require cities to promptly make spaces available to motorists after street-sweeping.

The legislation will also require cities installing new high-tech meters to allow demand-based pricing. motorists should not be required to pay the same fare at 11 a.m. as they are at 11 p.m. Gatto said.

The legislation will reduce the number of towing companies, allowing individuals for cars illegally parked due to criminal activity that they are not fault of the city. The assemblyman said car-theft vic- tims should not face high towing and storage bills because a car was dumped on a city street.

“Occasionally, the state needs to step in and remind our local governments that parking that a vehicle should be an efficient and practical, and not another big hassle designed to separate motorists from their money,” Gatto said. “These simple changes will make life easier for Californians who just want to park their cars and go about their business.”

Gatto is the chair of the Assembly Utilities & Commerce Committee, which is hosting the current member of the State Assembly for information. For visit www.asm.ca.gov/gatto.
Bills would ease penalties for some minor offenses

Sen. Bob Hertzberg has introduced two bills to protect poor and disadvantaged individuals from minor traffic or transit offenses from unfair fines and penalties that could otherwise undermine their ability to hold a job or stay in school.

The measures are part of Hertzberg’s ongoing efforts to raise people out of poverty, rebuild the middle class and improve California’s justice system.

SB 881 prohibits suspending a driver’s license for minor offenses, such as failure to appear in court or inability to pay a traffic fine. More than 4 million Californians have suspended driver’s licenses because of a failure to appear or pay fines, according to a 2015 study conducted by the Western Center on Law and Poverty. Many people, in turn, end up losing their jobs, Hertzberg said.

SB 882 prevents public transit authorities from purchasing or receiving a transit pass because they have a prior fare-evasion ticket. Transit fare evasion is the number one cause of juvenile citations in Los Angeles County, according to Los Angeles County Probation Department. Blocking people from riding public transit can prevent them from getting to school or work, and it can encourage more fare-evasion violations or other criminal conduct, Hertzberg said.

“There is too long, we’ve allowed these negative penalties for minor offenses to snowball out of control, and now we have a system in which an inability to pay can cost a person his or her driver’s license or bus pass and the ability to hold a job or stay in school,” Hertzberg said. “We must roll back the overly harsh penalties if we want to give people a fair chance to make amends without pushing them deeper into poverty.”

“The legislation follows Hertzberg’s measure, SB 405, and Gov. Jerry Brown’s related budget proposal that together established a new traffic amnesty program. The program allows people to speak to a judge, before paying fines, restores driver’s licenses to people with a payment plan and reduces fee debts by taking a person’s income into account. We must encourage — not discourage — people to follow the law,” Hertzberg said. “Furthermore, we must support people who are working jobs and going to school and not allow excessive penalties that pull the rug out from under them.”

Emergency measures approved for L.A. River

Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, introduced an emergency motion on Jan. 13 directing city departments to help facilitate the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) emergency preventative work in preparation for El Niño storms that could potentially impact the Los Angeles River.

“We should not let the last few days of sunshine lull us into a false sense of security,” O’Farrell said. “This El Niño weather pattern in particular is very unpredictable and we will require our partners on the federal level to take special preventive measures for those who live in neighborhoods along the L.A. River. We want to thank the USACE and the county Department of Public Works and city departments for their efforts to make greater public safety during this rainy season.

The USACE recently received emergency funding to begin work on an area of the L.A. River spanning from Griffin to Elysian Valley. Crews will remove invasive species of vegetation and debris, and install temporary 4-foot tall HESCO baskets (industrial sandbags) that will raise the walls and temporarily restrict access to the banks of the river.

“There will be intermittent, temporary closures related to the placement of the barriers, and that does mean there will be inconveniences along the pathway,” O’Farrell said. “This is a federal agency declaring a state of emergency because of a very real, although remote, chance of the river overflowing its banks during one of the many El Nino related storms expected to occur during the next three months, and we must all comply.

The emergency work required action from the Los Angeles City Council to allow the USACE right-of-way entry to the L.A. River levees. It also requires the closure of some sections of the L.A. River bike and pedestrian pathway through mid-April.

The work is expected to take several weeks, with the installation expected to remain in place through spring. The Los Angeles Department of Transportation is working on distributing a list of closures for the bike and pedestrian pathway along the L.A. River.

New directors to help implement school standards, funding

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson last week named Brent Maltece as director of the California Department of Education’s (CDE) new standards support office and Jeff Breshears as director of the local agency support office. Both appointments are key CDE leadership positions and reflect the department’s increasing emphasis on supporting districts and schools, Torlakson said.

The standards support office will provide increased access to the tools and resources necessary to implement the new, more rigorous California learning standards, which cover English-language arts, math, science and English language development.

“We are fortunate that a proven school leader of Brent’s caliber has joined the department,” Torlakson said. “His success leading school districts with high-quality implemen- tation of Common Core Standards will be a great addition to CDE and the students and families we serve.”

The local agency systems support office helps school districts achieve state and local goals in the Local Control Funding Formula, which gives districts more resources and more flexibility in spending, and requires them to work with their students to create education plans.

Breshears brings 10 years of CDE experience supporting pro- grams that serve high-need stu- dents. “Jeff’s work with the initial stages of California’s innovative Local Control Funding Formula implementation will provide the department with high-quality lead- ership needed to create and guide the next phase of this important pro- gram,” Torlakson said.

Counties simplify online permitting

Los Angeles County has embarked on an effort to enhance customer service and reduce costs by simplifying the online applica- tion and permitting system process. The Department of Regional Planning’s website — known as EPIC-LA — now provides a comprehensive approach to entitlement processing and code enforcement. Additional features include elec- tronic plan checking and review as well as mobile tools for code enforcement and inspections.

For information, visit www.port- alplanning.lacounty.gov.

L.A. Clippers and YMCA expand Jr. Clippers program

The Los Angeles Clippers, the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) and the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles (YMCA) teamed up Friday to tip-off the 16th annual Jr. Clippers program, which featured a record 24,000 youth participants.

