Equality, growth made headlines in 2015

L.A. and WeHo met new faces in politics

By Edwin Folven

In 2015, the Wilshire, Miracle Mile, West Hollywood and Hollywood communities elected new leaders, ushered in a new era of equal rights for the LGBTQ community, watched the Metro Purple Line subway extension plow forward and enjoyed the re-opening of The Petersen Automotive Museum.

Marriage Equality

The year started with heated debates between 14 candidates vying to replace Councilman Tom LaBonge in the Fourth Council District. Hot-button issues included access to the Hollywood Sign, traffic congestion in the Hollywood Hills, perceived run-away development in Hollywood.

L.A. helps homeless take cover from cold, El Niño

By Gregory Cornfield

With abnormally cold weather expected to continue at least into next week throughout Los Angeles County, and with anticipation for a possibly historic El Niño, heightened concern for the growing homeless population is becoming more immediate.

Officials have been working together to provide additional shelter options for the approximately 20,000 people in Los Angeles experiencing homelessness who are understayed most nights.

According to the National Weather Service, parts of Los Angeles will see overnight temperatures dip below 40 degrees throughout the weekend. Dr. Cyrus Rangan with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health said hypothermia risks significantly increase based on duration of exposure to cold weather, making it more important to focus on the homeless population. For example, people can step outside for a couple minutes when it’s below freezing and be OK, but staying outside for hours when it’s 40 degrees can be harmful.

LAHSA, city ramp up shelters for winter months

By Gregory Cornfield

Los Angeles County has been conducting outreach at homeless encampments to inform people about additional shelter and safety measures.

The city council approved lobby and outreach efforts to build support for a Metro rail line extension in West Hollywood.

WeHo tries to catch the Metro train

City to examine vote on sales tax increase for upcoming ballots

By Gregory Cornfield

The West Hollywood City Council approved major steps last week in a complex effort to persuade the county to include West Hollywood in plans to expand rail transit throughout the region.

“This is probably one of the most important issues, not so much for us, but for the future of the city of Los Angeles,” Councilman John Duran said.

The ideal outcome the city staff hope for is an extension of the Crenshaw Line – which would include access to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) – to come through West Hollywood and connect the city to the existing Red Line subway. Lisa Marie Belsanti, communications manager for WeHo for West Hollywood, explained that the large millennial demographic and transit-oriented residents in West Hollywood differ from previous car-dependent generations, making a north-south connection especially appealing.

The first measure that the city council passed approves covering the cost of independent consultants to lobby Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) board members to include West Hollywood in rail extension plans – a draft of which will be released in March. The lobbying efforts will also largely consist of building support in West Hollywood and neighboring communities. The work is divided into three phases aligned with Metro’s development schedule, including evaluations and reassessments benchmarked in March and June. Though staff originally recommended more money, the city council agreed to pay $200,000 to Dakota Communications and The Robert Group for the first phase, or at least until Metro’s draft plans are released in three months.

Joanna Hankamer, special projects director for West Hollywood, said the first phase is to initiate two separate campaigns. It includes the launch of the West Hollywood Advocates for Metro, and stakeholder and regional outreach to other communities and districts that a transit extension would also serve, from Inglewood to downtown Los Angeles.

‘Girl-power’ blooms in Rose Parade

Girls hope to be role models for other youth with HIV, other illnesses

By Edwin Folven

AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) is spreading a message of hope and inspiration for young girls with its float in the 127th annual Rose Parade in Pasadena on Jan. 1.

The float follows the theme “A Girl’s World of Adventure – It’s Her Journey,” and features a spinning globe surrounded by figures of girls dressed as various professionals – a doctor, medical worker, teacher, construction worker and businesswoman. The idea is to show girls, particularly those with HIV or other illnesses, that they can overcome adversity and have a bright future to accomplish anything they wish through hard work and dedication. Five 10 and 11-year-old girls – three of them HIV-positive – will ride on the float as it rolls along Colorado Boulevard on New Year’s Day.

“Having traveled the world in my job at AHF, I have seen firsthand what an incredibly important issue the plight of girls and young women is today,” AHF president Michael Weinstein said. “It is an honor to dedicate this year’s AHF Rose Parade float to celebrating and empowering such young girls and women.”

Weinsteinsaid many girls around the world living with HIV face challenges is they develop into women. AHF hopes the girls riding the float will serve as role models to the millions of people watching the parade.

AHF spokesman Ged Kenselaar said the five girls who will ride on the float were reconditioned after the blizzard that hit L.A. last week.

Girls ages 10 and 11 will ride on AIDS Healthcare Foundation’s Rose Parade float, including from left, Tatiana Lindsey, 11, of Chicago; Ilana McDonald, 11, of Compton; Sarah Sheppard, 11, of Seffner, Florida; Gloria Gallarza, 10, of Arizona; and Jenna Vargas, 10, of Silverlake.
January

31 Albany State Marching Band
Join the Albany State University (ASU) marching band for a free adrenaline-pumping show on Thursday, Dec. 31 at 7 p.m. at the California African American Museum in Exposition Park. The ASU marching band is the only band from Georgia, the only university band from the southeastern United States and the only historically black university band in the nation to participate in the Tournament of Roses Parade on Jan. 1 in Pasadena. 600 State Dr. (805)524-2546, www.fervy.com.

2 South Africa Plants Tour
Learn about plants native to South Africa during a workshop titled “Fun in the Fynbos: Aloes and other plants, which are currently in Exposition Park. The ASU marching band in the nation to participate in the Tournament of Roses Parade on Jan. 1 in Pasadena. 600 State Dr. (805)524-2546, www.fervy.com.

5 ‘His Girl Friday’
Classic film lovers are invited to a screening of “His Girl Friday” on Tuesday, Jan. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The film by Charles Lederer is based on the play “The Front Page” by Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur. It stars Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell in a story about a sardonic editor who uses every trick in the book to keep his ace reporter ex-wife from remarrying. General admission is $4. Bing Theatre, 5950 Wilshire Blvd. (323)857-6000, www.lacma.org.

6 ‘Arcadia’
Noise Within, a classical repertory theatre in Pasadena, presents a free staged reading of Tom Stoppard’s “Arcadia” on Wednesday, Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. The reading follows a lecture by the California Institute of Technology’s Dr. Jill Greer about the play. Greer will join the artists for a discussion with the audience after the play, which focuses on the relationship between past and present, order and disorder, certainty and uncertainty after the apocalypse. Pasadena. (626)653-300 ext. 1, www.noisewithin.org.

2 December 31, 2015 Park Labrea News/Beverly Press
3rd Annual New Year’s Eve with Gladys Knight in performances on Thursday, Dec. 31 at 7 and 10:30 p.m. at the Wall Disney Concert Hall. Knight, known as the “Empress of Soul,” has recorded more than 38 albums, including four solo albums from the southeastern United States and the only historically black university band in the nation to participate in the Tournament of Roses Parade on Jan. 1 in Pasadena. 600 State Dr. (805)524-2546, www.fervy.com.

3 Capoiera Performance
Enjoy an afternoon of Brazilian music on Sunday, Jan. 3 at 3 p.m. in the historic Union Station in downtown Los Angeles. The event is hosted by Capoiera LA and begins with free lessons and a demonstration of the dynamic Afro-Brazilian art form at 11:30 a.m. on the station’s south patio. A capoiera performance begins at noon on the main level. The performance on the south patio runs until 2 p.m. 800 N. Alameda St. (213)792-2447, www.anoisewithin.org.

4 Artists Residency
Luis de Jesus Los Angeles presents a free staged reading of Tom Stoppard’s “Arcadia” on Wednesday, Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. The reading follows a lecture by the California Institute of Technology’s Dr. Jill Greer about the play. Greer will join the artists for a discussion with the audience after the play, which focuses on the relationship between past and present, order and disorder, certainty and uncertainty after the apocalypse. Pasadena. (626)653-300 ext. 1, www.noisewithin.org.

4 Piano Concert
Enjoy a PianoSpheres performance by Daynni Holt and the Piano Performance Project on Wednesday, Jan. 6 at 8:30 p.m. at the Roy and Edna Disney CalArts Theatre. Tickets are $25. 6522 Hollywood Blvd. (213)382-777, www.welcometo-lace.org.

7 Beverly Hills History Film
Learn about local history during a screening of the documentary “The History of Beverly Hills: 100 Years, 100 Stories” on Thursday, Jan. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Bing Goldsmith Theater at the Wallis Annenberg Center. The film offers an inside look at life in Beverly Hills from the Rancho Days to the 21st century. The exhibit center, 9885 Wilshire Blvd., RSVP required. 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd. (213)792-2447, e-mail hh1904@gmail.com.

7 Comedy Show
The Noise Within shows previews the comedy show “Swipe Right to Vote Left” on Thursdays Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 9 p.m. The show is an original sketch revue written and performed by Jeremiah Benton, Steve Harwood, David Neale, Zoe Muscianini, A free event is open to the public. Advance registration is required. 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd. (213)792-2447, e-mail hh1904@gmail.com.

Photo: Courtesy of the Museum

Photo by Mark Gurevich

Amanda Carty

Photo by Mark Gurevich
Corky Hale, Mike Stoller deliver ‘dream come true’

■ Musician, songwriter pay for new van for Project Angel Food

BY GREGORY CORNFIELD

After learning about Project Angel Food’s request for donations to add a van to their delivery fleet in the Park Labrea and Beverly Press, acclaimed jazz musician Corky Hale and her husband, famous songwriter Mike Stoller, decided to fund the effort outright.

Headquartered in Hollywood near Larchmont Village, Project Angel Food’s mission is to feed and nourish the sick. Volunteers and staff cook and deliver free meals to homes throughout Los Angeles County to alleviate hunger and to help return clients to health.

But delivering 496,306 meals a year to 1,200 clients requires a lot of driving. Seven people at Project Angel Food make treks as far north as Antelope Valley and as far east as Pomona every day, and one of their vans needs to be replaced after logging more than 120,000 miles.

The nonprofit agency is hoping to add an eco-friendly van to its fleet. The cost for the vehicle and fuel is $40,000. Tom O’Leary, client services manager at Project Angel Food said, “the need is urgent.”

“Our clients can’t wait, and we are determined not to let them down,” he added.

After celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary two weeks ago, Hale and Stoller wanted to find a way to help people who are less fortunate. Hale said with so much unhappiness and violence in the media and entertainment, she and her husband help those in need in hopes of reversing the trend.

