Protests prompted by President’s visit

Approximately 150 demonstrators marched through Hancock Park on Feb. 11 ahead of President Barack Obama’s visit to the area that evening for two fundraisers at the residence of Hollywood producer David Geffen. The group called attention to the plight of Central American refugees, particularly children, started entering the United States in 2014 after political upheaval and civil war in countries including Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. A large number of Central American refugees, particularly children, started entering the United States in 2014 after political upheaval and civil war in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. The protesters marched on Wilshire Boulevard and adja- cent streets and briefly blocked traffic at Wilshire and Hancock. The property is made up of four one-story residential buildings and one garage a U-shaped configuration. The planning, land use and management committee on Tuesday submitted the report to the full city council without rec- ommendation because only three members were present and a unanimous vote is needed to make a recommendation. Only two voted to continue the item for 15 days. On Wednesday, Councilman Paul Koretz, 5th Distric, submit- ted the motion to continue the item for 15 days after requests were made by the owners and the group trying to preserve it to fur- ther study the property and come to a consensus on its sustainabi- lity.

See protest page 22

Renters and landlords to go dutch on retrofit costs

Los Angeles officials decided that renters and landlords will equally share the cost of retro- fitting the city’s residential build- ing stock in anticipation of a major earthquake. City officials and tenant advocates are calling the measure a successful compromise as owners could have passed 100 percent of the cost on to tenants without the new ordinance.

Last year, Los Angeles passed the strictest mandatory retrofit laws in the nation, requiring buildings owners meet new stan- dards to protect citizens during an earthquake. But they didn’t set up a plan to pay for it until now, in what Mayor Eric Garcetti called a “fair outcome for all” in a city filled with rent-controlled units. “Keeping this city safe is my top priority,” Garcetti said. “Last fall, we passed a historic measure to protect our most vulnerable buildings from the next big earth- quake. City council also protect- ed tenants from absorbing too much of the cost of these life-sav- ing improvements.” The ordinance ensures that the cost will be split equally and caps the amount that landlords can increase rent to pay for retrofits at $38 per month. If the new ordi-

See retrofit page 22

Service Dogs may be your best friend, but not others

BY PATRICIA SANCHEZ

The notion that dogs are “man’s best friend” seems to be more true than these days than before. It seems people take their dogs everywhere from shopping excursions, to muse- ums to grocery stores and even to restaurants. Dogs are allowed on patios in restaurants, but they must be service dogs to enter the facility. But, what constitutes a service dog is unclear, making the situation diffi- cult for many restaurant managers. “I’ve definitely seen an increase in the amount of dogs in restau- rants,” said Juan Saledo, manager of Marmalade Café at the Original Farmers Market at Third and Fairfax. “It’s difficult because you can’t really [determine] if the dog is an [accredited] service animal, and there’s no way to tell.” Ben Urriz, a bartender at Marmalade Café said most of the time dogs don’t cause any prob- lems, but they can make it awkward to work around. “I’ve seen people get mad because someone has their dog in the restaurant with them, but there’s not really much we can do if they say it’s their service dog,” Urriz said. “It creates an uncomfortable...
LA Phil Celebrates French Composers


‘Past Time’


‘Dusk Rings a Bell’


Forever Flamenco returns to West Los Angeles as a guest production at the Odyssey Theatre on Sunday, Feb. 21 at 8 p.m. The performance will feature dancers Vanessa Albatros (partner) and Bisrozya Zaneta, who will be joined by guitarist Gabriel Osuna, singer Vicente Grileo, percussionist Gerardo Morales and guitarist Osuna and Jose Takanana. Tickets start at $45. 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd. (323)663-1525, www.TheOdysseyTheatre.com.

20 Western Book Discussion

Carolyn Brucken, curator of western women’s history at the Autry Museum of the American West, will lead a book discussion titled “Falling In and Out of Love With The Virginian” on Saturday, Feb. 20 at 9:30 a.m. at the city council chambers. Female filmmakers and dayle reyfel. The show is a benefit for the Children’s Action Network. Tickets start at $100. 115 N. La Brea Ave. (800)838-3006, www.lambdawomenslibrary.org.

21 Music in the Mansion

MUSIC in the Mansion continues its 20th anniversary season with the Broadway musical “A Class Act” Sunday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Alex Theatre. The production is loosely based on the life of composer and lyricist Edward Kleban, who died in 1987, and features selections from his catalogue of unproduced musical material. Tickets are $45. 516 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale. (818)243-ALEX, www.musicattheatre.org.

‘Celebrity Autobiography’

The Drama Desk Award-winning international hit comedy “Celebrity Autobiography” comes to the ACME Theatre on La Brea Avenue on Sunday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. The all-star cast includes Paul Alexander Newman, Florence Henderson, Lainie Kazan, Fred Willard, Eugene Pack and Dayle Reyfel. The show is a benefit for the Children’s Action Network. Tickets start at $100. 115 N. La Brea Ave. (800)838-3006, www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2989194.

Comedy Show

Enjoy an evening of sidesplitting laughter at the “Art Deco Comedy Hour” on Sunday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Hollywood American Legion Post 43. The show features some of LA’s best comedians from “Jimmy Kimmel Live,” IFC’s “Maron,” Comedy Central and other shows. Tickets for the post’s building will be offered after the show. 2035 N Highland Ave. (323)851-3030, www.facebook.com/events/1671146

283151581.

24 LGBT Book Club

The Lamba Literary Book Club will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. in the West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room. The club highlights a different LGBT book each month. West Hollywood city poet Steven Reigns will lead the free discussion 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. www.lambdaliterary.org.

Pianospheres presents a performance titled “Vicki Ray: Elements” on Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 8:30 p.m. at the Roy and Edna Disney CalArts Theatre. Ray will be joined by soprano Elisa Johnson, violinist Sarah Thomblinde and cellist Erika Duke-Kirkpatrick. The musicians will perform works by Ray, Berio, Takemitsu, Schaffer, Adams and Lin.

Women in Film

West Hollywood hosts its “Women In Film Speakers Series” on Monday, Feb. 22 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the city council chambers. Female filmmakers and industry leaders will offer professional insight into the art and craft of film, television and media. Admission is $10. 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. www.womeninfilm.org/spokseries.

22 Comedy and Cocktails

Comedian Bill Devlin’s “Comedy and Cocktails” show returns on Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hollywood Improv. Devlin mixes band music with some of the hottest up-and-coming comics in the country and surprise celebrity guests 816 Melrose Ave. (323)565-2583, www.hollywoodimprov.com.
Metro efforts stay on track in West Hollywood

BY PATRICIA SANCHEZ

As efforts continue to establish a metro line in West Hollywood, advocates are pushing for more community support.

On Tuesday, city staff collaborat-ed with West Hollywood Advocates for Metro Rail (WHAM) to raise awareness, and the city council voted to support an extension option that could run along San Vicente Blvd. to Santa Monica Blvd.