Clippers players Josh Smith and Luq Mbaah a Mine joined repre- sentatives from RAP and YMCA for the ceremonial jersey distrib- ution at the Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies at 5931 West 18th St.

The Jr. Clippers program works exclusively with inner city children ages 5-14 to promote the fundamentals of basketball, sportsmanship and athletics as an alternative to negative influences. The program is one of the most successful youth sports programs in Los Angeles.

The Jr. Clippers program started with 750 participants 15 years ago and has grown to serve more than 24,000 youth this year. The Jr. Clippers Foundation was created in 2003 with proceeds from the Jr. Clippers program. The program is funded by the Los Angeles Clippers Foundation.

The Oral Systemic Link and You

The oral systemic link means that the health of your mouth does influence affect the health of the rest of your body. But what does that mean to you?

Heart disease, type 2 dia- betes, pregnancy complica- tions, Alzheimer’s and different cancers among other illnesses have all now been associated with chronic inflammation. One of the most common, if not the most common source of chronic inflammation in the human body is gum disease. Gum disease allows bacteria from the mouth to get into the bloodstream and go all over the body.

Some of the signs of gum disease include bad breath, gums that bleed when you brush and/or floss, loose teeth and gums that have pulled away from the teeth.

At Southern California Dental Health Associated we pride ourselves on staying on top of your overall health.


MAJESTIC JEWELRY

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dineLA starts Jan.

DineLA Restaurant Week is a 14-day dining event that takes place in over 300 restaurants throughout L.A. county, offering specially priced lunch and dinner menus. This season, dineLA is partnering with OpenTable to donate $1 of every seated reservation that’s booked to The Midnight Mission, a vital nonprofit organization that provides food, shelter and essential aid to those experiencing homelessness throughout the city. Visit discoverlosangeles.com for participating restaurants and to make a reservation.

dineLA at Estrella

Located in a boho-chic setting on the Sunset Strip, chef Dakota Weiss of Estrella is offering a $20 lunch during dineLA Restaurant Week through Jan. 31 with an option to add dessert for an additional $6. Menu highlights include Peking duck sweet potato croquette, grilled skirt steak and bittersweet chocolate caramel bars. 8800 Sunset Blvd., (310)652-6613.

Faith & Flower dineLA

Visit Faith & Flower in Downtown Los Angeles to enjoy a three-course dineLA lunch for $25, and a special dinner with a beverage for $49. Menu highlights include plancha-seared petrale sole, bacon-wrapped pork tenderloin followed by hazelnut chocolate feuilletine for dessert. 705 W. 9th St., (213)239-0642.

Terrine dineLA

Terrine executive chef Kris Morningstar is serving decadent burgers with truffle butter, sage aoli and concentrated tomatoes for lunch during dineLA Restaurant Week, and Wagyu beef with brown butter pomme purée with lamb’s leaf lettuce and crunchy salad for dinner. The lunch is $20; $39 per person for the dinner menu. 8265 Beverly Blvd., (323)346-5130.

Mid-century modern at Viviane

Executive chef Michael Hung is offering a multi-course dineLA lunch for $25 and dinner menu for $49 per person at Viviane. Diners can enjoy salad and a choice of four entrées during lunch that include prime ribeye sandwiches with savoy cabbage slaw and horseradish cream fraîche. Finish with a selection of handmade cookies with flavors such as double chocolate, black sesame and candied ginger cookies. For dinner, guests can share two first-course dishes with a choice of entrée and dessert. Entrées include crispy duck leg confit with braised lacinato kale, extra virgin olive oil poached

Piedmontese Bone-In Short Ribs

Piedmontese Bone-In Short Ribs

$6.98

per lb.

limit 10 lbs.

Must have this ad

Nicely trimmed, bone-in. All natural. No antibiotics - ever!

Humanely and sustainably farmed.

Price good through Wed., Jan. 27

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In The Original Farmers Market

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Family Owned at the

Farmers Market for 75 Years
Bottomless mimosas and traditional fare highlight a top notch brunch at Spear

by Karen Villalpando

photo courtesy of Spear

restaurant.com.

Restaurant News

By Jill Weilnstein

photo courtesy of The Factory Kitchen

Traditional eggs Benedict are jazzed up with pork belly and a spot on Hollandaise. The crab Benedict comes with a jumbo lump crab cake.

New Obicà opens

O bicà, a global restaurant group serving contemporary Italian regional dishes with locations in New York, Los Angeles, Tokyo, Dubai and London, has opened a new restaurant in Santa Monica. The new Obicà in Santa Monica is the 12th Obicà in the United States.

A lively Sunday brunch is recently offered at Spear Steak & Seafood House at DTLA. Just a few weeks into their new brunch service, one can boast a lively, friendly crowd sipping bottomless mimosas, grooving to the sounds of a DJ and occasional live music.

The menu starts with fresh bakery selections from nearby Danish bakery, Hygge – a good beginning to a company of a tall mimosa or a hand crafted bloody Mary. The bottomless mimosas are just $10. The bloody Marys, piqued up below, are garnished with such goodies as a cocktail shrimp and a spiced boiled egg – practically an appetizer itself.

For entrées, choose from traditional brunch fare like eggs Benedict, smoked salmon with bagel and cream cheese, flat iron steak and eggs, or a classic Spear Steak & Seafood House eggs any style, applewood smoked bacon and bottomless mimosas with lunch, brunch or dinner. Take photos and post them with #obicaLA and #dineLAobica to enter to win a $50 gift card. 606 Broadway, (310)993-6633.

By Karen Villalpando

photo courtesy of Spear

National Irish Coffee Day

The iconic watering hole will celebrate St. Patrick's Day. 840 S. Fairfax Ave., (323)936-7151.