“If we can help [Project Angel Food] get food to those people, then that’s what we wanted to do,” she said.

Richard Ayoub, executive director of Project Angel Food, said he was very surprised when Hale called him.

“It’s like a dream come true,” he said. “It’s really inspiring to know that a story moves someone so much that they picked up the phone and said, ‘we’re going to buy you a van.’ It’s remarkable. You put these things out in the universe and hope something happens, and when it does it restores faith.”

Hale said Project Angel Food is important and drew her attention because of the designed care they provide to meet each client’s needs based on the type of illness they have. Ayoub said the agency provides 21 different medically tailored meals. For example, people suffering kidney failure receive meals that have no potassium. Hale and Stoller sent the check to the van Tuesday, and Ayoub said they will put the couple’s name on the truck.

Ayoub commended Hale because they often help agencies in similar situations, but not always publically.

In two weeks, jazz fans can hear Corky Hale deejay from noon-2 p.m. on 88.1 FM. Fans can also look forward to reading about Hale in a book about her life – from her lunch with James Dean to playing with Tony Bennett to meeting Harpo Marx when he said to her, “young lady, I’m going to make you a star.” Hale’s husband Stoller was a composer with Leiber and Stoller and is responsible for famous songs such as “Hound Dog” and “Jailhouse Rock.”

Details on the book’s release are expected to be available in the next couple weeks.

For information on Project Angel Food, visit angelfood.org.

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Fleeing driver causes double-fatality collision

A traffic collision in Hollywood early Monday morning left two people dead, including a maintenance worker for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro).

The collision occurred at approximately 2 a.m. after officers from the LAPD’s Hollywood Division pulled over the driver of a late-model Chevrolet Camaro for making an illegal left turn near Sunset Boulevard and Argyle Avenue. A female passenger got out of the Camaro, and police were talking to her when the driver abruptly sped away, LAPD spokesman Aurora Jefferson added.

“[Metro] was driving to a Metro Red Line subway station on Hollywood Boulevard when the collision occurred,” Jefferson said.

“The driver of the Camaro who fled after being pulled over by police in Hollywood crashed into a Metro maintenance van at Hollywood Boulevard and Gower Street. Both drivers were killed in the collision. The suspect and he chased a man whom he suspected of shooting occurred,” Radtke said.

Detectives obtained information from the victim who was affiliated with the same street gang and obtained a search warrant and was issued and went to Hua’s residence at approximately 2:45 p.m. to serve the warrant.

“The warrant,” Radtke said, “was executed at the scene of the homicide. He added that finding the warrant was a priority for investigators.

“A case with leads is a priority,” Radtke said. “We work them all hard,” Radtke said.

Anyone with information about the incident is urged to contact detectives with the LAPD’s West Bureau Homicide Unit at (213)382-9470.

Detectives search for suspects in shooting of deliveryman in West Hollywood

A restaurant deliveryman was hospitalized after being shot multiple times shortly before 1 a.m. Tuesday in West Hollywood.

The unidentified victim was delivering food to a residence in the 4000 block of Kings Road when he was approached by two male suspects.

Sgt. Shawn Cohen, with the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station, said, “We have no leads as to the victim and one immediately started shooting.

The victim was struck in the lower torso. He was taken to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center for treatment. Cohen said the wounds are not life threatening.

The suspect stole a credit card reader from the victim before fleeing in a vehicle. Cohen described as possibly a late-model, silver four-door sedan. He said the suspects were wearing hooded sweatshirts and baseball caps.

Cohen said the incident is not believed to be linked to any other recent crimes, and he declined to provide the name of the restaurant that was robbed.

Anyone with information about the incident is urged to contact detectives with the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station at (310)855-8850.

Suspects in Hollywood Hills murder killed during standoff

A suspect in a murder that occurred on Sunday in the Hollywood Hills was shot and killed by police Tuesday after a standoff with authorities in the city of Rosemead.

Lt. Randie, with the Los Angeles Police Department’s West Bureau Homicide Unit, identified the suspect as Tien Hua, 33. Radtke said Hua and the victim, Henry Estrada, 27, knew each other but did not provide further details about their relationship. He said the man appeared to have a dispute with the victim.

“The murder occurred at approximately 8:40 p.m. on Dec. 27 in the 800 block of Sycamore Avenue, west of Highland Avenue between Franklin Avenue and Camrose Drive. Radtke said the victim and suspect visited the victim’s location in the neighborhood when the dispute occurred.

“The victim ran away from the scene,” Radtke said. “Any case with leads is a priority,” Radtke said. “We work them all hard.”

Anyone with information about the incident is urged to contact detectives with the LAPD’s West Bureau Homicide Unit at (213)382-9470.

Police locate missing child, arrest father for kidnapping

A father who is accused of abducting his 2-year-old daughter during the Christmas holiday was taken into custody in Palm Springs Monday night. The girl was not harmed.

At approximately 9:30 p.m., officers from the Los Angeles Police Department’s Van Nuys Division received a call from a witness who said she saw a community alert

“Any case with leads is a priority,” Radtke said. “We work them all hard,” Radtke said.

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Anyone with information about the incident is urged to contact detectives with the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station at (310)855-8850.

Supervisors condemn extremist violence; vow to increase outreach

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors recently approved a motion authored by Supervisors Sheila Kuehl and Hilda Solis condemning the tragic gun violence in San Bernardino and extending condolences to the families and friends of the victims.

The motion also honors a request by the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office, Sheriff Jim McDonnell and the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee to increase outreach to the Muslim, Sikh, South Asian and other communities that are sometimes targeted in terror crimes.

The county has resolved to offer assistance to deter and swiftly respond to threats and acts of hate violence.

“The motion is about preventing more tragedy,” Solis said. “Our history is peppered with instances where we have irresponsibly scapegoated and stigmatized other communities in a response to tragedy. Anger and fear are understandable reactions to what happened in San Bernardino, but we cannot permit these feelings to grow into hate or bigotry against individuals who had nothing to do with this senseless violence. As public leaders, our responsibility is to counsel reason, good judgment and peace.”

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New laws hit the road for Californians in 2016

BY PATRICIA SANCHEZ

The start of a new year brings a new beginning, and come Jan. 1, there will be a host of new laws affecting Los Angeles drivers.

Signed in October, AB 1461 is a new transportation department program through the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Under the new program, TNCs will be required to electronically provide to the Secretary of State the records of each person who is issued an origi- nal or renewed driver’s license, or state identification card, or who provides a change of address.

Through the program, a person’s motor vehicle records will con- stitute written consent, and anyone who rejects voting requirements will be automatically registered to vote.

A person can still choose to be exempted from the auto regis- tration process if he or she specifically declines to be registered to vote during the DMV process, and individuals can still change their party affiliation at any time.

When AB 1461 first took effect for TNC drivers earlier this year, paving the way for the first TNC to be licensed for this service at the air- port, and expanding transportation options for travelers.

The ride-sharing company Lyft can bring passengers at LAX, giving our passengers what they have been asking for — another safe and convenient option from the airport, said Garcetti. “As we continue rebuilding nearly every terminal, the DMV and TNC’s will work to bring rail to LAX, our passengers deserve access to all available options and not just one that is not an excellent experience.”

Garcetti has made improving mobility for L.A. residents and visitors, and Mayor Eric Garcetti announced last week that pick-ups at LAX by Transportation network companies (TNCs) are now approved.

Lyft, the ride-sharing program, started pick-ups at LAX on Dec. 23, making it the first TNC to be licensed for this service at the air- port, and expanding transportation options for travelers.

“With the advent of Lyft-off at LAX, giving our passengers what they have been asking for — another safe and convenient option from the airport,” Garcetti said. “As we continue rebuilding nearly every terminal, the DMV and TNC will work to bring rail to LAX, our passengers deserve access to all available options and not just one that is not an excellent experience.”

Garcetti has made improving mobility at LAX a priority. Now allowed to pick up passengers on the upper departure level of LAX, TNCs will now work to complete the application process will pay the airport $4 per trip, while following rules to reduce congestion in the central terminal area.

Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) staff held several public comment periods and considered input from dozens of stakeholders, including passenger, taxi-cab com- panies, limo companies, disability advocates and environmental advocates.

The Los Angeles City Council approved the license agreement earlier this year, paving the way for TNC pick-ups at LAX.

TNC’s that successfully apply and obtain a license from the DMV will be permitted to both pick up and drop off at LAX, giving passengers the power to choose their preferred transporta- tion option.

“I am stoked that we are leading the way in passenger convenience by allowing Lyft to operate at LAX,” said Councilman Mike Bonin, who represents LAX and nearby neighborhoods. “The agree- ment negotiated by the Board of Airport Commissioners protects nearby neighborhoods with tech- nology that prevents drivers from parking on their streets while they wait for calls.”

Other TNCs are currently in vari- ous stages of LAWA’s application process to obtain a license agree- ment. Prior to issuing a license agreement to a TNC, LAWA reviews each application to ensure the TNC and its drivers are able to comply with the rules and regula- tions necessary to ensure safe and reliable service for passengers at LAX.

L.A. seeks input on proposed amendment to small lot ordinance

The Los Angeles Planning Department announced that open houses and public hearings for pro- posed updates to the city’s Small Lot Ordinance would begin on Jan. 11.

The proposed ordinance could amend the Los Angeles Municipal Code to require greater front and rear yard setbacks. It also could create a certification process for "adaptive reuse" small lots projects and establish design standards for small lot subdivision projects.

There will be two meetings for public input, one of which will be in the 13th District.

On Jan. 26, the planning depart- ment will hold an open house from 5:30-7 p.m. at Felicia Mahood Multipurpose Center, located at 11338 Santa Monica Blvd.

On Jan. 26, an open house will be held from 5:30-7 p.m. at Grace E. Simons Lodge, located at 1025 Elysian Park Drive. Public hearings will begin at 7 p.m. or shortly after each open house.

All are invited to attend either of the public hearings to listen, speak or submit written information relating to the proposed project and the envi- ronmental document.

In July, Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, introduced a motion instructing the department to report back on updating the Small Lot Ordinance.

“I want to give the ordinance some teeth and make the guidelines enforceable, as well as encourage adaptive reuse, require onsite trash collection and provide guest park- ing," O’Farrell said. "We have months of my staff working with the department, the revisions are ready for review.”

After the hearings, city staff will finalize a report and a recommen- dation that will be considered by the City Planning Commission at a later date.

The last day to submit comments will be Feb. 26.