The city hosted the “Tacos and Transit” community event on Tuesday evening to inform the pub-lic about three potential lines pro-posed in the county extension pro-ject, and gave residents the option to sign a petition in favor of bringing a Metro line to the city. The proposed Crenshaw/LAX Northern Extension light rail transit line would provide a north-south connection for the city.

The city council’s vote to push for a San Vicente to Santa Monica Boulevard line follows the council’s decision on Dec. 21 to fund research efforts and community outreach to bring the Metro line to West Hollywood and to explore raising the city sales tax to help pay for con-struction. The potential tax increase was on hold for now in order to focus on getting community support for a Metro project, and gave residents the option to sign a petition in favor of bringing a Metro line to the city.

According to Duran and Bianca Siegl, West Hollywood’s long range mobility planning manager, advo-cating for the San Vicente to Santa Monica route is the best option.

Siegl said although the line is the longest and the most expensive route with an estimated cost of $6 billion, it outperformed other routes in research that examined popula-tion, employment, walkability and demographics along the proposed routes. The line would serve an esti-mated 13,000 daily riders on the existing Crenshaw line and pass important city destinations including Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, West Hollywood Library and the Beverly Center. It would also give the city the most flexibility in the long run.

Advocating for the most expen-sive route, Siegl explained, would give the city the biggest budget to work with even if they decide to build along another route.

“Picking one line to advocate for now will further allow us to build partnerships with other stakeholders that will help us to make sure this project is appropriately prioritized on Metro’s list,” Siegl said.

While the city council voted unanimously for the San Vicente to Santa Monica Boulevard line, some city council members, including Mayor Pro Tem Lauren Meister, had concerns about the research con-ducted for the proposed line.

“I feel like we spent a lot of work with even if they decide to build along another route.”

Community members take a look at three proposed Metro lines that could connect West Hollywood to the rest of L.A. County.

WeHo delays decision on cost increases for park project

BY EDWIN POLVEN

The West Hollywood City Council could not reach a deci-sion Tuesday on how to address the $4.8 million cost increase for renovations at West Hollywood Park, and they post-poned making a decision until the next meeting on March 7.

Since the original 2014 bud-get, the estimated cost of the project has risen from $90 mil-lion to $594.8 million due to increases in construction costs. City officials do not think post-poning a decision on the cost increases will affect the pro-ject’s timeline.

The city will likely seek bids for the project in May, and con-struction is expected to begin this summer, said Francisco Contreras, innovation and strategic initiatives manager for West Hollywood. The council asked city staff to return with additional information on potential cost savings.

Some members of the council are divided as to how to handle the cost increase. The money already budgeted is from the city general fund and parking fund, as well as bonds and fund-ing that developers are required to pay the city when projects are approved.

The project’s centerpiece will be a 74,500-square-foot, five-level aquatic and recreation center with a grand staircase will be the centerpiece of the upgrades in phase II of the West Hollywood Park.

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A preliminary hearing has been postponed until 8 a.m. on March 15 for the Orange County man suspected of impersonating a police officer and assaulting two women in Hollywood.

The defendant, Joseph Chastin Moore, has pleaded not guilty to six criminal counts, including one felony count of obstructing an officer and two counts of each of assault and battery, and is also accused of two counts of resisting officers, as well as two counts of battery with obvious provocation and one count of sexual battery. The combined counts include a total of 14 misdemeanor offenses.

Moore allegedly confronted the 40-year-old victim and threatened her with a gun while she was alone in her residence on Feb. 6 in the Hollywood Hills. He then allegedly forced open doors. The victim told police she was watching television in her bedroom when two men wearing ski masks entered and pointed handguns at her. Investigators found no evidence of forced entry, and authorities are trying to determine how the men entered the residence, said Detective Gary Kukaua, of the Los Angeles Police Department’s Hollywood Division. The detective said the victim saw two suspects but there may have been others involved inside the residence.

“The suspects went into the victim’s room, took some of his items and fled,” Kukaua added. “It is undetermined if the suspects knew the victim. They burst in and surprised him.”

Kukaua said he could not disclose what was stolen because of the ongoing investigation. One of the suspects struck the victim in the head with a hanger. The victim was taken to a hospital and is recovering.

The detective said no similar crimes have occurred, and the robbery is an isolated incident. Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call robbery detectives with the Hollywood Division at (213) 972-2932 or (213) 972-2934.

Los Angeles Police Department’s Hollywood Division

Two veteran Los Angeles Police Department officers who worked as partners at the Hollywood Division have been charged with repeatedly sexually assaulting four women, often while they were on duty.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office announced Wednesday that James Nichols, 44, and Luis Valenzuela, 43, are sched-uled to be arraigned today in Department 30 at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. Both were charged with 13 counts each of sexual battery, with three allegations of coercion, and two counts each of sexual assault with a deadly weapon.

At the time the alleged assaults occurred, the victims were 19, 24, 25, and 34 years of age. Nichols and Valenzuela are charged with multiple counts each of sexual assault, including forcible rape, oral copulation by force under color of authority and oral copulation by force.

Valenzuela is also charged with one count of assault with a firearm for allegedly pointing a gun at one of the victims. If convicted, Nichols and Valenzuela each face up to life in state prison.

Both officers were previously with the Los Angeles Police chief Charlie Beck released a statement after the charges were announced.

"Any officer that abuses the pub- lic's trust is not welcome in the LAPD and we will continue vigorously investigating officers accused of committed crimes and cooperate fully with the district attorney's office," Beck said.

Bill would require debt tracking

Sen. Bob Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys) has introduced legislation sponsored by state Treasurer John Chiang that requires tracking and reporting all state and local govern- ment debt until it is fully repaid.

SB 1029 also requires the holder of each bond issued by the state and the bond to provide an annual debt accountability report to the state. The following monthly reporting and investigation to the 2014 theft of $3.9 million for a cut on his head and is recovering.

The detective said an average of three to four burglaries occur in the areas each week. One bur-glary occurred on Feb. 12 shortly after 1 p.m. in the 1100 block of Dunsmuir Ave. in Hollywood. One African American male suspects forced open a rear door and entered the residence. A 16-year-old relative of the burglars and called police.

“Some basically saw her and saw them and they fled,” he added.

Another burglary occurred on Feb. 13 shortly before 4 p.m. at a residence in the 1000 block of Kingsley Drive in Hollywood. An abusive partner has his way. "They basically saw her and saw them and they fled," he added.