Robert Burns Dinner

T om O’Shanter is hosting special dinners in celebration of the birthday of legendary Scottish poet Robert Burns on Tuesday, Jan. 26 and Wednesday, Jan. 27, with seatings at 5:30 and 8 p.m. Burns introduced the character Tam O’Shanter in a poem in 1790, and the term later came to describe a Scottish-style men’s wool hat. Tam O’Shanter has 40 varieties of single malt Scotch available for tasting. Enjoy specially prepared haggis – a dish made from sheep organs and other ingredients – and musical performances by bagpipers, drummers and step dancers during the Robert Burns celebration. Guests are encouraged to wear plaid. The restaurant will offer a playful take on Burns’ poetry read by actress Koni McKunry, and the dinners will be prepared by chef Ivan Harrison, a haggis aficionado who started working at the Tam in 1958 and retired after 42 years. 2980 Los Feliz Blvd., (323)664-0228.

See Restaurant News page 15

Italian cuisine expertly prepared at The Factory Kitchen

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The Factory Kitchen, serving traditional Italian fare in the heart of downtown Los Angeles’ Arts District, is the collaboration of a long-standing friendship between Restaurateur Matteo Ferdinandi and Chef Angelo Auriana. Auriana prepares dishes using fresh, seasonal and locally sourced ingredients highlighting the simplicity of traditional local recipes. The Factory Kitchen takes its name from the street it’s located on and the complex that houses it, but the restaurant’s soul is purely Italian.

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Dining to circles for the corxetti stampatoia with ripe tomatoes have a thicker skin than sweeter and less acidic. Many chefs believe these are the best tomatoes to use in Italian sauces.

Other tempting dishes included the seared duck breast and leg confit; crustacean filled egg pasta; braised beef short ribs; and pan roasted veal chop. They make terrific pizzas, too.

Dinner

By Karen Villalpando

photo courtesy of Speard

Brewing Co. will be prepared by chef Ivan Harrison, a haggis aficionado who started working at the Tam in 1958 and retired after 42 years. 2980 Los Feliz Blvd., (323)664-0228.

See Restaurant News page 15

Spear Steak & Seafood House

Top-notch mimosas and traditional fare highlight a top-notch brunch at Spear.

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On January 11

At 12:01 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5600 block of Wilshire.

At 4 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6100 block of Wilshire.

At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Wilcox and Sunset.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7500 block of Santa Monica.

At 5 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8200 block of Blackburn.

At 12:01 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5600 block of Wilshire.

At 1:05 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5600 block of Wilshire.

At 12:45 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Hollywood and Cherokee.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Hollywood and Cahuenga.

Jan. 12

At 2:20 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of S. Oxford and Formosa.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7500 block of Wilshire.

At 10:30 p.m., a petty theft was reported in the 6100 block of Sunset.

At 11 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. Sweetzer.

Jan. 13

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8200 block of Romaine.

An unknown suspect attempted to rob a victim near the corner of S. Oxford and Formosa.

At 5:30 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Wilshire and Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6500 block of Wilshire.

At 9 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of S. Oxford.

At 9:30 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 5600 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a robbery in the 100 block of S. Bixby.

Jan. 14

At 12:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7100 block of Melrose.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 800 block of N. Western at 1:57 a.m.

At 3:50 a.m., an attempted burglary was reported in the 6800 block of Melrose.

An unknown suspect committed a theft in the 5600 block of Santa Monica at 5:50 a.m.

At 6 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 500 block of S. Broadway.

An unknown suspect stole a bicycle in the 8900 block of Santa Monica at noon.

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

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 1300 block of Gordon at 3:20 p.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of S. Orange.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1300 block of N. San Vicente.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Hollywood and Cahuenga.

Jan. 15

At 2:40 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Plamale and McCadden Plase.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. Sycamore.

At 7:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of S. Ardmore.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 500 block of Wilshire.

At 8:10 a.m., a theft report was filed in the 6700 block of W. Sunset.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 4300 block of W. Fourth at 11:17 a.m.

At 8:20 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 5000 block of Wilshire.

The former chief marketing offi- cer at Mirae Bank was arrested Jan. 7 on federal fraud charges that allege he was responsible for the losses of at least $150 million in fraudulent loans.

The loans allegedly caused the bank to suffer at least $33 million in losses, and were called a significant factor in Mirae Bank’s failure in 2009.

The defendant, Atoollah Aminpour, 57, of Beverly Hills, was arrested without incident.

At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 600 block of N. San Vicente.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7800 block of Hollywood at 7 p.m.

At 3:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 7700 block of Hollywood.

At 3:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 7700 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect committed a theft in the 8400 block of Melrose Place at 2:05 p.m.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 1200 block of N. La Brea.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of S. Mansfield and S. Mansfield at 4 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 2300 block of S. Mansfield at 4 p.m.

At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 600 block of N. San Vicente.

A suspect stole a bicycle in the 5700 block of W. Sunset.

At 3 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of S. Longwood.

At 10:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a robbery in the 500 block of N. Schrader at 3:30 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Oxford and Fifth.

An attempted vehicle burglary was reported in the 100 block of N. Hayworth at 8 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of S. Clark. A second vehicle burglary was reported in the same location at 8 p.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1700 block of N. Orange at 9 p.m.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8200 block of Blackburn.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of Ogden at 9:30 p.m.

Jan. 16

At 12:01 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of Laurel.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. Wilmont at 1:05 p.m.

At 1:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglared a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of Flores.

An unknown suspect picked the pocket of a victim near the corner of Wilshire and Ivan at 1:35 p.m.

At 1:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 7700 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Melrose Place at 2:05 p.m.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 1200 block of N. La Brea.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of S. Mansfield and S. Mansfield at 4 p.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6300 block of W. Third.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of S. Formosa at 5:50 a.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Sunset and Orange at 8 p.m.