For more information, contact Jane Cho, city planner at jane.cho@lacity.org, or call (213)978-1379.
Witness claims woman picked up Chihuahua

BY PATRICIA SANCHEZ

Many people consider pets to be part of the family and would do just about anything for them. For West Hollywood resident Jason Christopher that includes offering a $10,000 reward for the safe return of his beloved service dog, Bronson.

Bronson, a three-year-old long-haired Chihuahua, was taken on Dec. 5 after he wandered out of the Brick Gym located at 7781 Santa Monica Blvd.

He is a service dog that also appeared in a Scrubbing Bubbles commercial last year.

An eyewitness, who wishes to remain anonymous, said she saw Bronson while driving down Santa Monica Boulevard and parked to pick him up.

“I saw this little dog in the streets and thought to myself, ‘he’s going to get hit,’” she said. “I walked back toward my car and started asking if he belonged to anyone. I was going to take him to a shelter to see if he was microchipped, but a woman in a car in front of me said it was her dog.”

According to the witness, the woman appeared to be Latina, in her late 40s and was driving a silver, four-door BMW.

“She didn’t speak a lot of English, and I had a hard time understanding her, but she said the dog was hers,” the witness said. “I told her not to leave her dog out on Santa Monica Boulevard because it’s a busy street. She just took the dog and left.”

Shortly after the incident, the witness came across a lost dog flyer with Bronson’s picture and called Christopher to let him know what had happened. Bronson has not been seen since.

Christopher said he reported the incident to the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station but has not heard back.

But Sgt. Richard Bowman, of the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station, said cases such as missing pets are dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

“Sometimes we can deal with it, but in other cases where there’s not enough information, we treat it as a suspicious circumstances report, and we can refer them to other departments such as animal control,” Bowman said.

Christopher has had Bronson by his side for over two years and said he brought Bronson into his family after the death of his mom.

“My mom’s death was really hard on me,” Christopher said. “I am an only child, and my mom was all I had. [Bronson] was something that saved me mentally after her death.”

Throughout the month, Christopher has received support from the community including friends and strangers alike.

“Our Facebook page for Bronson opened soon for Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood board

Anastasia Mann, president of the Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council, announced residents can begin preparing to run as candidates for the 2016 board next month.

Candidates can file for the election starting on Jan. 17. Filing closes March 2, and the election will be held on May 1.

To register, visit empowerla.org/nccr. For more information, email elections@empowerla.org or call (818)293-VOTE.

WeHo invites public feedback for development proposal

The West Hollywood Community Development Department announced an open house presentation for a redevelopment proposal will be held in January for public outreach and feedback.

The redevelopment is proposed at 7965-7985 Santa Monica Blvd.

Faring Capital will conduct the presentation on Jan. 13, from 6-8 p.m. at the city hall conference room, located at 8300 Santa Monica Blvd.

The project team will discuss the proposed plans and invite conversation and feedback.

For more information, contact Darren Embrey at (424)332-1111, or email daren@faringcapital.com.
West Hollywood to showcase unique grooves

Concerts start in January featuring local artists

BY GREGORY CORNFIELD

To help residents get in tune with the season, West Hollywood is orchestrating and conducting a series of concerts featuring local musicians through March.

The 2016 Winter Sounds series kicks off next week to fill the air with jazz, world, folk and other music.

At the first concert on Jan. 9, Ireesh Lal will blend music genres while artist Norton Wisdom paints live art on stage. Lal and Wisdom have been performing together for over a decade after meeting on stage. Lal will perform a handful of works and erase them on his easel throughout the show, while Lal combines electronic music with jazz trumpet and traditional East-Indian classical instruments, such as the oud, tabla and sitar.

“Ideas. Anybody who watches will see the connection between what she’s playing and what Lal is doing,” Lal said. “You’ll see various different instruments show up in the paintings. It’s a unique experience. It’s never the same thing twice.”

Lal’s performance will begin at 4 p.m. in the city of West Hollywood’s Council Chambers at the city of West Hollywood Public Library, located at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd.

The concert series will continue on Jan. 23 when Dawn Noelreet will perform with a flute. Noelreet also said her music does not fall into one genre. She said fans can expect to see a jazz set that will be “heavily infused with soul, funk, world and anything else.” She will be accompanied by a group of veteran musicians who have worked with artists like Mary J. Blige and a drummer who played on Jay Leno’s Tonight Show Band.

“People will enjoy it if they like anything about animals, bugs or nature,” she said. “It’s good for all ages.”

The performance will begin at 4 p.m. on Feb. 6 in the city of West Hollywood’s Council Chambers.

On Saturday, Feb. 20 at 4 p.m. in Fiesta Hall at Plummer Park, Jack’s Cats will entertain audiences with a sound that is grounded in ‘30s and ‘40s vintage jazz and swing. Swing clarinetist and composer Jack Malmstrom leads the band, which is comprised of up-and-coming musicians drawn from the jazz scene in Los Angeles. Dancing will be encouraged at this show.

On Saturday, March 5 at 4 p.m. in the city of West Hollywood’s Council Chambers, the Honey Whiskey Trio will explore harmony in folk, bluegrass and any melody that catches the ear. Held during Women’s History Month, the all-female trio of storytellers in song will perform a cappella with body percussion, accompanied by mandolin, guitar, banjo, washboard, dulcimer and trumpet.

New laws protecting waterways, assisting the public to get tax effect

New laws authored by Sen. Bob Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys) that will help protect California’s water systems from earthquakes and or other events.

Other legislation carried by Hertzberg will help ensure low-income Californians get legal assistance and require local governments to make public the types of data they are collecting.

“Water is a precious resource in California, and it’s imperative that we make sure our water systems are earthquake safe, and if not, take the proper steps to protect them,” Hertzberg said. “Senate Bill 664 aims to do that with important new reporting requirements for water officials.”

Aside from protecting water and improving government disclosure, Hertzberg said SB 239 pertains to contracts for fire protection.

A new local government data law will now create an inventory of earthquake safe, and if not, take the proper steps to protect them,” Hertzberg said. “Senate Bill 664 aims to do that with important new reporting requirements for water officials.”

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A new local government data law will now create an inventory of what happens in Garretson’s city of West Hollywood. Dancing will be encouraged at this show.

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New HIV/AIDS medication could hit shelves by 2017

BY PATRICIA SANCHEZ

After 12 years of development, the drug PRO 140 is entering the last reporting phase and Drug Administration (FDA) trials, and if approved, could reach the market as early as 2017. PRO 140 is a treatment designed to protect healthy cells from HIV. According to Nadir Pourhassan, chief executive for Vancouver based company CytoDyn, the company which owns PRO 140, the new drug is highly effective and negates some of the side effects of existing HIV medications. PRO 140 is the only non-synthetic HIV medicine and would eliminate combination therapy for many patients.

Pourhassan explained that PRO 140 is an antibody that acts to prevent viruses from latchin onto cells. It binds toCCR5, a protein in the immune system that acts as a gateway for HIV to enter healthy T-cells. PRO 140 works by interfering with this process.

“It binds to the exact location the virus wants to bind to,” Pourhassan said. “Because it binds to the right part, it blocks the HIV virus.”

PRO 140 has gone through several evaluations with the FDA, and Pourhassan said it has seen positive results. Earlier this year, the drug underwent a Phase 2b clinical trial with the FDA where 40 patients were given a weekly injection of PRO 140 in a monotherapy trial. The 25-week trial said, saw a vast improvement in patient health with a 98 percent success rate.

Pourhassan also noted, that because the drug is a weekly injection and not a daily dose of various pills, nearly all of the patients reported a better quality of life.

“Some of the patients in this trial were taking up to seven pills a day,” Pourhassan said. “As soon as we opened enrollment for this trial, it filled up almost immediate-ly. All of the patients were eager to see if they would be able to switch from multiple pills to [PRO 140]... many patients complained they take too many pills and that is a reminder to them every day that they have HIV,” Pourhassan said. “We believe [PRO 140] could change their lives.”

Michael Weinstein, president of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, said with the transition from pills to injections, treatment would become an easier and more accessible reality for HIV patients.

“Often, if we are taking pills away from daily dosages, that would be a huge advancement,” Weinstein said. “An injection would be a very important advantage, and it would make it easier to maintain HIV.”

Weinstein further noted that, while it’s ultimately the patient’s decision on whether or not they choose PRO 140, should it be approved, he believes the option for injection as opposed to oral administration would make a positive impact in the AIDS communi-ty.

“The fact that only 40 percent of people with HIV are in treatment is a problem,” Weinstein said. “There are people who chronically don’t adhere to their medication sched-ules and people who are hesitant to start treatment because of how rig-orous it is.”

The National Institute of Health (NIH) granted the drug $28 mil-lion, and in a recent press release, CytoDyn announced the FDA has approved the drug for a Phase 3 study. The Phase 3 study, which was instigated in October, allows the company to enroll patients with resistance to a single antiretroviral drug, which will expand the num-ber of patients available for the study.

“The FDA gave us approval to move to the next phase of our stud-ies, which means we will enroll roughly 300 patients for a 25 week trial,” Pourhassan said. “After we get the results from that work on getting it approved to be on the market.”

Brown reappoints member to independent living council

Gov. Jerry Brown has reappoint-ed Michael Agyn, 37, of Los Angeles, to the California State Independent Living Council, where he has served since 2010. Agyn is a behavior therapist at the Inclusive Education and Community Partnership. He was also a job coach at the Marrott Foundation from 2009 to 2010 and an assistant and disability programs coordinator in the Los Angeles Mayor’s Office, Neighborhood and Community Services Department from 2008 to 2009.

Agyn is a member of the National Council on Independent Living and the National Association of the Deaf. The position does not require Senate confirmation and there is no compensation.

10 Reasons Why I Don’t Want An Estate Plan

1. I want large sums of my hard-earned money to go to a law firm.
2. I want the government to decide who gets my life savings.
3. What for? My house is only worth a half-million dollars.
4. I really don’t care who raises our children.
5. I want a total stranger to go through all of my per-sonal papers and financial affairs.
6. I like family fights – especially unnecessary ones.
7. I don’t care who inherits my hard earned money.
8. I’ve been messy in life; I’ll be messy in death.
9. They say you can’t take it with you, but what if you can? 10. Probate. Must be fun.

If you don’t do it for yourself, please do it for those you care about.

Immaculate Heart School to hold admissions exams

Immaculate Heart High School is holding its middle school exam for admission on Saturday, Jan. 9 at 8:30 a.m., and its high school exam for admission and merit scholar- ships on Saturday, Jan. 16 at 8:30 a.m.