Another burglary occurred on Feb. 13 shortly before 4 p.m. at a residence in the 1000 block of Kingsley Drive in Hollywood. The suspect, Joseph Christoph Moore, 40, has pleaded not guilty to assaulting two women in

Hearing postponed for Hollywood assault suspect

Police released surveillance footage of the suspect who allegedly sexu- ally assaulted the victims in Hollywood. (photo courtesy of the LAPD)

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Businesses that sell tobacco in the city of West Hollywood will be required to obtain a license from the city. The West Hollywood City Council has approved an ordinance that requires businesses that sell tobacco products to minors also conduct compliance checks. The ordinance will also pertain to businesses that sell electronic cigarettes.

Mayor Lindsey Horvath, who authored the motion, said the city needs a law that allows code inspectors to crack down on businesses that sell tobacco products to minors. The ordinance will also include provisions for reaching establishments that sell tobacco products to minors.

The West Hollywood City Council has approved an ordinance aimed at enforcing restrictions on the sale of tobacco products to minors. Frank Mateljan, a spokesman for the American Lung Association's Southern California office, said Los Angeles has had a tobacco retailer licensing ordinance since 2000. The city routinely conducts compliance checks at tobacco retailers with the California Department of Public Health and Food and Drug Branch and the program is key to the city's efforts to curb underage tobacco use, he said. Business owners who sell tobacco products to minors in Los Angeles are charged with misdemeanors.

The penalty for selling tobacco products to minors under West Hollywood's ordinance is still being determined. The cost of the license has also not been released. Horvath cited the American Lung Association's Southern California Tobacco Control 2015 report as demonstrating the need for a new ordinance. West Hollywood exceeds the state minimum grade for efforts to prevent underage tobacco use.

“We learned that there are several West Hollywood businesses that are not in compliance in terms of sales of tobacco to underage people,” Horvath said. “My intention is that we protect young people. We can have minors purchasing tobacco. It creates an opportunity for local governments to take local control.”

The West Hollywood City Council asked City Attorney Mike Jenkins to draft the ordinance, which should be ready for further city council review in about 60 days. Jenkins said currently, the state conducts compliance checks at tobacco retailers in West Hollywood, as is the case with establishments that sell alcohol. Once the ordinance is completed, West Hollywood's code enforcement authorities will also conduct compliance checks.

On Wednesday, Feb. 17, Metro hosted a community business meeting to address future street closures and inform business owners about two programs to ease the pain during the Purple Line Extension construction.

A 22-weeked closure along Wilshire Boulevard will start in June. Vertical support piles will be installed along the edges of the street and steel beams will be placed across the construction area on top of the piles.

“It’s a difficult situation, but it’s easier for people to prepare when they’re informed,” said Kasey Shada, construction relations manager for the Purple Line Extension. “It’s the surprises that cause problems.”

Increased traffic, fewer parking spaces and lost revenue resulting from construction are some of the main concerns raised by business owners. The Business Interruption Fund (BIF) and the “Eat, Shop, Play” program are two ways Metro is reaching out to businesses affected by construction.

According to Michael Cortez, Metro senior construction relations officer, “Eat, Shop, Play” is a way for Metro and business owners to encourage residents to “shop local.”

“We held this meeting to inform business owners about upcoming construction, but we also want to help the businesses as much as we can,” Cortez said. “With Eat, Shop, Play, business owners can take an active role in keeping their active.”

Through the program, businesses benefit from extra signage and online promotions. Patrons can win prizes by shopping locally as well. See Metro page 21
City officials announced last week that crews have begun to install a tubular steel fence and two gates around the exposed perimeter of Barnsdall Art Park to better secure the property.

Barnsdall Art Park, a popular city-owned facility located near Vermont Avenue and Hollywood Boulevard, is ranked as one of the greatest public art installations by a world-class art gallery and the famed Frank Lloyd Wright designed Hollyhock House, which is currently on the tentative list of the first modern architecture nominations from the United States to the United Nation’s Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List.

The former garage is being converted into a bookstore, and will allow the park security officers to keep the park secure at night.

“The latest project is just one of the ways we are working to enhance, preserve and protect one of our great city parks,” said Leslie Thomas from the Los Angeles Arts Center – in Barnsdall Park, a popular city-owned facility located near Vermont Avenue and Hollywood Boulevard.

In addition to the new fencing, the scope of work will also include making both rolling gates at the street level parking lot on Hollywood Boulevard operational to allow better traffic flow.

Barnsdall Art Park Foundation, the Barnsdall Art Center and Junior League of Los Angeles officials announced last week that crews have begun to install a tubular steel fence and two gates around the exposed perimeter of Barnsdall Art Park to better secure the property.

Crews began working on the perimeter fence this week, and will be in place by the end of the month. The improvements will prevent people from entering unnoticed and will allow the park security officers to keep the park secure at night.

“My staff and I have worked on a plan since taking office to protect the park secure after hours and improve the overall visitor experience,” O’Farrell said.

The project was approved by the Los Angeles City Council in partnership with the Barnsdall Art Park Coalition, a grassroots organization representing the public and property owners around the facility.

“I am incredibly proud to be joining a group that is fighting for community and a sense of place, without which this vast and wonderful city would be unlivable,” Stewart said.

“We are working together to protect the park,” said Leslie Thomas from the Los Angeles Arts Center – in Barnsdall Park, a popular city-owned facility located near Vermont Avenue and Hollywood Boulevard.

In partnership with the Barnsdall Art Park Foundation, the city is looking into funding several projects that will address each of the concerns, including added security measures, and revitalization of currently segregated areas such as Schindler’s Terrace.

Bloom to host car seat safety event

In an effort to curb the rate of road fatalities, the Los Angeles County Department of Motor Vehicle Assemblyman Richard Bloom (Santa Monica) wants to teach people how to properly secure their kids in the car.

Road injuries are the leading cause of preventable deaths and injuries to children in the United States, according to Bloom’s office. Properly installed child safety seats reduce the risk of fatal injury by up to 71 percent for infants and 54 percent for toddlers ages 1 to 4.

According to nonprofit Safe Kids of Southern California, 73 percent of car seats are installed incorrectly.

Community members can have their child safety seats inspected by certified technicians representing the California Highway Patrol at the event.

The free event is open to all ages, and will be from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Sunday at 8866 W. Pico Blvd.

To reserve a car seat inspection, email Stephanie Cohen @asm.ca.gov.

Development moratorium initiative gains momentum

As political campaigns are kicking into high gear in the November ballot, the initiative proposed by the Coalition to Preserve L.A., known as the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative, has been gaining steam.

The Miracle Mile Residential Association (MMRA), a nonprofit group, has formally taken sides on political issues. But as the city divides regarding “mega-projects,” some MMRA board members are independently supporting the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative.

The initiative seeks to create a citywide moratorium on projects to curb land use practices that proponents call “over-development” that favors city planners and developers.

Backers say the initiative will help preserve the character of the neighborhoods, stop frequent amendments by the planning department, require that developers follow the city’s general plan and other zoning laws (rather than “spot zoning”) and reduce traffic congestion. It will also change protocol to prohibit developers from hiring firms that conduct environmental impact reviews for their own projects.