After the course of nearly four years, Mr. Aminpour was able to skim money from many of these loans which allowed him to profit at the expense of the bank and tax- payers who had to bail out the failed financial institution. The indictment further alleges that Aminpour concealed information about these losses from the Federal Reserve Board and the FDIC, which allowed him to keep the profits accrued. According to the indictment, Aminpour portrayed himself as a successful businessman who obtained loans from small money lenders who made short-term, high-interest loans, and, in some cases, from Aminpour him- self. The defendant also allegedly arranged for bogus lender informa- tion to be submitted to Mirae Bank in documents that falsely represent- ed borrower assets, their experience in the business or the income expected from the business. In one instance detailed in the indictment, Aminpour allegedly forged a docu- ment submitted to Mirae Bank showing that a borrower had more than $1.4 million on deposit at another bank, when Aminpour him- self had provided the borrower with $1.3 million in cash after he asked for money that was in the borrower’s account for only one day. Former bank executive charged with fraud

Suspect sought for hit-and-run collision

Detectives with the Los Angeles Police Department’s Central Traffic Division are asking for the public’s help in obtaining information that will lead to the arrest of a suspect responsible for a fatal hit-and-run traffic collision on Jan. 7.

The collision occurred at approxi- mately 5:40 a.m. on Pico Boulevard west of Cherry Avenue. Authorities found the 44-year-old victim lying in the street under- neath an overpass for the Harbor (110) Freeway. The victim was pro- nounced dead at scene.

Wittman called 911 to report a body lying in the roadway, but nobody reported seeing the initial collision. Anyone with information is urged to contact Det. Felix Padilla at (213)486-6783.
Music series returns to historic Greystone Mansion

The “Music in the Mansion” series returns to the Greystone Mansion and Gardens/Doheny Estate in Beverly Hills on Sunday, Jan. 24 at 2 p.m. with a performance by the ensembles Sakura (pictured) and Amicus Duo.

The cello quintet Sakura features Sarah Rommel, Michael Kaufman, Peter Myers, Yoshika Musadu and Jonathan Dormand, who draw from a repertoire that spans eight centuries. Amicus Duo includes cellist Coleman Itzkoff and pianist Alin Melik-Adamyan, winners of the 2015 Beverly Hills National Auditions and rising stars from the USC Thornton Cello Studio.

The series continues on Feb. 21 with a performance by the European Concert Trio with pianist Irina Bazik, soprano Harriet Fraser and clarinetist Amanda Walker, followed by a performance on March 20 by Cinematic Scenes with guitarist Ines Thome and violinist Yuen Kim. Additional concerts will be held on April 24, May 22 and June 19. The series concludes on July 13 with the iPalpiti Festival, bringing together award-winning musicians from around the world.

Tickets are $20; $30 for the iPalpiti season finale.

Cruise in to The Petersen and win!

The Petersen Automotive Museum has announced the return of its Breakfast Club Cruise-In on Sunday, Jan. 24 from 8 to 10 a.m.

Visitors can view some of the fastest and rarest cars. Car enthusiasts can enter their vehicles in a car show and contest. Awards will be presented for Best-in-Show and People’s Choice. The most historically authentic car will receive The Petersen Award. Participants can enjoy music and food.

The vehicles will be displayed on the third floor of the museum’s parking structure. All types of cars, trucks and motorcycles are welcome. RSVP required at www.petersen.org. The Petersen is located at 6060 Wilshire Blvd. For information, call (323)930-CARS, or visit www.petersen.org.

Restaurant News

From page 13

Proud Bird closes for renovations

The celebrated aviation themed restaurant The Proud Bird is closing Feb. 1 for approximately 10 months for the first renovations since opening its doors in 1967. The restaurant and event space, offering views of the runways at Los Angeles International Airport, will become a food hall with kiosks offering diverse artisanal cuisine, acknowledging the cultural melting pot in Los Angeles. The dining area will pay tribute to aviation as diners depart on a culinary journey around the world. 11022 Aviation Blvd., (310)670-3093.

Pitchoun happy hour

Known for their authentic French sweets and dishes, Pitchoun also offers happy hour every Tuesday through Saturday from 4 to 7 p.m. Nearly 80 niche wines are available at the newly added bistro bar. Choose from 15 American and European craft beers. Special cocktails are also offered, such as bellinis, mimosas, kir and sangria in addition to weekly featured cocktails. The happy hour menu offers French small bites and shareable platters of dry meats, salami and cheeses, homemade terrines, antipasti, light healthy plates, sardines and regional tapas with wine pairing suggestions. The restaurant also offers a special dish from the South of France every week. 545 S. Olive St., (213)689-3240.

Salt & Straw opens in Venice

The artisan ice cream store, Salt & Straw, which opened its first Los Angeles-area shop in Larchmont Village, has opened a second shop on Abbott Kinney in Venice. Salt & Straw held a month-long, special pre-opening fundraiser with their ice cream truck parked on Abbott Kinney and raised $4,200 that will be donated to Westminster Elementary School in Venice. The shop serves all the classic flavors as well as new flavors for January from head ice cream maker Tyler Malek. Try his edible ode to The King – an ice cream called “Happy Birthday Elvis” with flavors like sparkling jasmine sorbet, candied clementine and vanilla bean. 1357 Abbott Kinney Blvd., (310)310-8429.

Uplifting play ‘Fly’ soars to new heights

The Pasadena Playhouse and Crossroads Theatre Company present a production “Fly” running Tuesday, Jan. 26 through Sunday, Feb. 21.

The play by Trey Ellis and Ricardo Khan was inspired by the heroism of the Tuskegee Airmen. The production is being held in observance of Black History Month in February.

“Fly” tells the story of the first African-American Military Air Corps fighter pilots who flew over the skies of Europe and North Africa during World War II. Featuring a cast of eight, “Fly” tells the Tuskegee Airmen’s stories celebrating hope, endurance and accomplishment. The character, Tap Griot, uses tap dance to set a mood that is part sublimated anger, part empowerment.

The Pasadena Playhouse is located at 39 S. El Molino Ave. Showtimes are 8 p.m., Tuesday through Friday; 4 and 8 p.m., Saturday; and 2 and 7 p.m., Sunday. Tickets start at $25. For information, call (626)356-7529, or visit PasadenaPlayhouse.org.
Couturier Gallery participates in Photo L.A.