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City to provide $1.65 million for arts programs

New proposed initiatives enter circulation

Secretary of State Alex Padilla has announced that multiple initiatives have been approved for circulation or are eligible for the November 2016 ballot.

One initiative involves potential changes to laws pertaining to the death penalty. If approved, the initiative would change procedures that govern state court appeals and petitions challenging death penalty convictions and sentences.

It would designate the superior courts for initial petitions and limit successive petitions. It would also impose time limits on state court death penalty review; require appointed attorneys who take non-capital appeals to accept death penalty appeals; exempt prison officials from existing regulation process for developing execution methods; authorize death row inmate transfers between California state prisons; and require state death row inmates to work and pay victim restitution. Other voter-approved measures related to the death penalty were null and void if the measure was approved. The state legislative analyst and director of finance estimate the fiscal impact on state and local government would be in the “tens of millions of dollars annually” for several years because of direct appeals and habeas corpus proceedings.

Another initiative entering circulation redefines that serious or violent felonies committed before passage of the three strikes law in 1994 do not count as strikes toward three strikes sentencing. It drops definition of crimes that count as strikes for purpose of three strikes law and requires resentencing for certain three strikes-inmates (and certain two-strikes inmates) who committed pre-1994 serious and/or violent felonies.

A water bond initiative to fund water quality, supply, recycling and storage projects would authorize $6.02 billion in general obligation bonds for water supply infrastructure projects. The projects include watershed improvement and water quality enhancement; capturing urban runoff; water recycling and desalination; flood management; water conservation; water for wildlife; groundwater sustainability and storage; and safe drinking water. The initiative would appropriate money from the state’s general fund to pay off bonds, and would require that certain projects provide matching funds from non-state sources in order to receive bond funds if passed into law.

Another initiative that is eligible for the November 2016 ballot relates to prescription drug purchase pricing standards. It would prohibit state agencies from paying more for a prescription drug than the lowest price paid for the same drug by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. It would apply to any program in which the state is the ultimate purchaser for a drug, even if the state does not purchase the drug directly. An initiative can qualify via random sampling of petition signatures if the sampling projects a number of valid signatures greater than 110 percent of the required number. Petitions for the measures must be submitted to county elections officials by June 27.

Gatto to lead utilities and commerce committee

Assemblyman Mike Gatto (D-Glendale) has been appointed chairman of the State Assembly’s Utilities and Commerce Committee, overseeing legislation that regulates public utilities, natural gas, energy, companies like Uber and Lyft, and general commerce. Gatto replaces Assembly Speaker designee Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood).

“I thank Speaker Atkins and my colleagues for giving me the opportunity to serve as chairman of this key committee,” Gatto said. “I’m looking forward to continuing my predecessor's excellent work and ensuring that we craft sound policies in these critical subject areas.”

Assemblyman Mike Gatto

Gatto announced that the committee will open an inquiry into the Porter Ranch gas leak and will hold a hearing in the Los Angeles suburb, where residents have been coping with noxious fumes for months.

“The people have questions regarding how this could happen and whether there is a risk that it could happen again,” Gatto added. “It is up to those of us who represent the people to find some answers.”

The new appointment will be Gatto’s third chairmanship. He previously served as chairman of the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, which sets legislative fiscal policy, and the Assembly Committee on Consumer Protection & Privacy.
**West Hollywood recognized for innovative programs**

The city of West Hollywood has received numerous prestigious awards in 2015. Among the awards are the 2015 California Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) Award of Excellence for Planning Agency, which encourages quality in planning and increases the public’s awareness of the benefits of good planning profession by recognizing outstanding achievement in the planning field, and the 2015 Los Angeles Neighborhood Overlook District Design Guidelines; the Award of Excellence for Community Development, Grant partnerships and successes, presented a Recognition of Excellence award to the city for transforming a blighted and contaminated five-acre site in the city’s boundary into a pedestrian-friendly destination with retail, dining and shopping.

In addition, the design for the City’s not-yet-constructed Aquatic and Recreation Center at West Hollywood Park, which will be a LEED-certified structure, was recognized by the Long Beach/South Bay Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), which presented a Citation Award to the project’s architect, LPA, Inc. For more information, visit www.whoa.org.

Submissions sought of books spotlighting American history

**The Grateful American Book Prize will begin accepting submissions on Friday, Jan. 1 for its 2016 award.**

The prize was created last year, and nearly 150 entries as authors and publishers competed for top honors in a first-of-its-kind competition for historically accurate books on fiction and non-fiction for young readers about the events and personalities that have shaped the United States.

The 2015 winner was Kathy Gunst Wuehman for “Like River: A Civil War Novel” published by Calkins Creek. Although “Like River” is her first published novel, Wuehman is a prolific writer who has written 11 novels, dozens of short stories and hundreds of poems. She has a new novel, “Empty Places,” scheduled for publication in 2016.

The award was co-founded by author and publisher David Bruce Smith and Dr. Bruce Cole, former chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Their goal is to encourage authors and publishers to produce “good, readable books about American history.”

The winner will receive a cash award of $13,000, for the original 13 columns, as well as a media created by Smith’s publisher, art by Curts Smith. The prize will be awarded to the author(s) of books for children in grades 7-9 about important moments and people in American history. Submissions can be fiction or non-fiction and may include illustrations. Books published or scheduled to be published from June 1 through 2016 are eligible. For information, visit www.gratefulamericanbookprize.com.
I don’t think I’d ever tasted a sword lettuce salad, which imitated an Asian variety of lettuce that has distinct long, pointed leaves. It’s very popular in Taiwan and chefs in certain parts of southern China cook it stir-fry the leaves. Chef Jason Park at Maru marries the bright green leaves with a sunny side up egg and dresses the salad with an Asian green goddess glaze that gives it a touch of sweetness.

This dish was one of ten that I tasted while dining recently at Maru in Santa Monica. I was excited to meet the talented Korean chef, known for his creativity in using quality ingredients from farmers markets. He personally selects the produce for his dishes.

Park’s mother lived in Japan and her cooking style was a significant influence on him. When he came to the United States and enrolled at UCLA, he entered the University’s Extension Culinary Arts Program to become a chef.

We started our dining experience with sashimi and nigiri plates. Park’s Omakase menu by sushi veteran Insuroku Kimura features fish flown in daily from Japan. Sashimi is a Japanese delicacy consisting of fresh raw fish sliced into thin pieces. It’s different from nigiri sushi, because nigiri is made with vinegar rice. While raw fish is one of the traditional nigeri ingredients, many sushi dishes contain seafood that has been cooked.

A thin slice of halibut from Korea was plated with octopus from Japan and blue fin tuna. We enjoyed this tasting menu with different wine and cocktail pairings. The first was served a beautiful rose petal purple aperitif made by Luke Matthews, the right hand man to the talented mixologist Matthew Biancaniello. The cocktail was made with conchi americano rosa, lime, ginger, cucumber, garnished with lots of mint sprigs and a splash of pomegranate juice.

The second cocktail was an Araguita made with Dolin blanc vermouth. It was slightly sweet and had a lovely essence of white cake, orange peel, flowers and cloves. He muddled it with anagela, agave and fresh lime.

After the salads, we moved on to seafood – a marinated black cod on a half brown rice disc. Half brown rice has half the bran of the rice, giving it more texture. Park crisps it on the bottom of the pan to form a crust, yet it was cooked perfectly, so the top was still al dente. The cod sat on deer tongue spinach with a nutty flavor. Park is an expert on the broths he serves with his seafood. The broth served with the cod is as good as an elegant soup. It paired nicely with a glass of pinot noir Genot-Boulanger Mercurey, a heady, rich and full bodied wine to complement the fish.

The pistachio crusted scallop rested on sauteed pea shoots that were topped with Karashi, a mustard used in Japanese cuisine. It is a spicy mustard, yet Chef Park adds wine, honey and butter to mellow the intensity and balancing the sweetness and bitterness. This dish paired beautifully with a German riesling by Robert Eymael-Mouchhoff.

Meat dishes included a New York steak with parmesan potatoes and asparagus and topped with a 36-hour homemade soy-esspresso sauce. It was served with a Cuvee Louis Cabernet Franc.

The lamb curry with a smoky essence with crispy shatate rice. There was a heap of marinated onions on top of the beautifully cooked lamb. Chef Park makes his curry with lamb loin to intensify the flavors of this special dish. It went well with David Arthur red Merlot from Napa Valley.

For dessert we sipped a fun candy cap cream that reminded me of eggnog. This was made with a secret ingredient - candy cap mushrooms. The chef foraged in the foothills to find these unusual, edible mushrooms that are often used in desserts. The oil from candy cap mushrooms is similar to maple syrup.

The creamy beverage heightened the two desserts – a herry cobbler with a thick pastry top and bread pudding with Valhrona chocolate and a delicious vanilla bourbon ice cream that is made in house.

From sushi to steaks, you are bound to find many pleasing plates at Maru, $5 12400 Wilshire Blvd. #150 (310) 820-7240. marusanta-monica.com.
Celebrate 31 at Baskin-Robbins

Celebrate the holiday season at Baskin-Robbins with the “Celebrate 31” promotion in honor of its 70th anniversary. On Thursday, Dec. 31, one-scoop cones and cups are $1.31 and two-scoop sundaes are $3.31. Customers can also order festive ice cream cakes in cool new flavors for the month such as Oreo Cool Mint Chocolate. 7150 Melrose Ave., (323)936-3921; 1800 S. Robertson Blvd., (310)559-3131.

Avalon Beverly Hills New Year’s

Enjoy a New Year’s Eve celebration dinner for two at Avalon Beverly Hills at either of two seatings, followed by a one-night stay in the hotel. The first dinner is a prix-fixe dinner from 5 to 9 p.m. The second seating is a seven-course dinner after 9 p.m. with a champagne toast at midnight. Also, for the first meal of the new year, patrons will be treated to Viviane’s New Year’s Day hangover brunch for two that includes a remedy kit of Advil, sleep masks, Visine, breath mints, a cold pack and a small “hair of the dog” shot delivered to guest rooms bright and early on Jan. 1. For those looking for further rejuvenation, an in-room massage is available for an additional $99. The package includes dinner, a one-night stay, brunch for two and a hangover remedy kit for $564 per night. Use the code “NYE” when making reservations. 9400 W. Olympic Blvd., (844)328-2566.