If approved, the initiative will direct the planning commission to review and update the city’s community plans and make all zoning consistent with the General Plan.

Last month, the coalition announced that Jill Stewart has been named the campaign director for the initiative, and she will oversee and manage the Coalition to Preserve L.A. (CPLA).

She stepped down as managing editor of L.A. Weekly this month after nearly a decade at the newspaper.

“At the latest project is just one of the ways we are working to enhance, preserve and protect one of our great city parks,” said Leslie Thomas from the Los Angeles Arts Center – in Barnsdall Park, a popular city-owned facility located near Vermont Avenue and Hollywood Boulevard.

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By GREGORY CORNFIELD

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“I am incredibly proud to be joining a group that is fighting for community and a sense of place, without which this vast and wonderful city would be unlivable,” Stewart said.

In an interview with Ken Hixon, the vice president of MMRA, Stewart explained that if the initiative passes, development would still be allowed. She said the “back room deals” made by developers and elected officials that fly over the zoning rules, however, would be prohibited.

She said the current system should not be considered “city planning” when it’s common for city staff to allow developers to abandon the General Plan to renovate parcel by parcel.

“They’re hurting the city,” she said.

Stewart said she has been reaching out to unite with other neighborhoods and communities that are also fighting similar wars with city hall.

“There is a war going on in every neighborhood,” she said.

“They all have similar problems.”

Another coalition is also forming in opposition of the initiative. Members of Communities United and Housing believe the moratorium will encourage sprawl and traffic and that the solution to housing availability and affordability is to increase the housing stock.

“The group is in the process of finalizing a member list, but they have already garnered support from councilmen Mitch O’Farrell and Joe Buscaino, and affordable housing advocates.

“The ballot measure is bad for L.A., it’s bad for the economy, and it’s bad for the future vitality of Los Angeles, especially transit-orient neighborhoods like Hollywood where there is already a robust pub- lic transportation infrastructure in place,” O’Farrell said. “This misguided initiative will cost thousands of good paying jobs right when we are beginning to climb out of the recession.”

Buscaino said the proposal is the “opposite of smart evolution” for Los Angeles.

Stewart said she is confident that the initiative will make it to the ballot, and with the support she is seeing throughout the city, she is confident it will pass.

In a poll released Dec. 15 by CPLA, 72 percent of Los Angeles residents surveyed expressed support for the ballot measure requiring developers and elected offi- cials to adhere to the city’s General Plan. Based on an online survey conducted Dec. 3-7 of 557 regis- tered city of Los Angeles voters, 72 percent of Los Angeles residents surveyed expressed support for the ballot measure requiring developers and elected offi- cials to adhere to the city’s General Plan.

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**Legislators introduce bill to fund earthquake warning system**

While Los Angeles confronts an affordable housing crisis, community advocates joined together last week to celebrate the groundbreaking of a project that will create 100 affordable units in the 13th District. Leaders called it a “new day” for the community.

Projects like the one at 225 N. Vermont Ave. are vital after a state mandated assessment found that Los Angeles needs to produce more than 33,000 “affordable units citywide over the next eight years to address the low-income housing needs,” said Rashmon Cervantes, general manager of the Housing and Community Investment Department.

The project, Meridian Apartments, will be a four-story residential building with retail on the ground floor.

Maurice Ramirez, with the AMCAL Housing developers, said 2-bedroom units will cost approximately $560 per month, and the 3-bedroom units will cost approximately $780 per month. Approximately 30 one-bedroom units will be rented to individuals earning 50% of the area median income. Additionally, 30 units will be reserved for residents who receive free Metro transit passes.

“Being a half block from a Metro station [at Vermont Avenue and Beverly Boulevard], I think those are going to be pretty well-used,” Ramirez said.

**Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, center, breaks ground at the site where 100 affordable units are scheduled to be built.**

**100 affordable units added to 13th District**

*By Gregory Cornfield*

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Mayor pledges support for youth hiring

“This serves as a powerful reminder that a great first job can open up a world of opportunities for a young person.”

-Howard Schultz, chairman and CEO of Starbucks

Project makes Sunset Blvd. more pedestrian friendly

Mayor Eric Garcetti on Feb. 11 announced a new goal: to hire 15,000 young people in 2016. The goal more than triples the number of youth jobs initiated by the city when the mayor took office in 2013.

The hiring goal is part of the 100,000 Opportunities Initiative, which aims to find 100,000 jobs for young people by 2018. The mayor cited the 100,000 Opportunities Initiative Hiring Fair held on Feb. 11 at the Los Angeles Convention Center as an example of the impor- tance of expanded hiring partner- ships. More than 6,000 young peo- ple participated in the fair, and those who were not hired were linked with skill training and subsidized employment opportunities.

“This is what our city’s future workforce looks like, ambitious, accen- tuous and ready to chase big dreams,” Garcetti said. “We are taking, which is a percentage of the money being saved thanks to LADWP incentives and participation in the county’s residential Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. Since the launch of the PACE program last spring, Angelinos have financed more than $70 mil- lion in home efficiency upgrades – resulting in a projected savings of 280 million gallons of water and 280 million kilowatt hours of power. The power savings will cut 150,000 tons of emissions, the equivalent of taking 30,000 cars off the street. Demand for the upgrades has already created nearly 600 jobs. PACE is a program that helps Angelinos save energy and money by enabling them to finance home upgrades – such as solar panels or energy-efficient heating and cool- ing systems – through an assess- ment on their annual property tax bills. More than 2,600 households have participated and thousands more are scheduled to join. Through LADWP rebates, resi- dents can maximize potential energy and long-term savings, which helps manage usage and bills – particularly in light of proposed rate increases. LADWP has dedi- cated more than $100 million to energy efficiency programs and more than $30 million to water con- servation programs for fiscal year 2015-2016. In addition, LADWP’s Solar Incentive Program provides cash back for solar installations on residential properties. The program has provided approximately $277 million in rebate, with $25 million remaining in the program. The HIRE L.A. Youth Workforce Development Center as an example of the impor- tant of expanded hiring partner- ships. More than 6,000 young peo- ple participated in the fair, and those who were not hired were linked with skill training and subsidized employment opportunities.

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LAUSD approves resolution to end exploitation of children

Members of the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education unanimously voted last week in favor of increasing services and resources to eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Authorized by Board Member Mónica García, the resolution calls for more awareness in existing divisions and policies, the identification of additional supports for student victims, and the development of a pilot program for the most impacted schools in LAUSD. The full title of the resolution is the Not In Our Schools, Not In Our Communities: Address, Prevent, and Eliminate Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in the Los Angeles Unified School District Resolution.

“When there is highest need, there must be greater investment. We must embrace our power to act against any and all violence against our children,” Garcia said.