The Couturier Gallery will be part of Photo LA, Jan. 21-24 presenting work from Cuban photographers Rene Peña, Moreira, Jose Tabio Palma and Korda, Andrew Moore, Cirenaica Figeroa, Aimee Garcia, Alberto Raphael Raul Corrales, Jose A. presenting work from Cuban photographers Rene Peña, Moreira, Jose Tabio Palma and Korda, Andrew Moore, Cirenaica Figeroa, Aimee Garcia, Alberto Raphael Raul Corrales, Jose A.

Photo LA is an annual event and is celebrating its 25th anniversary. The fair kicks off on Thursday, Jan. 21 at 6 p.m. with an opening night gala held in honor of artist James Welling. Proceeds from the gala will benefit Best Buddies International, a nonprofit dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement. Photo LA will be held at the historic L.A. Mart building in Downtown Los Angeles located at 100 S. Broadway Blvd. For information, visit www.photo-lola.com.

Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor | Jan 21, 2016

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Down
1. Cast weaver's problem
2. More than a book
3. Winged figure
4. Chimneypiece
5. Ammo casings
6. Southeast Asian dish
7. General direction
8. Like some cigars
9. Jacket type
10. Sleeveless vestment
11. Fissure
12. Like an oxeye window
13. "As you ___"
14. Red dye
15. Eskimo boat
16. Ready to be drawn
17. Astragals
18. Theo ending
19. Sandal stone
20. Where to find a hero
21. Fur source
22. Like some cigars
23. Tobacco product
24. English frozen veg
25. Favorite food
26. Sages
27. Where to find a hero
28. 1940s hit song
29. United States
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Across
1. List components
2. Lance
3. Siouan Indian
4. Religious scroll
5. Fleece chaser
6. Fissure
7. Indian dish ingredient
8. City named for an Indian
9. Sleeveless vestment
10. Siouan Indian
11. Fissure
12. Like an oxeye window
13. "As you ___"
14. Red dye
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The exhibition, Visas to Freedom: Aristides de Sousa Mendes and the Refugees of World War II, will open to the public from Jan. 22-March 1 at the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust (LAMOTH). On Saturday, Jan. 23, one weekend prior to International Holocaust Remembrance Day, LAMOTH will celebrate the actions of Holocaust rescuer Aristides de Sousa Mendes with two film screenings and a private reception. Sousa Mendes was a Portuguese consul general stationed in Bordeaux, France in 1940. His government had issued strict orders to its diplomats to deny visas to Jews and other refugees seeking to escape German-occupied Europe through Portugal. Sousa Mendes defied these orders and issued Portuguese visas to thousands of people in May and June of 1940. At 11 a.m., LAMOTH will screen “With God Against Man,” a 2013 documentary that follows a group of Sousa Mendes visa recipients families, along with members of the Sousa Mendes family, as they embark on a pilgrimage to retracethe footsteps the family took more than seven decades earlier. At 2 p.m., the museum will screen “Disobedience: The Sousa Mendes Story,” a 2016 French feature that tells Sousa Mendes’ story. In addition, an invitation-only reception will be held at 6 p.m. to officially kick off the exhibition and will include several guest speakers. During the event, awards will be presented to California state legislators Johan Klehs, Rusty Areias and Richard Katz. The LAMOTH Sousa Mendes events coincide with International Holocaust Remembrance Day on Jan. 27, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. This year also marks the 50th anniversary of Sousa Mendes being recognized in 1966 as one of the “Righteous Among the Nations” by Israel’s Holocaust authority, Yad Vashem, and the 30th anniversary of his being recognized by the U.S. government and Portuguese governments in 1986. The museum is located in Pan Pacific Park at 100 S. The Grove Dr. For information, visit www.lamoth.org.
Oscar refreshers: ‘Room’ and ‘The Big Short’ deliver

If Brie Larson doesn’t win best actress then the Oscars are a complete sham. Nobody outperformed her. “Room” is both emotionally exhausting and beautifully uplifting, often just moments apart. The journey isn’t easy, but finding the light never is. At 17, Joy Newsome (Larson) was kidnapped by a man simply known as Old Nick (Sean Bridgers). Now at 24, she lives captive in a converted tool shed with her 5-year-old son Jack (Jacob Tremblay).

Imagine trying to explain the outside world to a child who knows only one cramped bedroom. That’s but a small dose of the challenges of sleeping, showering and using the bathroom in the same room, next to your kid.

To call “Room” a heartfelt delight seems to downplay its significance. But it’s a special kind of tear-jerker built for awards season. That’s hardly a dig. Larson transcends the competition, and young Tremblay, our shining narrator throughout, has a fascinating point of view: seeing the world for the first time at an older age and searching for the best ways to articulate this newfound paradise.

Director Lenny Abrahamson is a virtual unknown – a Dublin-born director overseeing a Canadian-Irish production. He takes a film half of which set in one room, and transforms that small space into an entire world. That’s the wonder of working with child actors, but it’s also the sign of someone who knows that a premise like this can go very badly – or just be flat out dull – without proper care.

And let’s not forget the person responsible for this all, Emma Donoghue, who wrote the novel and screenplay. While she was inspired by the Elizabeth Fritzl case in Austria, this is hardly unfamiliar territory. Donoghue, who wrote the novel, particularly when addressing rape, but never shies away from the taboos. Trust me, if you lack empathy, “Room” might set you right.

“The Big Short”

How did Adam McKay, the director of “ Anchorman” and “The Other Guys,” concoct one of the most insightful films about the financial crisis in 2008? Following two weak films, he’s now an Oscar nominee for directing and adapted screenwriting. These are strange times indeed.

Trying to understand how exactly Wall Street screwed us all remains a confounding topic, and “The Big Short” knows that. To guide us through all the jargon and red tape that allowed criminal acts to go without prosecution, we have Steve Carell as Mark Baum and Ryan Gosling as Jared Vennett. He comically explains all the shady dealings of the past decade and introduces key players, like hedge fund manager Dr. Michael Burry (Christian Bale) and Mark Baum (Steve Carell), who separately learned about mortgage/impending doom just in time to bet against the market and score big.