La Dolce Vita NYE

La Dolce Vita is serving a lavish five-course New Year’s Eve prix-fixe dinner on Dec. 31 beginning at 5 p.m. The restaurant is reminiscent of a romantic, mid-century New York Italian restaurant offering reimagined Italian cuisine by executive chef Alejandro Galan. Sit in cozy booths and enjoy timeless service while sipping a “Gentlemen’s Drink” inspired by Frank Sinatra, the restaurant’s original investor. Sinatra’s drink of choice was an Old Fashioned made with Jack Daniel’s rare Sinatra Select. Galan’s menu features seared foie gras with rugosa heirloom squash, spiced jus and chive; roasted venison medallions with broccoli, sunchoke mash, bacon chips and hazelnut demi-glace; and winter truffle risotto with chanterelle, oyster and cremini mushrooms, black truffle and parmigiana. Top off the evening with a complimentary glass of prosecco at midnight to toast the new year. Dinner is $125 per guest. 9785 Santa Monica Blvd., (310)278-1845.

Looking for last minute New Year’s Eve plans? Here are a few suggestions. Call ahead for reservations and availability.

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The Original Farmers Market 3rd & Fairfax
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1260 3rd Street Promenade
Santa Monica, CA 90404
310.587-1166

www.mrmarcel.com

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www.mrmarcel.com
The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Dec. 21 and Dec. 27. They were compiled from www.crimespotting.com. To report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies: Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (213)473-0489 and Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department West Hollywood Station (310)855-8500. 

Dec. 21
At 12:05 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Formosa and Wilshire.
An unknown suspect committed a theft in the 6500 block of Hollywood at 12:45 a.m.
At 12:55 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 4900 block of Wilshire.
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8500 block of Wilshire at 9:15 a.m.
At 10 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6500 block of Hollywood.

Dec. 22
At 12:05 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle near the corner of Bronson and Fountain.
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of Bronson at 12:45 a.m.
At 6 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 700 block of Vine.
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 4400 block of W. Third at 8:30 a.m.
At 9 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a bicycle in the 1300 block of Crescent Heights.
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7100 block of Sunset Boulevard at noon.
At 12:04 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5600 block of Wilshire.
An unknown suspect stole a bicycle parked near the 6000 block of Maryland at 1 p.m.
At 4:05 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 9000 block of Beverly.
An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 900 block of N. Starley at 5 p.m.
At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of N. Flores.
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1005 block of S. Coshran at 10:30 p.m.

Dec. 23
At 12:30 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 6000 block of Westwood at 12:29 a.m.
At 6 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 900 block of S. Hoft.
An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1200 block of N. Chehaneke at 6:30 a.m.
At 10:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7200 block of Waring.
An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 3800 block of W. Sixth at 11:30 a.m.
At noon, an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 6000 block of Sunset.
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6100 block of Orange at 2 p.m.
At 2:20 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 900 block of Formosa.

A theft was reported in the 6500 block of Sunset at 2:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1300 block of Curson.
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Whitley and Yucca at 3:30 p.m.
At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a burglary in the 4500 block of Wilshire.

Dec. 24
At 2:05 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 700 block of N. Fairfax.
An unknown suspect robbed a vehicle in the 4550 block of Wilshire at 8:20 a.m.
At 11 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Western and Franklin.
An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 400 block of S. Burnside at 11:30 a.m.
At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of N. Manhattan.
An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 500 block of N. Gardner at 7 p.m.
At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6300 block of W. Sunset.
An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of S. Hobart at 11 p.m.
At 11:55 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1000 block of S. Oxford.

Dec. 25
At 3 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 5600 block of Carlton Way.

A defendant who operated a bogus mortgage rescue scheme has been sentenced to eight years in federal prison.
Terry Meisinger, 75, was sentenced by United States District Judge Virginia A. Phillips, when he was 80 years old, he would still pose a danger to the public.
When he pleaded guilty, Meisinger admitted that he defrauded one distressed homeowner by inducing him to sign a quitclaim in exchange for promises of safe sale agreement with his lender that would free the homeowner from his mortgage. Instead, Meisinger had a deed of trust to be recorded on the property, which was followed by a fraudulent bankruptcy on behalf of the person who supposedly now held an interest in the home.
Meisinger then took the money to another person while foreclosure proceedings were stayed as a result of the fraudulent bankruptcy.

Four suspects arrested for Beverly Hills auto burglaries
Officers from the Beverly Hills Police Department arrested four auto burglary suspects on December 21 in an alley behind the 200 block of south Rexford Drive.
At approximately 3:10 p.m., officers including one officer with a loaded semi-automatic handgun. The four suspects were taken into custody for investigation and while they canvassed the area, they found a vehicle that had been burglarized.
Further investigation led to two additional suspects in the area, including two individuals in the alley suspiciously. As officers approached, they attempted to discard a metal lock pick tool behind a utility pole.

According to federal prosecutors, there were more than 250 victims of the scheme, including homeowners, lenders and creditors. Meisinger “collected more than $1.5 million in fraudulent payments on more than 100 properties.
Further, he caused more than 300 bogus bankruptcy petitions to be filed in the names of numerous individuals who had no knowledge their identity was being used,” according to court documents.
Meisinger also admitted that his illegal conduct continued for years, after being denied bankruptcy court order in a prior civil matter barring the defendant from particip- ating in any mortgage rescues or real estate industries for 10 years. Meisinger had previously also been denied bankruptcy petitions. Phillips additionally imposed a $5 million civil fine on Meisinger.

The criminal case resulted from an investigation by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of the Inspector General (HUD-IG).
This significant sentence demonstrates our commitment to protecting HUD’s important work of helping low-income families buy homes and keep them, said Jane V.小伙伴，special assistant to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development’s Office of the Inspector General.

Dec. 26
At 9:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5600 block of W. Sunset.
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1600 block of S. Western and Franklin at 10:30 a.m.
At 3:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of N. La Cienega.
An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 4800 block of S. Lucerne at 9 p.m.
At 9:10 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8700 block of Santa Monica.
An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1400 block of N. Alexandria at 9:30 p.m.

Dec. 27
At 3:40 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of N. Fairfax.

Dec. 28
According to federal prosecutors, there were more than 250 victims of the scheme, including homeowners, lenders and creditors. Meisinger “collected more than $1.5 million in fraudulent payments on more than 100 properties.
Further, he caused more than 300 bogus bankruptcy petitions to be filed in the names of numerous individuals who had no knowledge their identity was being used,” according to court documents.
Meisinger also admitted that his illegal conduct continued for years, after being denied bankruptcy court order in a prior civil matter barring the defendant from particip- ating in any mortgage rescues or real estate industries for 10 years. Meisinger had previously also been denied bankruptcy petitions. Phillips additionally imposed a $5 million civil fine on Meisinger.

This significant sentence demonstrates our commitment to protecting HUD’s important work of helping low-income families buy homes and keep them, said Jane V.小伙伴，special assistant to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development’s Office of the Inspector General.

Four suspects arrested for Beverly Hills auto burglaries
Officers from the Beverly Hills Police Department arrested four auto burglary suspects on December 21 in an alley behind the 200 block of south Rexford Drive.
At approximately 3:10 p.m., officers including one officer with a loaded semi-automatic handgun. The four suspects were taken into custody for investigation and while they canvassed the area, they found a vehicle that had been burglarized.
Further investigation led to two additional suspects in the area, including two individuals in the alley suspiciously. As officers approached, they attempted to discard a metal lock pick tool behind a utility pole.

Additional officers were called to assist with the investigation and while they canvassed the area, they found a vehicle that had been burglarized.
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Ringing in the new year at the Westside’s largest New Year’s Eve ball at Wokcano in Santa Monica with music by DJ Franklin, dancing, cocktails, complimentary hors d’oeuvres, a photo booth and party favors. General admission tickets are $50; VIP Tickets are $70. Table packages for a minimum of six are available and come with bottles of liquor of the guests’ choice for an additional charge.

1413 Fifth St. (310)458-3080

L.A. County Democratic Party helps the homeless through donations

The Los Angeles County Democratic Party (LACDP) hosted its annual Chair’s Holiday Party on Dec. 27 at the home of LACDP chair and LACDP vice chair Eric C. Bauman.

The annual event brought together democratic activists, elected officials and community leaders to celebrate the successes of 2015 and look ahead to the coming year.

As it has for the past several years, LACDP partnered with local nonprofit Poverty Matters to collect blankets, sweat suits, socks and other cold-weather items at the holiday party to be distributed to homeless people in skid row and the surrounding area.

“I am proud that our continued efforts are underway by the city, of those living on skid row, while it is also a time for each of us to do more. I know our efforts will make our homeless friends and neighbors to celebrate the successes of 2015 and look ahead to the coming year. As it has for the past several years, LACDP partnered with local nonprofit Poverty Matters to collect blankets, sweat suits, socks and other cold-weather items at the holiday party to be distributed to homeless people in skid row and the surrounding area.

“I am proud that our continued efforts are underway by the city, of those living on skid row, while it is also a time for each of us to do more. I know our efforts will make it so much colder and wetter than we have seen in recent years,” Bauman said. “The holiday season is a time of reflection and celebration, yet with so many of our fellow Angelenos struggling day by day, our impact can be significant.”

The LACDP is the official governing body of the Democratic Party in Los Angeles County and works in cooperation with the state and national Democratic Committees.

The organization represents approximately 2.5 million registered Democrats. For information, visit www.lacdp.org.

Hangover recovery at Viviane

On the morning after, Viviane executive chef Michael Hung is offering his hangover brunch featuring hearty dishes with an invigorating “San Francisco Rooster Shot” featuring a shot of freshly pressed wheatgrass juice, orange juice and Tapatio tequila. Follow it with a fried egg and poached ham hock with jack cheese and house-made hot sauce on a puff pastry long roll; or a bone marrow and truffe caviar short stack of whole wheat blinis served with Asian pear conserve. Try the roast- ed mushroom bread pudding with green onion pistou and truffle glaze. Brunch is served from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. 9400 W. Olympic Blvd., (310)407-7791.

Wokcano’s Sweet 16 Black & White Ball

The Mondrian

From page 13

41 Ocean

Gents can unleash their inner Rat Pack and ring in the new year Vegas-style on Dec. 31 at 41 Ocean in Santa Monica. The restaurant has stunning ocean views, secluded private courtyards and is a year-round Vegas-style on Dec. 31 at 41 Ocean in Santa Monica. The restaurant has stunning ocean views, secluded private courtyards and is a choice for an additional charge.