Senator Tony Mendoza (D-Artesia) introduced a bill last week to strengthen California’s conflict of interest laws and restore public trust and accountability.

SB 1063 would create a conflict of interest law that would prohibit public officials from using their positions to enrich themselves financially. The bill builds upon the Equal Pay Act of 1963 – the Wage Equality Act of 2016. The bill builds upon California’s effort to guarantee equal wages to people of either sex, and would prohibit employers from paying employees a lower wage than the wage paid to employees of a different race or ethnicity for substantially similar work. SB 1063 will create the strongest wage equality law in the nation.

Despite being the most diverse and prosperous state in the nation, many California workers continue to suffer from a chronic racial and ethnic wage gap, Hall said. A 2013 study revealed that Asian American women make 90 cents, African American women make 64 cents, and Latina women make 54 cents for every dollar that a Caucasian man earns. The wage gap isn’t only between men and women, as African American men earn 74 percent of the average salary of a Caucasian male worker. Last year, SB 358 began to address wage inequality by prohibiting employers from paying employees a lower wage than the wages paid to employees of the opposite sex for substantially similar work.

However, gaps in the law still persist. The 65-year-old California Equal Pay Act fails to include one of the largest factors for wage inequity – race and ethnicity.

“Nobody knows our priorities (better) than we do. We model for the nation how to budget with a moral compass towards our goal of 100 percent graduation.”

Michelle Gaymon, Director of the Child Trafficking Unit at the Los Angeles County Probation Department said that there is a perception that CSEC only happens in foreign countries.

“It is happening right here, in our community. Now that we know, we must do better,” she said.

LAUSD established a CSEC Task Force in 2014 with the assistance of the L.A. County Human Relations Commission. The Task Force is made up of more than 60 representatives including LAUSD, local government agencies and community stakeholders. For information, resources and support contact Holly Priebe-Sotelo at holly.priebe-sotelo@lausd.net.

Mendoza introduces bill aimed at corruption

Senator Isadore Hall, III has announced the introduction of SB 1063 – the Wage Equality Act of 2016. The bill builds upon California’s effort to guarantee equal wages to people of either sex, and would prohibit employers from paying employees a lower wage than the wage paid to employees of a different race or ethnicity for substantially similar work. SB 1063 will create the strongest wage equality law in the nation.

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Senator Tony Mendoza (D-Artesia) introduced a bill last week to strengthen California’s conflict of interest laws and restore public trust and accountability. SB 1063 would expand the definition of family and what constitutes a financial conflict of interest for public officials when voting on government contracts before any governmental body, board or commission of which that public officer is a member.

“Elected and government officials should abstain from voting when a family member has a financial interest or may benefit from the outcome of a public contract decision under the jurisdiction of that official,” Mendoza said.

SB 1011 would expand the definition of “remote interest” in government contract decisions to include participation in the making of a contract deemed to be of financial interest to the public officer’s adult child, parent, sibling or the spouse of the child, parent or sibling.

The public official must have actual knowledge of the financial interest and is only in violation if he or she knowingly withholds information regarding their financial interest from the board or body of which they are a voting member.

“Government officials should be barred from using their positions to enrich themselves financially, directly or indirectly,” Mendoza said. “As public officials, we should be held to the highest ethical standards in order to avoid any conflicts of interest or perception of impropriety when conducting business on the public’s behalf.”

A violation of the proposed law would result in disqualification from ever holding any office in California in addition to prison time and/or a fine of not more than $1,000.

A local district attorney or the California Attorney General would have the authority to investigate alleged violations of the law and the discretion to pursue criminal prosecution. If no criminal prosecution is pursued, the Fair Political Practices Commission can proceed with administrative or civil action, which is set forth in current law.

“In the aftermath of scandals during the past several years, it is time for California to strengthen its conflict of interest laws. We need to restore accountability and the public’s trust in government,” Mendoza added.
Rosswood school celebrates principal’s seventh anniversary

The Rosewood Avenue Elementary school celebrated the seven years that Principal Linda Crowder had led the school. It’s an important milestone because it marks the first year that every student on campus has been under Crowder’s guidance.

At the morning assembly on Crowder’s birthday, students sang to her and presented her with cards and flowers honoring her dedication to the school. LAUSD employees also presented Crowder with awards for her service.

NCJW/LA seeks participants for women’s support group

The National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles (NCJW/LA) is hosting a Women’s Empowerment Group meeting weekly on Mondays from noon to 1:30 p.m. from Feb. 22 through May 2.

The group is sponsored by NCJW/LA’s Community Mental Health and Supportive Services Department. The 10-session support group will allow participants to explore their feelings in a safe, supportive environment; connect with others and experience a sense of community; and identify and connect with resources.

The group will meet at the NCJW/LA council house, 543 N. Fairfax Ave. For information, call Veronica Eyo at (323) 852-8526, or visit www.ncjwla.org.

Present Now shares gifts with children for Valentine’s Day

Children living at the Alexandria House domestic violence shelter near Sixth Street and Normandie Avenue got sweet surprises last week when the nonprofit Present Now hosted a Valentine’s Day party and gave the children personalized gift boxes.

Each child received a gift box with an educational toy. Children ages 3 and under received VTech touch and swipe baby phones; children ages 4-9 received a VTech Kidizoom smartwatch DX; and those 10 and older received a Pebble Smartwatch.

A total of 12 children received gifts and enjoyed pizza and cookies. An arts and crafts activity was also held.
Secretary of State offers expenditure tracking

California Secretary of State Alex Padilla last week launched a new tool to track independent expenditures.

During the 2014 election cycle alone, major donor and independent expenditure committees spent over $80 million in California, compared to $10.3 million in the 2002 election cycle.

An “independent expenditure” is a payment for a communication that expressly advocates the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate, or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a clearly identified ballot measure. Independent expenditures are typically made by major donors (such as corporations and individuals) and political action committees operated by a variety of political organizations.

Independent expenditures are a way that wealthy interest groups influence who is elected to run our government,” said Daniel G. Newman, president and founder of MapLight.

Legislation strives to make school buses safer

Sen. Tony Mendoza (D-Antioch) has introduced a measure to improve school buses that would require school buses to be equipped with alarm systems to ensure children are not left on buses unattended and in potentially hazardous circumstances.

“My hope is that SB 1072 will prevent future tragedies by requiring every school bus in the state to be equipped with a child-safety alarm system,” Mendoza said.

A school bus child-safety alarm system sounds an alarm when the ignition is turned off. The alarm requires bus drivers to walk to the rear of the vehicle to silence the sound, thereby requiring them to walk the length of the bus, making it safe for children still on the bus.

California should join other states that require child-safety alarm systems on school buses. It is vital that we find ways to protect the many thousands of children transported daily to and from school,” Mendoza added.