It’s all fun and games, particularly when Vennett has Margot Robbie in a bubble bath explaining mortgage loans and Selena Gomez playing blackjack, discussing what happens when investors bet on some else’s bet. For a film based on actual events and people involved, it’s very self-parodying. But eventually the weight of it all, the horrifying realization that things are about to get very bad for the nation and world, kicks in. At those moments, Baum’s anger at everything he can’t fix – and a general disdain for how awful people can really be – resonates deeply.

Bale deserves his Oscar nod for depicting a man with a glass eye who likely has Asperger’s syndrme. The man is truly a chameleon. But this movie belongs to Carell for one of his most stunning performances in a truly original way that challenges what we all care about – celebrity news, mindless viral videos, etc. – instead of things that could actually make our lives better and our futures safer.

Fowler Museum brings family fun

On Sunday Jan. 24, the Fowler Museum at UCLA will host ChimaTEK Virtual Chimeric Space in the Disguise Exhibition. Showings will be from 1-1:20 p.m., 2-2:20 p.m., 3:30-3:32 p.m. and 4-4:20 p.m. ChimaTEK is choreographed by Laura Garcia, and is performed by UCLA Dance students Lissette Argoud and Daeun Jung. The performance encourages viewers to consider cultural difference in a new light.

From 2-4 p.m., families can enjoy dance and movement with Break a Leg. Dancing with Antics Performance which takes inspiration from the movement in the video works of Sondra Perry, Brenda Fernandes and Jacobey Satterwhite. At 3 p.m., the Fowler will host a gallery talk with photographer Cindy Bendat.

Bendat will share the stories behind her exhibitions, and light refreshments will follow the talk.

Fowler Museum at UCLA is located at 308 Charles E. Young Dr. For more information, visit hwww.fowler.ucla.edu.
The Schindler House presents A Path Appears: Actions for a Better World on display at the Skirball Cultural Center until Feb. 21. "A Path Appears," co-authored by New York Times journalist Nicholas D. Kristof, explores worldwide challenges and solutions, and "art work," the activity of art. By inviting visitors to complete the artworks themselves, Wurm invites them to ask questions about the differences between "artwork" and "art work," the activity of art alongside the display object.

Wurm’s practice has been celebrated and exhibited internationally by his work that has most recently been shown in solo shows at the Indianapolis Museum of Art, Städel Museum, Frankfurt, Germany; and the Lehmann Maupin Gallery, New York. His work also appears in permanent collections around the world. One Minute Sculptures is supported by the Pasadena Art Alliance and in part by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. The Schindler House is located at 835 N. Kings Rd. For information, visit www.theschindlerhouse.com.
The Wallis makes dancing accessible for all

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills is offering a new session of three public dance/movement courses on Fridays beginning Jan. 22 with classes continuing every Friday through June.

These courses continue the center’s partnership with L.A.’s Invertigo Dance Theatre. Invertigo’s Tiny Tots Move and Groove, Dancing Through Life and Dancing Through Parkinson’s will provide toddlers and guardians, older adults and people living with Parkinson’s disease and other degenerative diseases an invigorating environment specially designed to explore dance and encourage movement.

A free open house kicks off the new session on Friday, Jan. 22 at 4:30 p.m. A Space for Arts Education at The Wallis.

“We’re excited to open our doors on January 22 and invite the community back to The Wallis to experience these fun dance classes,” said Mark Slavkin, director of education at The Wallis. “It is thrilling to share the joy of dance with learners of all ages.”

Single classes are now available, in addition to the multi-class packages previously offered. Registration and the required fees, ranging from a suggested donation of $15 to $30, are available online.

GetW: A Space for Arts Education at The Wallis is located at 9303 N. Santa Monica Blvd.

For information about the Invertigo Dance Theatre, visit www.invertigodance.org/pd, and for information about the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, visit thewallis.org.

Music Center presents ‘Rice’

The Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan will perform “Rice” for the first time in Southern California at The Music Center’s Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in a three-day engagement, Jan. 29-31.

The show is brought to the stage by Gloraya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center.

With dancers trained in meditation, Qigong (an ancient form of breathing exercise), internal martial arts, modern dance and ballet, Cloud Gate Dance Theatre transforms ancient aesthetics into thrilling original performances and a modern celebration of motion.

Created by founder and artistic director Lin Hwai-min, “Rice” is a human drama that calls attention to the need to protect the earth by portraying the life cycle of rice cultivation.

To emphasize the messages, the production projects vivid video images of flooding, growth, harvesting and burning of the fields. The soundtrack mixes Hakka folk songs, using the oldest of the existing Chinese dialects and including sounds from nature.

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The L.A. Art Show will host The Way of Modern Man installation, a performance piece by Jana Cruder from Jan. 27-31.

Cruder’s installation is a multi-faceted exploration of the interconnectedness between technology, communication, physiology and the human experience. Made up of 30-minute performance sessions that culminate in a photography exhibition, The Way of Modern Man illustrates how smartphone culture is changing what it means to be human. Cruder was inspired to create The Way of Modern Man after spending time people watching in Hong Kong.

The Way of Modern Man is divided into two parts and uses a conceptual and formal structure to create both a physical space and a channel for exploring the contrast between the projected self and the observed self.

Cruder is a Los Angeles-based artist who uses photography, film and installation art to craft experiences that communicate her message, which she then documents.

She received her fine art degree from Rochester Institute of Technology, and she merges art and science.

The L.A. Art Show will be held at The Los Angeles Convention Center located at 1201 S. Figueroa St. For information, visit www.laartshow.com.

Craft and Folk Art Museum explores enameling history


It is the first national traveling exhibition of enamel arts in more than 50 years. Enameling, the art of fusing glass to metal using a high temperature firing process, is an under-documented art form rich in history, technique and visual opulence.