Tickets start at $25. For information, call (213)622-4500; 9411 Culver Blvd. #102G, Sherman Oaks, (818)228-7777.

Comedy of Groucho Marx returns in playhouse tribute

The Pasadena Playhouse presents Frank Ferrante in “An Evening With Groucho” on Saturday, Jan. 9; 2 and 8 p.m., Jan. 10.

“The past few seasons have been made great efforts to keep the lights glowing at The Playhouse as Ferrante ad-libs his way through the performance in grand Groucho style.

The Pasadena Playhouse is located at 39 S. El Molino Ave. Showtime is 4 and 8 p.m. Jan. 9; 2 p.m. Jan. 10. Tickets are $25. For information, call (626)356-7529, or visit www.PasadenPlayhouse.org.

41 Ocean

Go to Public School on New Year’s Day

Public School, where you get an education in the art of food and beer, offers $10 bottomless mimosas, beermosas and micheladas on New Year’s Day as well as their bloody Marys featuring a house-made mix spiked with chipotle and strachila sauces. Glasses are rimmed with bacon salt and garnished with house-picked carrots, green beans and garlic, as well as a fried chicken wing. Enjoy the cocktails with a burger or thier special brunch menu.

The restaurant also offers a global- ly-inspired wine list and pints of craft beer: 8440 Sunset Blvd., (323)348-6000.

Ivy at the Mondrian

A new restaurant, Ivy, will open Dec. 31 on the iconic Sunset Strip at the Mondrian Los Angeles. Chef Brian Maloney has designed a five-course menu including oysters, winter squash, big eye tuna, pork belly, Australian lamb rack and prime ribeye steaks with a global-inspired wine list and pints of craft beer: 8440 Sunset Blvd., (323)348-6000.

NYE party at 41 Ocean

41 Ocean

Wokcano’s Sweet 16

The Mondrian

LAMILL Coffee and Boutique

S

Start the new year at LAMILL Coffee and Boutique in Silverlake with a liquid brunch of LAMILL’s Japanese-inspired micheladas made with a house mix incorporating shiso, yuzu kosho and powdered togarashi, and topped with LeftHand Brewing’s salt. LAMILL also offers black & black coffee cocktails made with cold brew coffee, Victory Brewing Storm King Stout, turbinado sugar and a grapefruit twist. The beverages pair well with LAMILL’S egg dishes and avocado toast. 1636 Silver Lake Blvd., (323)663-4441.

Park LaBrea News/Beverly Press 15 December 31, 2015

RESTAURANT NEWS By Jill Winlein

From page 13

L.A. County Democratic Party helps the homeless through donations

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“I am proud that our continued efforts are underway by the city, of those living on skid row, while it is also a time for each of us to do more. I know our efforts will make...
**Trans Chorus of Los Angeles welcomes and empowers transgender singers**

The Trans Chorus of Los Angeles (TCLA) is holding two open rehearsals from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday Jan. 3 and again on Jan. 10 at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church located at 3380 Wilshire Blvd. These two rehearsals are free and open to the public.

TCLA performed for the first time at last month’s Transgender Day Of Remembrance in West Hollywood. TCLA, one of only five trans gender choruses in America, has been invited to perform at the 2016 GALA Festival in Denver, Colorado in July, a five-day event held every four years. TCLA is the only trans chorus performing at the New Year’s resolution, so January is the perfect time to de-clutter and set goals for the year.

On Saturday, Jan. 9, weGO! will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the West Hollywood Community Center at Plummer Park, located at 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. The event will feature professional organizers conducting workshops and offering tips for getting organized. Ask-the-organizer panels will give attendees an opportunity to ask questions, present challenges, and receive advice from experts. Vendors will be in attendance to exhibit products, services, tools and resources for getting and staying organized.

For information, contact Laura Ellis at (310) 493-7201 or visit www.wegoevent.org.

**Natural History Museum explores movie science**

Natural History Museum (NHM) hosts First Fridays, a series of events with live music and discussions. The theme for First Fridays 2016 is “Big Screen, Big Science.”

Scientists and filmmakers will discuss the good, the bad and the ridiculous in film and how Hollywood continues to inspire the next frontier of science exploration.

Los Angeles Times journalist, author and Emmy-winning public television and radio host Pat Morrison will be the host.

The new discussion format will include multiple speakers, film clips and lively discussion between speakers and host.

KCRW radio DJ Aaron Byrd will be the event’s resident DJ with between speakers and host.

Tickets for the February installment of the series go on sale Monday, Jan. 4. For information, visit www.nhm.org/firstfridays.

**Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor**

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**Natural History Museum explores movie science**

Natural History Museum explores movie science through 24-hour, overnight service on Metro rail lines, as well as the Orange and Silver Lines. FREE rides will be offered on all bus and rail lines from 9 p.m. on Dec. 31 until 2 a.m. on Jan. 1. Regular fares will go back into effect at 2 a.m. on New Year’s Day. All Metro rail lines and the Metro Orange Line will run every 20 minutes on New Year’s Eve. For more information, visit www.metro.net.

**LAPL highlights best books of 2015**

Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) librarians and staff members have pooled their expertise to select the best books published in 2015. The lists do not reflect best-seller or award lists, but the books are selected by staff who volunteered to participate and share their thoughts about the best books published this year.

The library’s lists fall into four categories: Fiction, Non-Fiction, Children’s and Teens.

The 2015 lists have more books and greater variety than ever before and are very interesting. The library invites everyone to check out the weekly book reviews and book lists featured on LAPL Read.


**VINTAGE PARKLABREA NEWS**

Go Metro to the Rose Parade and Rose Bowl

A photo in the Dec. 23, 1982 issue of the Park Labrea News showed Tournament of Roses queen Suzanne Gillespie and her royal court encouraging people to ride public transportation to the Rose Parade and Rose Bowl Game in Pasadena on Jan. 1. As part of an annual tradition, the Southern California Rapid Transit District, now known as the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), offers special bus routes to Pasadena for New Year’s Day festivities. Metro continues the tradition on Dec. 31 and Jan 1 by offering 24-hour, overnight service on Metro rail lines, as well as the Orange and Silver Lines. FREE rides will be offered on all bus and rail lines from 9 p.m. on Dec. 31 until 2 a.m. on Jan 1. Regular fares will go back into effect at 2 a.m. on New Year’s Day. All Metro rail lines and the Metro Orange Line will run every 20 minutes on New Year’s Eve. For information, visit www.metro.net.

**Chamber reappoints president**

West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce’s President & CEO, Genevieve Morrill, was reappointed to the Los Angeles County Business License Commission on Dec. 15.

The Business License Commission is charged with holding hearings, as required by Title 7 of the Los Angeles County Code, to determine the grant, deny, modify, suspend or revoke licenses, including information on violations.

In addition, the commission investigates and reports on any conflicts concerns with public health, morals and welfare referred to by the Board of Supervisors.

The commission consists of five members - each Supervisor appoints one Commissioner so that membership is representative of the varied segments of the community. Morrill’s reappointment was made by LA County Supervisor Kuehl’s office serving the third district.

**Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor**
‘The Hateful Eight’ and ‘Sisters,’ an underwhelming good time

‘Sisters’

Tina Fey and Amy Poehler star in an R-rated comedy directed by the “Pitch Perfect” guy. That’s a winning combination. So how could it feel so formulaic and cheap?

‘Sisters’ might go down as one of the most disappointing films you never saw, something that should’ve been comedic gold, not a bronze at best.

The Ellis sisters Maura (Paula Abdul) and Kate (Fey) couldn’t be more different. As the eldest, Kate lived it up in her prime, even having a daughter, Haley (Madison Davenport) from one of many hookups. But she just can’t hold down a job. Meanwhile, Maura is overly responsible, even to a fault, never seizing life enough to make any mistakes.

So when their parents, Deana (Diane Wiest) and Bucky (James Brolin), reveal plans to sell the family’s childhood house, the sisters don’t take it well. Maura must say goodbye to so many memories, and Kate’s plan to move home to ensure some stability for her daughter falls apart. So what can the pair do? Throw one final Ellis Island party, as they were famously called in high school.

So it’s a party movie. Expect all the familiar tropes to occur. Fear over demolishing the house. A cute neighbor, James (Jake Barielholtz) for timid Maura to overcompensate with. And a night of debauchery Kate can’t enjoy as she plays “party mom” for the evening. And since Fey and Poehler both produce, you best expect a shameless number of “SNL” alums to pop up in every scene.

What makes “Sisters” different from other party flicks is the age difference. Unlike high schoolers whose problems are only important thanks to melodramatic writing, all the guests at the Ellis party don’t have their whole lives ahead of them. They’re fully actualized individuals, or they should be. And when they all break loose, the result feels very, very different.

At some points, 40-somethings snorting drugs provided by drug dealer Pazzura (WWE star John Cena) is a hysterical sight. If only the jokes kept coming. The gags tend to be too lowbrow, and devolves into something awkward that feels obligated to move from plot point to plot point with too many delays between gags that land.

‘The Hateful Eight’

If only someone could edit Quentin Tarantino’s films. At nearly three hours, complete with an intermission. “The Hateful Eight” is perhaps the most Tarantino film yet, telling its story almost entirely through dialogue, as in people sitting around and talking in a one-room cabin during a blizzard. It’s hard not to wonder why several sequences weren’t cut down or omitted entirely.

Meet Tarantino’s second Western. But this isn’t the story you likely heard about over a year ago. He meant to create a revenge story about former slaves going after Civil War murdering racist Southerners, but when his screenplay leaked online, he scratched the project.

A blizzard approaches and with it comes a cat-and-mouse game. It’s not the story that should’ve been comedic gold, not a bronze at best. But it all feels a touch phoned in – a Tarantino film for Tarantino fans who need their Tarantino fix. That’s fine if you’re a second-year film student seeking ideas for a short film contest, but a little discouraging for viewers wishing an old dog knew just one new trick. ‘The Hateful Eight’ includes more talking than a week’s worth of “The View,” but it might be one of Tarantino’s most violent films to date, laughably so. If that’s your thing, then good for you. But if you want something more brisk that will last longer than the holiday season – something more memorable – go see the new “Star Wars” for a second and third time.

Neil Degrasse Tyson comes to Hollywood Pantages

Innovation Arts and Entertainment and The Nederlander Organization present “An Evening with Neil Degrasse Tyson” at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre in Los Angeles on Jan. 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Tyson, the host of National Geographic’s StarTalk, best-selling author and director of “The Hayden Planetarium,” explores humanity’s quest for understanding.