Current law requires public and private school districts to create transportation safety plans with procedures that school personnel must follow. The plans must include specific procedures on boarding and exiting a school bus at each bus stop and at the final trip destination.

To operate a school bus, drivers must obtain a California Special Driver Certificate of Training from the Department of Motor Vehicles, which requires classroom instruction, training, and testing. Annual renewal of the certificate requires drivers to complete classroom instruction and behind-the-wheel training.

Mendoza said there have been multiple cases in California during recent years in which children were left on school buses unattended and found hours later. An example of one such case occurred last year in Los Angeles when a special needs student died after being left alone on a bus for hours.

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It’s obvious that Target can’t stop the developent expenditures committees.”

-"California Secretary of State Alex Padilla"

Parking News/Beverly Press 11 February 18, 2016

Gina Rodriguez

Why is home care so important for your health

At Southern California Dental Health Associates, we believe excellent oral health is about team work. Even the best dentist will breakdown quicker without the patient’s help.

There are 10's more bacteria in the human body than cells. Our body will never be "sterile". So how do we reduce disease?

The key is to let the bacteria behave badly. It is the bacteria behaving badly which leads to cavities and gum disease. So how do stop stop bacteria from causing disease…simple, disrupt them, don’t let the biofilm (where bacteria live) mature, Kill off the biofilm. By brushing at least 2 times a day (including the roof and floor of the mouth, tongue, and cheeks) and flossing or using softpicks at least daily.

There are more advanced ways to disrupt the bacteria, for more info see us at SCDHA.

Governor appoints Danovitch to health oversight commission

Rai Danovitch, 40, of Los Angeles, has been appointed to the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission Danovitch has been chair of the Psychiatry Department at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center since 2012. He also was the director of addiction psychiatry clinical services and associate director of the Addiction Psychiatry Fellowship from 2008-2012.

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Gina Rodriguez

***Letters to the Editor***

**Project is example of why more oversight is needed**


This is exactly why people need to unite and support the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative. The city seems to be asking for the people to force them to honor neighborhoods.

Fran Reichenbach

**RE “PLUM Committee delays Target project decision,” Feb. 11 issue.**

Target project should move forward

[La Miranda Avenue Neighborhood Association member Doug] Haines seems to be the only one argueing. Speaking of “laws,” the city of Los Angeles is well within its legal rights to seek zoning changes or implement a specific plan for this Target site.

The city council makes decisions not only on behalf of these NIMBY activists groups but for the entire community. They are elected officials representing all residents. They get their zoning enable-clusters through the city charter and delegated from the State of California. Haines only views the “law” that fits his interest.

It’s obvious that Target can’t meet all demands (lowered building height, child care cen- ter, etc.) while keeping their business model viable. These activist groups are the worst urban planners in the world. And yes, the city of Los Angeles is doing one thing the courts have told them to destroy this transforming global city.

John Gacis

**More opposition to Hollywood projects is a good thing**

RE “O’Farrell warns against NIBYism, antigurowth,” Feb. 4 issue.

The statements made by Councilman [Mitch] O’Farrell need to be condemned for a shortsighted view of the future of Hollywood.

Attracting people for opposing out-of-control growth is irresponsible.

There are two attitudes that can be taken in regard to a community. One is to see a community as a place to live and work to make it safe and comfortable. The other attitude is to see it as a place to exploit and make money as much as you can no matter how much you damage the community in doing it.

The exploiters are busy at work in Hollywood, and Councilman O’Farrell is serving their interests. He attacks people who live in the community and want to preserve a comfortable lifestyle in their community.

Love of community cannot be attacked as “NIMBYism.”

Jimmie Hicks

Hollywood

**Initiative to eliminate charter schools enters circulation**

Secretary of State Alex Padilla last week announced the proponent of a new initiative to eliminate charter schools can begin collecting petition signatures.

According to the Attorney General’s summary of the measure, the initiative would repeal laws governing charter schools effective July 1, 2017.

If it is approved, the law would require charter schools to convert to traditional public schools in the same manner as traditional public schools as determined by local school districts’ discretion. It would also require charters to return all unspent public funds to the state and to transfer all real property purchased with public funds to their local school districts.

It would authorize school districts to impose penalties for violations. Approximately $5 billion in state funding would shift to school districts. The proponents of the measure, Diana Mansker, must collect the signatures of 365,880 registered voters to qualify it for the November 2016 ballot.
It’s Spring in DTLA

Spring, the highly anticipated second dining destination from husband and wife team Yassmin Sarmadi and executive chef Tony Esnault, of Church & State, is opening its doors for dinner on Friday, Feb. 19. Located on the ground floor of the historic 1898 Douglas Building, Spring offers southern French classic seafood and vegetable-driven cuisine. Guests can dine in the ambiance of a private residence on the French Riviera under a glass and steel A-frame ceiling amid pepper trees and fountains. 257 S. Spring St., (213)372-5189.

LVE by John Legend wine dinner

Reserve a table at a once-in-a-lifetime event for wine lovers on Saturday, Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Fleming’s Prime Steakhouse and Wine Bar downtown. Discover the joy of perfect pairings at a multi-course dinner featuring wines from Grammy winner John Legend’s LVE Collection for $95 per person. The LVE exclusive wine dinner includes two selections of LVE by John Legend wines, hors d’oeuvres and three main courses followed by dessert. 800 W. Olympic Blvd., (213)745-9911.

Birthday cake crullers

Plan Check’s founder Terry Heller invites guests to enjoy complimentary birthday cake crullers on Monday, Feb. 22 to celebrate the restaurant’s fourth anniversary. The birthday cake batter-donuts are coated with pink icing and crystallized rose, hibiscus, fennel flower and mint sprinkles. 351 N. Fairfax Ave., (323)591-0094.

Providence 10th anniversary

Providence chef/owner Michael Cimarusti is hosting a guest chef dinner on Tuesday, Feb. 23. Cimarusti has invited Michelin-starred chef/partner Daniel Bums, of Tørst & Lukus in Brooklyn, New York, and Peruvian chef and restaurateur Virgilio Martínez Véliz, of Central Restaurante in Lima, Peru to participate. The multi-course tasting menu reflects each chef’s unique culinary perspective. The dinner will celebrate sustainably-sourced seafood and contemporary dishes made using ancient ingredients from Peru. The dinner is limited to 85 guests and is $190 per person, not including beverages, tax and gratuity. 5955 Melrose Ave., (323)460-4170.

Pizza Romana reverse happy hour

Pizza Romana, a casual neighborhood pizzeria from Cube owner Alex Palermo, is offering a reverse happy hour.

Whole Boneless American Lamb Sirloins

$8.98 per lb.
with this ad only!