The exhibition explores the history of enameling in this country over the past 100 years through objects ranging from chinoiserie jewelry to large abstract wall panels. It is organized by the Los Angeles-based Enamel Arts Foundation.

Taking its title from a phrase the artist Karl Dreyer used to describe the extraordinary properties of enameling, the exhibition includes 121 works from the Enamel Arts Foundation’s collection of modern and contemporary enamels.

“The enamels field has been overlooked for far too long,” said the exhibition’s co-curators Bernard N. Jazar and Harold B. Nelson. “Our goal as curators and as co-founders of the Enamel Arts Foundation is to shed further light on this remarkable field and to present a fuller picture of art-making practices in their richly diverse complexity from the mid 20th century to the present.”

The Craft and Folk Art Museum is located at 5814 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit www.crafam.org.
Jewish Women’s Theatre (JWT) presents the premier of “Temptation,” a production examining the eternal struggle of temptation through words and music, on Jan. 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Braid in Santa Monica. “Temptation” explores moments in life that are too tempting to resist and the consequences of biting forbidden fruits. From teenagers who open a book about sex, to an elected official offered a bribe and a family dealing with homosexuality, the actors delve into temptation with humor and sensitivity.

The National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles (NCJW/LA) is displaying art by members of the Art Pals and Art Bridges Culture programs through Feb. 29 at the NCJW/LA council house. Student art from Art Bridges Culture is pictured on the left, and works by the Art Pals program students is shown on the right. The programs are part of NCJW/LA’s Youth Educational Programs and Services department, which provides volunteer-led art education for elementary schools. Art Pals uses a MOCA-based curriculum to teach 3rd and 4th grade students about contemporary art, including how art reflects society. Art Bridges Culture offers a 13-lesson, culturally focused curriculum, examining one country every week and creating a hands-on art project reflective of the country’s heritage and history. The council house is located at 543 N. Fairfax Ave. For information or to schedule viewing appointments, call Carrie Jacobs at (323)852-8512, or email carrie@ncjwla.org.

The Music Center has appointed Valentine Kang Gelman as senior vice president of advancement. She joins The Music Center after a 17-year career with Cambridge in America, the fundraising organization of Cambridge University and its 31 independent Colleges.

Gelman served as director of campaign programs and advancement resources and director of development relations. She will assume her new position with The Music Center on March 1.

Gelman brings experience in fundraising and an understanding of the arts to her new position. She credits her success in developing a comprehensive prospect research and donor relations program, which helped the University’s access to donors and board members in fields such as technology, arts and culture, finance and biotech. Prior to her tenure with NCJW/LA displays art from youth programs

Jewish Women’s Theatre offers ‘tempting’ experience

Celebrities partner with Sea Shepherd for conservation

The Los Angeles Philharmonic’s 2015/16 organ recital series continues as internationally celebrated soprano Christine Brewer and organist Paul Jacobs perform on Sunday, Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

The concert will see musicians join forces for a rare organ and solo work with performances by composers such as Bach, Handel, Puccini and Reger, and Nadia and Lily Boulanger.

The first and only organist ever to have won a Grammy Award, Jacobs applies intellectual and technical skills to a vast repertoire of music written for organ. He has performed the complete organ works of Bach and Messiaen. A fierce advocate for new music, he has also premiered works by Samuel Adler, Mason Bates, Michael Daugherty, Wayne Ouin, Stephen Paulus and Christopher Theofanidis, among others.

Grammy Award-winning soprano Brewer is known for opera, concert and recital artistry and is marked by her unique timbre, combined with a vibrant personality and emotional honesty reminiscent of the great sopranos of the past.

The Walt Disney Concert Hall organ’s striking visual design was a collaboration between Frank Gehry and organ builder Manuel Rosales. The organ’s dynamic range—from pianissimo to a fortissimo—can overshadow the sounds of a full orchestra. The organ, affectionately called “Hurricane Mama,” named by musical visionary Terry Riley after a night of improvising.

A free “Upbeat Live” pre-concert discussion will be held at Walt Disney Concert Hall’s BP Hall one hour prior to the concert. The Walt Disney Concert Hall is located at 111 S. Grand Ave. For information, call (323)882-0800, or visit www.laphil.com.

The Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE) has appointed Rachelle Pastor Arizmendi as vice president and chief operating officer. Arizmendi returns to PACE after serving as the director of the organization’s Early Childhood Education and Workforce Development. PACE serves more than 60,000 people annually in Los Angeles with workforce development, affordable housing, energy and environmental services, small business training and early childhood education.

Arizmendi also currently serves as a board member on the AB 8 in Costa and Westwood, Sea Shepherd Advisory Board members; Anderson, Farrah Smith, a celebrity relations representative for Sea Shepherd; and Ross McCall, a Sea Shepherd Advisory Board member.

Westwood partnered with Sea Shepherd on an initiative to recruit people from diverse backgrounds to find ways to protect oceanic biodiversity, remove plastic from oceans and find ways to mitigate the threat of climate change. Sea Shepherd is dedicated to protecting oceanic ecosystems and promoting efforts to reduce pollution. For information, visit www.seashepherd.org.

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) has launched its eighth annual School Experience Survey, which gathers information from students, parents and faculty about the teaching and learning environment at their campuses. The deadline to complete the survey is Thursday, Feb. 11.

Surveys will be sent home with students and are also available at www.lausd.net. It includes questions about learning opportunities, social and emotional learning, parent involvement and safety. The surveys will be used to plan possible changes at campuses. For information, visit www.lausd.net.

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West Hollywood to host two community conversations on housing

West Hollywood will host two community conversations today and Monday on the city’s housing needs and its residents.

Since 2012, the city has hosted annual “Community Conversations on Housing” as a way to engage with residents, renters, property owners and others about the city’s housing policies and programs. These conversations provide an opportunity for community members to meet with city housing officials and share ideas.

The two community conversations on housing this month — one for each side of the city — will be held on the west side of the city. The meetings will showcase the goals for addressing housing needs, and city staff members will be in attendance to discuss several programs that are underway and planned.