“I’ve put together an engaging multi-media presentation that brings the latest advances of modern science directly to audience members. Fans love the Q and A sessions that rival the event itself,” Tyson said.

L.A. Zoo celebrates New Year’s Eve with Zoo Lights

The Los Angeles Zoo will celebrate New Year’s Eve with Zoo Lights, an event scheduled for December 31. The event will feature a variety of activities including a fireworks display, a musical light-and-water show, and glittering light tunnels. Tickets for this VIP-style experience are limited.

Tickets range from $25 - $140. Tickets are available by calling 626-225-1700 or online at www.LAZoolights.org. More information can be found on the website.

The special event will last for 4 hours and is open to adults and children, with discounts available for children and seniors. 

LACMA brings famous composer to art exhibit

LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd. Information can be found on the website.

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) brings composer Michael Mortilla for one day only in conjunction with the exhibit “New Objectivity: Modern German Art In The Weimar Republic, 1919–1933.” On Jan.17, improvised live scores by Mortilla for five silent films screened in the galleries featured in “New Objectivity” will be performed.

The special event will last for the duration of the museum’s opening hours. Mirroring the central themes of “New Objectivity,” the films depict the social realities of the Weimar Republic, ranging from the misery of the lower class to new forms of mass consumer culture and a fascination with new technologies, architecture and machinery.

Mortilla is an award-winning pianist, composer and sound designer. He has produced over 1,000 works for film, TV, radio, theater, dance and the concert stage.

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

Pasadena Playhouse brings Peter Pan to the stage

The Pasadena Playhouse wraps up its Panto at The Playhouse with a production of “Peter Pan and Tinker Bell – A Pirates Christmas” running through 3.

In “Peter Pan and Tinker Bell – A Pirates Christmas,” Tinker Bell, Wendy and Peter Pan embark on a wild quest to foil the pirates’ plot to kidnap Peter for Captain Hook’s Christmas present.

Performance schedules are Tuesdays through Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 12:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sundays at 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Afterwards, guests are welcome to enjoy L.A. Zoo Lights until closing. Tickets for the event are $65 for adults and $40 for children. Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association (GLAZA) members can purchase tickets for $60 for adults and $35 for children. Tickets for this VIP-style experience are limited.

For information, visit LAZoolights.org.

Two free health care enrollment events scheduled

On Saturday Jan. 9 the YMCA Hollywood and the Korean American Coalition will host informational events for health care insurance coverage.

Individuals and families can get answers and help choosing the right enrollment plan and see if they qualify for financial assistance. Certified enrollment counselors will be available to help explain available option plans, choose a plan for an individual’s specific needs and complete enrollment paperwork.

The events are co-hosted by Assemblymember Richard Bloom, Assemblymember Miguel Santiago and Los Angeles City Councilmember David Ryu.

The YMCA Hollywood is located at 1553 Schrader Blvd. and the Korean American Coalition is located at 3727 West 6th St.
Women icons in design recognized for work by Art Directors Guild

The Art Directors Guild (ADG) has announced that four legendary women will be inducted into the organization’s hall of fame at the Guild’s 20th annual Excellence in Production Design Awards on Jan. 31 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. 

The honorees are production designer Carmen Dillon, production and costume designer Patricia Norris, art director and set designer Dorothea Holt Redmond and illustrator Dianne Wager. 

“These women made great strides in their craft achieving prominence despite designing in a field dominated by men,” ADG council chairwoman Marcia Hinds said. “Acknowledgement of their efforts leads to a more balanced and open guild. They will be most welcomed into our prestigious hall of fame.”

The inductions are only made posthumously. Dillon (1908-2000), pictured, was the first female art director in the British film industry, and made history in 1949 when she became the first woman to win an Oscar for set decoration.

Norris (1931-2015) is an Oscar nominee and Emmy winner who was one of only a handful of American designers who successfully combined the dual practices of production and costume design for film and television. In 2011, she made history when she became the only artist to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from both the Art Directors Guild and the Costume Designers Guild.

Redmond (1910-2009) was an illustrator and production designer who broke ground in 1938 when she became the first woman in the male-dominated field of production design. Best known for helping visually conceptualize Alfred Hitchcock’s films, she worked on over 30 films spanning her 20-year career, including “Gone with the Wind” (1939) and “The Ten Commandments” (1956).


Additional nominations for the awards will be announced on Jan. 5. Final balloting will run Jan. 7-28, 2016. Winners will be announced at the dinner ceremony in 11 competitive categories for theatrical films, television productions, commercials and music videos.

For information, call Debbie Patton at (818)762-9995, or email debbie@artdirectors.org.

Heritage Square Museum plans new projects in 2016

The Heritage Square Museum has announced plans to continue its preservation and restoration of the museum’s historical buildings as well as educational programs.

The museum, located at 3800 Homer St. in Northeast Los Angeles, is an open-air architecture museum featuring a collection of houses from the Victorian era. The museum completed several large-scale restoration projects in 2015. To preserve the museum’s Ford House and Garden, the museum replaced the roof, restored the front door and repaired and repainted the interior and exterior windows of the entire structure. Additionally, the Perry House front exterior was painted and the upstairs front balcony was painstakingly taken apart and its original pieces numbered, restored and reassembled onsite.

The museum hopes to find funding for several anticipated projects in the new year.

The museum plans to replace the roof of the Palms Depot and begin interior restoration work on the second floor of the Perry House, where it is hoped the Justin Gershuny Memorial Library will be housed in 2017.

The library will give students access to the museum’s archives, rare books, art and primary source documents.

The master gardeners at Heritage Square are offering a series of free gardening classes at the Ford Garden starting Jan. 23. Each class features hands-on activities and an emphasis on Victorian organic gardening. For information, visit www.heritagesquare.org.

Weho seeks poster design for One City, One Pride

The city of West Hollywood, through its Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission, is seeking poster designs for its annual One City One Pride LGBTQ Arts Festival.

Held each year during June pride month, One City One Pride is a celebration of the LGBTQ community though the arts. The celebration features numerous events including dance, film, spoken word, visual arts and more.

To be considered for the poster design competition, artists can submit original artwork that explores this year’s festival theme, “into the streets.”

The winning poster design artist will be awarded $400, and the poster will be displayed throughout the city.

The deadline for submissions is Monday, Jan. 4 at 12 p.m.

For information and guidelines on how to enter, visit www.weho.org/pride or contact Michael Che at (323) 848-6377 or email mche@weho.org.
Visitors have last chance to see Civil War exhibit

Visitors to the Autry Museum of the American West have until Sunday to view the exhibit “Empire and Liberty: The Civil War and the West,” which will close Jan. 3.

The museum is hosting a major exhibition that will feature notable Civil War artifacts and highlights the contributions of Union and Confederate soldiers, as well as notable figures such as Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee. The exhibition includes items such as letters, diaries, photographs, and military equipment. It also features a reconstructed battlefield diorama that allows visitors to experience the intensity of Civil War battles.

The exhibit is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the Civil War in the American West, offering visitors a unique perspective on both the war’s impact on the region and the role of Westerners in the conflict. The Autry Museum aims to give visitors a greater understanding of the war’s lasting effects on the American West and its continued relevance today.

Foundation helps in fight against domestic abuse

The Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust (LAMOTH) and others in the community are mourning the death of Holocaust survivor Manny Steinberg (born Hirsch Mezrow in 1919), who passed away on Dec. 21 at the age of 90.

Born in Radom, Poland, Steinberg survived four Nazi concentration camps and later published an autobiography, “Outcry: Holocaust Memoir,” to fulfill a promise he made to himself during his first days of freedom. Steinberg wanted to ensure that the world never forgets what happened during the Holocaust. His book has sold more than 100,000 copies.

In April, Steinberg embarked on an emotional visit to Germany for the first time since 1945 during the 70-year commemoration of the liberation of the KZ-Vaihingen/Enz camp, where he had been imprisoned. Steinberg’s funeral was held on Dec. 27 at Hilside Memorial Park. The Steinberg family has requested that donations in his memory be made to LAMOTH’s Buses & Books Campaign. The Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust is located at 100 The Grove Drive. For information, call (323)651-3704, or visit www.lamoth.org.

Nominees sought for community impact awards

The Los Angeles Jewish Community Foundation (LACJF) has announced the 2015 General Community Grants recipients. The foundation has awarded $180,000 to eight local organizations in its effort to break the cycle of domestic and sexual violence. The awards include: the Center for Domestic Violence Prevention, which will receive $20,000; the Wilshire Centennial Family Center, which will receive $16,000; and the Los Angeles Jewish Home, which will receive $15,000.

The foundation has also recognized community leaders for their contributions to the fight against domestic abuse. Honorees include: Rabbi Laura Geller of Congregation Shirat Hayam; Rabbi Jeffrey Newman of Temple Beth Ami; and Rabbi Susan Talve of Temple Beth Am.

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Additional shelters to open during bad weather

From page 1

Each year, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) operates the Emergency Winter Shelter Program, providing temporary shelter to homeless per- sons at existing homeless shelters, California National Guard armories and large-group facilities. The pro- gram provides shelter, warmth, food and comfort to homeless indi- viduals during the cold and wet winter season. With El Niño possi- bilities looming, Naomi Goldman, spokesperson for LAHSA, said the city and county have been engaged in a ‘hands-on’ coordinated effort for six months.

Part of the effort has included tar- geting homeless people in encamp- ments near high-risk flood areas. Goldman said LAHSA identified 700 people living in or near high-risk areas and encouraged them to move to safer ground or find shel- ter.

“Through outreach, we have been alerting those people of the risks coming up with El Niño and letting them know about the shelter services available,” she said.

Since the effort started, there are hundreds less in those areas, Goldman said.

LAHSA and the city of Los Angeles have been raising money to open winter shelters, in addition to the ones open all year, through March. She said winter shelters provide at least 2,100 additional beds. Although more people come in on cold nights, Goldman said there are still openings available.

The city and county also identi- fied additional facilities, amounting to 1,200 beds, that will be opened based on weather conditions, and thousands more are in the works.

“The county has a number of facilities that are ready to be opened depending on how the weather dips or if they hit capacity,” Goldman said. “The city and county has made protecting the homeless popu- lation a really high priority. We have accessed more resources than we have ever had to operate shel- ters.”

Since they can’t tell exactly how El Niño is going to play out, Goldman said they are planning for the worst.

“Some of us are working on this every day to make sure everything is operational,” she said.