Join us for $5 Happy Hour
3 - 7 M-F
TV Sports, see all the big games here
Live Music every Fri & Saturday night, Trivia Tuesdays
I met my group on the patio to sample from the progressive menu in the indoor/outdoor space. Many of the dishes were similar to the iconic Sushi Roku brand. For beverages, there are selections of hand-picked sakes, crafted cocktails and a large selection of Japanese whiskey. We started with the spicy Sunomono smashed pickled cucumber that offered a nice crunch and kick. This is one of the most popular items on the Roku Red Sun Happy Hour menu.

For an appetizer, try the salmon caviar of thirty sliced pink curls of fresh fish wrapped around daikon radish, shiso leaves and topped with a heaping spoonful of black ossetra caviar. The tableside preparation at ROKU is interesting. A large bowl filled with crushed ice is placed in the center of the table and in it is a smaller bowl of raw chopped toro, the fatty underbelly of tuna. Seven smaller bowls surround the toro and they are filled with chopped green onion, caviar, soy ponzu sauce and wasabi. The delicacy is prepared before your eyes and the delicacy is spooned into an edible rice basket. This would have been perfect, yet the rice basket was too delicate and crumbled easily. I wished it were a little more dense to break into bigger pieces to use as a cracker.

The ethereal fluke sashimi is tiny bite size pieces of raw fish splashed with a burst of kumquat and yuzu vinaigrette. Minuscule flower petals and microgreens decorate the plate.

Another stunning dish is the blue crab tartare topped with uni and caviar. It was adorned with a lovely magenta and white tropical flower.

A plate of roasted shishito peppers dusted with aged parmesan, vinegar and toasted sesame seeds arrived at our table. These slender, finger-long peppers have a thin green skin that blisters when charred, trapping a smoky essence. We cautiously bit into each one after popping the entire pepper into our mouth, because one out of ten peppers is very spicy. Out of five I bit into, only one singed my tongue.

For another appealing earthy flavor, I enjoyed the wood fired Eryngi mushrooms marinated in a yuzu kosho fermented paste made with green chili peppers, shaved yuzu peel and salt. It’s sliced and served on a platter with roasted tomatoes, squash and Brussels sprouts.

Before dessert we finished with four pieces of masu sushi with sliced ginger. There was a salmon sushi with a slice of cucumber and spoonful of caviar, and pieces of sea brama, yellowtail, and albacore.

Executive Chef Tyson formally trained at Chi-Lin, the exquisite Chinese restaurant that shared a kitchen with RivalBella, now helms the kitchen at ROKU. He makes his signature XO fried rice with Lap Cheong sausage, egg and shrimp. Lap Cheong is a dried, hard sausage made from pork that is smoked, seasoned and sweetened with rose water, rice wine and soy sauce.

His baked crab hand rolls wrapped in rice paper are served warm with a slightly sweet soy sauce.

Fully satiated, I only had enough room left for one taste of three specialty desserts that included a green tea circular tiramisu with flowers, a caramel pot de crème and a rich molten chocolate lava cake with berries.

ROKU has a unique vibe offering elevated Japanese cuisine with exciting flavor profiles that are artfully plated.

Valet parking and street parking are available. Be sure to get the valet ticket stamped at the end of your meal. $5 Open for Lunch Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The Red Sun Happy Hour is Monday through Friday from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Dinner service begins at 5:30 p.m. 9201 Sunset Blvd. (310)327-2800.
**POLICE BLOTTER**

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Feb. 9 and Feb. 15, and were compiled from www.crimewatchla.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)655-8500.

### Feb. 9

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1700 block of Olive St.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of N. Robertson at 2:16 a.m.

At 2:35 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1300 block of N. Gordon.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1300 block of N. Fairfax at 4:30 a.m.

At 5:20 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 5000 block of Rosewood.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Delmar and La Brea at 5:25 a.m.

At 6 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 680 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8000 block of Beverly at 6 a.m.

At 10:40 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8600 block of Santa Monica at 11:20 a.m.

At 1 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1300 block of N. Las Palmas.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Lexington and Wilcox at 1:25 p.m.

At 2:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 5600 block of Whitley.

An unknown suspect committed a petty thief in the 8500 block of Sunset at 3 p.m.

At 3:25 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Lamlas and Vinedo.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8600 block of Santa Monica at 4 p.m.

At 4:50 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6600 block of Drexel at 5 p.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 800 block of Tremaine.

A petty theft was reported in the 400 block of N. Western at 7 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a bicycle from the 400 block of S. Curson.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1900 block of Whitley at 7:37 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of N. Van Ness.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of San Vicente and Hayworth at 11:30 p.m.

### Feb. 10

At 4:05 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7700 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a theft in the 600 block of S. Western at 5 a.m.

At 10 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 600 block of S. Western at 5 a.m.

At 11:40 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Melrose and Wilcox.

At 1:45 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8600 block of Beverly.

At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8500 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8300 block of Hollywood.

At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 600 block of N. Kings.

An unknown suspect committed a theft in the 900 block of S. Normandie at 3:45 p.m.

At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8500 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8000 block of Wilshire.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of S. Kings.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7800 block of Melrose at 6:10 p.m.

At 6:45 p.m., a theft was reported in the 6000 block of W. Third.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. Hayworth at 7 p.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of N. Sweetzer.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 8:10 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of N. Windsor.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Hollywood and Wilcox at 11:30 p.m.

### Feb. 11

At 2:25 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of S. McCadden at 11:50 a.m.

### Feb. 12

At 1:30 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Melrose and Ridgewood.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6500 block of Sunset at 2 a.m.

At 5 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of N. Doheny.

An unknown suspect committed a theft in the 6700 block of Sunset at 5:20 a.m.

At 5:40 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Formosa and Hollywood at 1 p.m.

At 1:05 p.m., an unknown suspect committed burglary in the 1100 block of Dunsmuir.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of Ogden at 4 p.m.

At 6:50 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

### Feb. 13

At 1:50 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary near the corner of Wilshire and Western.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6300 block of W. Third at 2:40 p.m.

At 3:50 p.m., an unknown suspect committed burglary in the 1000 block of W. Sunset.

An attempted burglary was report- ed in the 900 block of El Centro at 11:25 p.m.

### Feb. 14

At 4 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 6100 block of W. Sunset.

An unknown suspect stole a vehi- cle parked in the 5900 block of W. Ninth at 4 p.m.

### Feb. 15

At 12:01 a.m., an unknown sus- pec t was reported at 8:15 p.m. near the corner of Sunset and Schrader.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8600 block of Hollywood at 5 a.m.

### Man sentenced for check cashing scheme

An inmate who was incarcerated on Nov. 20, 2014, for conspiring to commit bank fraud in November to an indictment that charged him with defrauding one victim of $729,340 was deposited into an account at Bank of America in 2013. Other financial institutions that suffered losses include Chase Bank, Navy Federal Credit Union and Huntington Bank.