The first meeting will take place tonight from 6:30-8 p.m. at Plummer Park, at 7377 Santa Monica Blvd in Room 6. The second meeting will be held on Monday, Jan 25 from 6:30-8 p.m., at the West Hollywood Library Community Room, at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. Attendance is free and community members are encouraged to attend. Each event will present the same information and follow the same format, and light refreshments will be served. If you require special accommodation, call (323)848-6496.

City staff works with homeless

From homeless court page 1

Hundreds of people have taken advantage of the program so far, and up to 250 people attended the clinic Wednesday at First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood.

“It’s an incentive-based program that is designed to make it as easy as possible for them to turn their lives around,” Feuer said. “This program clearly has the potential to make a big impact on homeless people in this city.”

The Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office works with service providers to the homeless to spread the word about the clinics, and free transportation is provided from the providers’ offices, like Chrysalis. They offered referrals at the clinic for obtaining housing, shelter and other services.

Omelczenko wanted cumulative reviews of developments in West Hollywood.

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A Mid-City resident who asked to be identified only by her first name, Cassetta, said she had approximately $15,000 in court citations. She said tickets she had received for not having vehicle registration and other violations dating to 2009 had been a constant worry.

“I have a few tickets from a few years ago and I want to get them resolved,” she added. “I want to get them cleared so I can get my vehicle back and move forward.”

Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, said his office partnered with the City Attorney’s Office to host the clinic in Hollywood. He lauded the program for providing people in need of leadership.

“Shed had these tickets hanging over her head, and $15,000 in fines is a burden for anyone, much less someone struggling in the mar- kets,” O’Farrell said. “The home- less court allows them to address tickets, and that is really the great story to be told. I am really thankful Mike (Feuer) is showing this type of leadership.”

In addition to traffic citations, the clinics offer help with citations for misdemeanor crimes, such as loitering, drinking in public and sleeping on sidewalks. Feuer plans to continu- e holding the clinics over the next three years, and added that many City Attorney’s Office staff members volunteer their time to help.

“Many of the people here may have been sleeping on the streets for years,” Feuer added. “It’s an opportu- nity for people to begin to partici- pate in a system that they have been removed from for many years.”

The Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office plans to hold six clinics each year throughout Los Angeles County. For information on participa- tion in future clinics or getting involved, call (213)978-1937, or email at heart@lacity.org.

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

LOCATIONS: Citywide, West Hollywood, California.

REQUEST: Zone text amendment adopting newly enacted State legislation which will provide the City of West Hollywood with increased regula- tory authority over medical marijuana cultivation, delivery, dispensa- tion, and allow the City to prohibit deliveries of marijuana within, to and from the City.

PERMIT(S): Zone Text Amendment, and any other required permits.

APPLICANT(S): City of West Hollywood

TIME/PLACE Thursday, February 4, 2016

OF HEARING: at 6:30 p.m.

West Hollywood Thursday Park Meeting Room – Council Chambers

625 N. San Vicente Boulevard

West Hollywood, CA 90069

ZONES: Citywide

ENVIRONMENTAL

STATUS: A Negative Declaration was prepared per the provisions in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section §15061 (Review for Exemption)

The staff report will be available on Thursday, January 28, 2016, at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, the W.H. Library, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, and on-line at www.weho.org.

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

To comply with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, Assistive Listening Devices (ALD) will be available for checkout at the meeting. If you require special assistance to participate in this meeting (e.g., a signer for the hearing impaired), you must call, or submit your request in writing to the Office of the City Clerk at (323) 848-6490 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City TDD line for the hearing impaired is (323) 848-6486.

Special meeting related accommodations (e.g., transportation) may be provided upon written request to the Office of the City Clerk at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. For information on public transportation, call 1-323-GO-METRO (323/466-3876) or go to www.metro.net.

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

For further information contact Garen Srapyan, Assistant Planner, in the Community Development Department at (323) 848-6475; or via email at: gsrapyan@weho.org.

Yvonne Quarker, City Clerk

Мы сообщаем вам об обсуждении проекта. Для дополнитель- ной информации на русском языке звоните: 323-848-6826.
women still face when it comes to reproductive healthcare. “Although federal law supports a woman’s right to choose today, it is still under fire when it comes to their reproductive rights,” Horvath said. “Today, state legislation is increasingly more difficult. Is abortion a right that surmounts state policy that may impede a woman’s choice? Or is it a limited right that has to be fought to maintain? In other words, who’s in more control of my body? Me, or the state I live in.”

As the first city in the nation to be pro-choice, Horvath said, the city should stand by all women and the right to have control over their body. “A right to a safe and legal abortion should be recognized as a human right and an ongoing challenge to abortion access as well as to reproductive health services in general,” Horvath said.

Tina Moore, a board member for the Women’s Advocacy Board, said it’s important for the city to support events like the January 22 event, to be aware of ongoing stigmas surrounding pro-choice advocates. We have to remember that this city was the first to support pro-choice, Moore said. “This event celebrates the freedom of choice for reproductive and reproductive rights. She said while there have been many advances for women’s rights, there is still a battle to be faced when it comes to the freedom of choice for reproductive healthcare. “You no longer have to go with the flow of things that are going to get ready for the fight that we have ahead of us,” Griffin said.

Rebecca Griffin, NARAL Pro-Choice California’s assistant director, attended the event for women and their reproductive rights. “We’re not here today because we’re celebrating a medical procedure,” Griffin said. “We’re here today because we all have things that we want to achieve in our lives... and true reproductive freedom means that we get the opportunity to live the lives that all of us are meant to live.”

This year, the [U.S.] Supreme Court will hear its first case on abortion since Roe v. Wade. Several elections will influence abortion and reproductive rights. She said while there have been many advances for women’s rights, there is still a battle to be faced when it comes to the freedom of choice for reproductive healthcare. “You no longer have to go with the flow of things that are going to get ready for the fight that we have ahead of us,” Griffin said.

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