The city currently expends $1.6 million in emergency shelter grants and $380,000 in general funds to help operate the Winter Shelter Program through February. Last month, the city council gave initial approval to shelter the homeless in public buildings and to allow peo- ple living in cars to stay overnight in designated parking lots.

The Weingart Center Association at 666 S. San Pedro St. will be open through March 31. The center can be reached at (213)383-5202. First to Serve, Inc. at 1300 Federal Ave. will also be open through March 31, and can be reached at (323)758-4670. Free transportation to First to Serve, Inc. is available every day at 4:30 p.m. near MacArthur Park at 647 Park View St.

Those in need of emergency shel- ter are encouraged to go directly to one of the listed pick-up points for free transportation, rather than the site address, unless otherwise indi- cated. Most shelters will open at approximately 5 p.m.

For information, call (800)584- 6047 or 2-1-1, or visit lahsa.org.

WeHo approves outreach for transit extension

From page 1

to the San Fernando Valley. Plans include media outreach, engage- ment programs, polling, business association and transit council and a new website.

The second approved measure directed city staff to continue to investigate the possibility of giv- ing voters the option to raise the city sales tax to $1.25 per dollar for the Crenshaw Line expansion, which could cost at least $4.5 billion. Every $0.01 increase of sales tax cor- relates to consumers paying one cent for each dollar of taxable good, according to the city. The younger generation could also go toward rail enhancements and affordable housing developments near the transit stop. According to West Hollywood staff, each quarter percent increase would generate approxi- mately $4 million in revenue for the city in its first year. Over 30 years, it could equal an estimated $175 million.

Metro is also considering a simi- lar countywide increase on the November ballot that would seek at least the two-thirds required voter approval to raise overall sales taxes by 9 to 9.5 percent.

With Los Angeles city and county leaders pushing for exten- sions that would not include West Hollywood, Duran stressed the importance of the aggressive pre-emptive measures. He pointed to the monies generated when similar tax increases were on the ballot for transit expansions and West Hollywood’s voter approval rate was higher than any other city in the county. But in the end, West Hollywood was left out of the plans.

“Our voters overwhelmingly voted for a tax increase and we got nothing,” he said. “I don’t want (West Hollywood) voters to vote for a third time to see tax increases go to other communities.”

If that scenario were to happen again, West Hollywood’s tax increase would still be available to fund improvements to the city’s transit systems in other ways.

“It sends a message to the coun- ty that we don’t want to be forgot- ten again,” Duran continued. “It would be a bigger loss if we were in favor of the county measure and once again, for whatever reason – those in favor of the county measure are not in favor of West Hollywood – the county measure would pass.”

The county council directed staff to return with updates in February or March.
2015 saw new Petersen, Greek management

From page 1
discretionary funding for neighbor-
hood projects and infrastructure repairs for potholes and cracked sidewalks. Van de Velde bowed out early December while the exterior was re-designed with red paint and flowing ribbons for gallery continuity. The interior was transformed with interactive exhibits and a fleet of new cars was added to the museum’s one-of-a-kind collection.

Museum Row

The Miracle Mile landscape underwent major changes in 2015 with the completion of the Petersen Automotive Museum. The museum was opened to the public in early December while the exterior was re-designed with red paint and flowing ribbons for gallery continuity. The interior was transformed with interactive exhibits and a fleet of new cars was added to the museum’s one-of-a-kind collection.

Greek Theatre

The year began with a push by residents living near the Greek Theatre to continue operations under a new management firm. In late 2014, the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) Commission selected Live Nation to operate the venue, a decision the council did not support. RAP later decided to operate the Greek Theatre itself and hired the management firm SMG to operate the venue three to day operations. The goal is to generate more revenue for the city and to provide broader accessibility for a variety of promoters and styles of music.

Metro Subway

Construction of the Metro Purple Line subway extension is a major issue in 2015, and it promises to continue to affect the neighbor-
hood well into the future. Major construction began on a subway station this fall near Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue. Wilshire Boulevard has been redirected to two lanes in each direc-
tion while the walls around the underground station are completed. The main components of the construction is scheduled next spring when Metro plans to com-
plete the line at the station, a precursor to further underground construction and tunnelling.

Metro

Metro has proposed a full closure of Wilshire Boulevard between La Brea and Highland Avenues for seven weeks or 22 weekends to complete the work. Councilman David Ryu, in con-
mjunction with multiple city depart-
ments, is expected to choose which closure option to use during the early part of next year.

Development

Many Cancer Prevention Projects moved ahead after reces-
sions caused delays making 2015 a dynamic year for development. However, one of the highest-profile projects – the Hollywood Millennium Project – remained mired in controversy. Lawsuits by community groups sought to block the project’s two towers from rising on property near the Capitol Records building. The state had also raised concerns about earth-
quake risk in the area.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge invalidated the proj-
ect’s environmental impact report, which halted the project until the city approved a new EIR. The developer has vowed to continue the project, and it is uncertain when the next step will begin.

Other projects, such as 1850 Sunset, faced strong opposition early in the year but ended with support. Architect Frank Gehry redesigned the mixed-use project at the southwest corner of Sunset and Crescent Heights Boulevards at the former Garden of Allah Hotel site and released the new design at the end of August. Residents in the sur-
rounding community in 2016.

Looking Ahead

The coming year promises to be as dynamic as 2015, with city leaders tackling issues such as homelessness and the threat of El Niño. The city council has called for $100 million to address home-
lessness but has yet to identify all the funding sources. Short-term approaches, such as keeping shel-
ters open during the winter, as well as long-term solutions, such as creating housing, remain at the forefront.

Development also promises to be a key issue in 2016, as projects such as the Palladium Residences and a mixed-use development at the Crossroads of the World site are set to transform the Hollywood skyline. And while local city and county elections are not scheduled until 2017, the November presidential election promises to keep politics on everyone’s minds. One thing that is sure to remain constant is that change will continue to shape community in 2016.

Girls to be peers for other girls on AHF float

From page 1

mended to AHF by Project Kindlle, a summer camp for children with HIV and other illnesses. The other two were from AHF board member and Read Lead, an organi-
zation providing reading and literacy programs in underserved Los Angeles County. The riders are Jenna Vargas, 11, of Silverlake; Ilana McDonald, 10, of Compton; Sarah Sheppard, 11, of Silverlake; Tatum Lindsey, 11, of Chicago; and Gloria Gallarzo, 10, of Glendale, Arizona. Jill Vargas, mother, said the experience of her daughter being selected to ride on the float has been very rewarding. A friend of the family said she hopes all the girls will serve as role models for others.

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“...I am really excited to go on the float. It will be an experience I will never forget,” Gloria said. “When I first heard I was going to be riding on the float I wasn’t sure what I was in for. When I saw it, I just really excited. My mom has been telling everybody.”

-Gloria’s mother, Kristina Gallarzo

The Rose Parade float, which is being designed by Fiesta Flots in Irwindale. Volunteers and workers are busy gluing flowers and putting the finishing touches on the float in preparation for the Rose Parade tomorrow morning.

“I am ecstatic,” Kristina Gallarzo said. “Gloria doesn’t have a peer to look up to, so I want her to be that peer for other girls. I want people to look at her and say, ‘I’m just like her.’”

In addition to riding on the float, AHF treated the girls to a private tea party reception at Yamashiro restaurant in Hollywood. They also had their hair and makeup done at Studio DNA Salon, which is owned by Aubrey Lofts and Danny Leclair, a same-sex couple who was mar-
rried on AHF’s Rose Parade float in 2014. This year’s Rose Parade marks the fifth year in a row AHF has sponsored a float. Kenslei said the parade is a high-profile event that enables AHF to spread its message about prevention and services to a worldwide audience. AHF’s float will be one of 44 floats in the Rose Parade, which also includes dozens of marching bands and equestrian groups. The 5.5-mile parade starts at 8 a.m. near the corner of Orange Grove and Colorado Boulevards in Pasadena. The parade’s theme is “Find Your Adventure,” and 2016 grand marshal is award-winning filmmaker Ken Burns. For information on attending the parade, visit www.tournamentofroses.com.

The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Marriage Equality, causing a large West Hollywood “Decision Day celebration.”

The Miracle Mile landscape underwent major changes in 2015 with the completion of the Petersen Automotive Museum. The museum was opened to the public in early December while the exterior was re-designed with red paint and flowing ribbons for gallery continuity. The interior was transformed with interactive exhibits and a fleet of new cars was added to the museum’s one-of-a-kind collection.

The Petersen anchors the west end of Museum Row, which will also add the Academy Museum. The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences project was approved by the city council in June as part of the Academy’s project. A commu-
nity organization came to terms over impacts to the surrounding neigh-
borhood. The museum will cele-
brate the movie industry. A glass sphere will be designed for the entrance. Completion is expected by early 2018.

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art also made headlines in 2015 with its 50th anniversary celebration in April. The museum celebrated its anniversary with the “50 for 50” exhibit displaying donated artworks by masters such as Cabrera, Degas and Monet. Approximately one month later, LACMA mourned the loss of artist Chris Burden who created the “Urban Light” installation, the col-
clection of antique streetlamps at the entrance facing Wilshire Boulevard.

Los Angeles Rec and Parks decided not to renew their agreement with Nederlander Concerts, leading to controversy around management pol-
icy for 2015.

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Girls to be peers for other girls on AHF float

"I realized I am tired of hiding my status. I am excit-
ed to be on the float and to be brave and come out with my story.

-Jenna Vargas

"I am really excited to go on the float. It will be an experience I will never forget," Gloria said. "When I first heard I was going to be riding on the float I wasn’t sure what I was in for. When I saw it, I just really excited. My mom has been telling everybody.”

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Hollywood project escaped review despite fault threat

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AHF celebrates
“A GIRL’S WORLD OF ADVENTURE”

2016 TOURNAMENT OF ROSES PARADE

“A Girl’s World of Adventure” is AIDS Healthcare Foundation’s 2016 Rose Parade Float celebrating young girls the world over. Girls often face risks that may negatively effect their potential to grow up healthy and happy. For many girls a lack of educational opportunities, poverty, health and safety issues are all part of their daily lives.

“A Girl’s World of Adventure” features four independent girls from different parts of the world dressed as potential professions they may pursue one day. Working together, these four floral girls hold the world at their finger tips as they jointly hoist a golden globe.

AHF created a worldwide women’s movement known as Women of Action that hosts empowerment activities across the globe for girls to help them pursue their dreams. This float is dedicated to and celebrates the potential of our women of tomorrow as girls today, knowing that in the end, “It’s Her Journey.”