"This scheme sought to victim- ize county taxpayers and banks insured by the United States," said United States Attorney Eileen M. Decker. “This crime warranted extending the term of imprison- ment by more than nine years.”

The court found that Osemwengie’s scheme could have caused losses of more than $1.5 million, the amount of the face value of the checks that were fraudulently deposited. However, authorities will continue to investi- gate and the losses in the case may be higher.

Klausner scheduled a restitution hearing for April 11, at which time he will determine the victims’ actu- al losses. Osemwengie is expected to be ordered to repay the victims.

The investigation also deter- mined that co-conspirators unsuc- cessfully attempted to use a drone to smuggle a cell phone into the prison yard at the Federal Correctional Institute where Osemwengie was serving time. He was serving a 172-year sentence on convictions including possession of a firearm in a federal prison, conspiracy to commit bank fraud and wire fraud.

Detectives with the Los Angeles Police Department’s Olympic Division are searching for a sus- pect who is stealing mail from res- idents in Koreatown and commit- ting identity theft. The suspect, allegedly burglar- ized a residence in 400 block of Harvard Boulevard on Feb. 1 at 3:10 a.m. and is suspected entered the property.

Detectives with the Los Angeles Police Department’s South Traffic Division are looking for a suspect involved in a hit-and-run collision on Feb. 5 that left a 30-year-old man dead.

At approximately 4:50 a.m., a driver in a vehicle travelling north- bound on Harvard Boulevard drove into a motorcycle. The maneuver caused the motorcyclist to lose control and fall to the pave- ment. The victim was pronounced dead at scene.

The suspect is described as African American in his late 40s to early 50s, approximately 6 feet tall and 160 pounds. He was wearing a black jacket, dark pants and black tennis shoes during the burglary.

**Police continue search for mail theft suspect**

**Suspect sought in fatal hit-and-run collision**
Bill Frisell brings his eclectic music to the Skirball Center

The Skirball Cultural Center presents a performance by virtuosic jazz guitarist and composer Bill Frisell on Thursday, Feb. 25 at 8 p.m.

Frisell will perform selections from iconic film and television scores. He will be joined by violinist Eyvind Kang, bassist Thomas Morgan, drummer Kenny Wollesen and singer Petra Haden.

Frisell will also perform songs from his upcoming album “When You Wish Upon a Star,” which reimagines time-honored gems such as “Somewhere Over the Rainbow,” the themes from “Once Upon a Time in the West” and “To Kill a Mockingbird,” as well as music from television hits like “The Dick Van Dyke Show” and “The Honeymooners.”

Frisell’s new album honors classic film and television music and a celebrates making music with long-time friends. Frisell is considered one of the most prolific and versatile guitarists in jazz since the late 1980s. His eclectic sound mixes classical music, progressive folk and country music. Frisell has released more than 40 albums, and he received a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Jazz Album for “Unspeakable.”

Tickets are $30. The Skirball Cultural Center is located at 2011 N. Sepulveda Blvd. For information, call (310)440-4400, or visit skirball.org.

LACO presents debut performance with esteemed conductor

The Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra (LACO) is holding a performance conducted by Matthias Pintscher, music director of the French contemporary music group Ensemble Intercontemporain, on Saturday, Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. at UCLA’s Royce Hall.

Pintscher is making his debut with LACO and will lead the orchestra in performing works by Beethoven, Schoenberg, Ravel and Faure. In addition to directing Ensemble Intercontemporain, Pintscher partners with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra as its artist-in-residence with the Danish National Symphony Orchestra.

Tickets start at $27. The Alex Theatre is located at 216 N. Brand Blvd. Glendale. Royce Hall is located at 340 Royce Drive on the UCLA campus. For information, call (213)622-7001, or visit www.laco.org.

Jazz legends perform at Theatre Raymond Kabbaz

Theatre Raymond Kabbaz at Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles presents the John Scofield Joe Lovano Quartet in concert on Friday, Feb. 26 at 7 and 9:30 p.m.

Guitarist Scofield and saxophonist Lovano are jazz legends recognized as experts on their instruments. Drummer Louis Nash and bassist Ben Street join them for the concert. The quartet will showcase a dynamic new set during its North American tour. The John Scofield Joe Lovano Quartet performs at Theatre Raymond Kabbaz is located at 10361 W. Pico Blvd. Tickets start at $40. (310)286-0553, www.theatreraymondkabbaz.com.

Ferraris roar into The Petersen for birthday bash

The Petersen Automotive Museum is hosting the Enzo Ferrari Birthday Cruise-In on Sunday, Feb. 21 from 8 to 10 a.m.

Visitors can view some of the fastest and rarest Ferraris at the event on the third floor of the museum’s parking structure. Ferrari enthusiasts can enter their vehicles in a car show and contest. Awards will be presented to best in show and people’s choice winners. The Petersen Award will go to the most historically authentic Ferrari. The event also includes free coffee and bagels. RSVP required at www.petersen.org. The Petersen is located at 6060 Wilshire Blvd. For information, call (323)930-CARS, or visit www.petersen.org.

Celebrating 70 years of Our People, Our Places

Our People, Our Places celebrates 70 years of our community, our history and the people who shape it. This year, we’ll celebrate the celebration with special events and activities throughout the year.

Restaurant News

From page 12

Abigala’s new brewmaster

Abigala’s, the only on-site brewery in Hermosa Beach, welcomes Paul Papantoniou as its new brewmaster. Papantoniou is spearheading Abigala’s selection of house beers and curating its menu of primarily Southern California selections on draft. Abigala’s kitchen is run by chef/partner Tin Vuong and chef de cuisine David Bartnes. While IPAs and porters are the most requested types of beer at the brewery, Papantoniou is also an expert on lagers. He infuses traditional brewing techniques with unexpected ingredients to create new brews such as Vienna Lager, Midnight Mass Black IPA, Punchbowl IPA, Palm Porter and Jam Session Pilsner. 1301 Manhattan Ave., (323)903-4210.

Ozu East Kitchen bento box

A new bento box option at Ozu East Kitchen offers a lunch menu from noon to 3 p.m. every Tuesday through Sunday. Owner Paul Yi and chef Joshua Han, from Tros Mec, have created bento boxes with seaweed salmon, braised beef belly and chicken confit, as well as a vegan-friendly Kung Pao tofu option. Each entrée comes with pickles, salad, miso soup and white or brown rice. All of the bento boxes are priced under $10. 3224 Glendale Blvd., (323)284-8773.

Park Labrea News/Beverly Press 15 February 18, 2016

Founded 1916

SPECIAL ANNIVOSARY ISSUE APRIL 21, 2016
The city of West Hollywood’s Lesbian Speakers Series continues with a new line-up in February, March and April.

“The city is filled with brilliant women enriching our lives,” said Park Labrea News/Beverly Press editor, performer and lecturer Russell Steinberg. “This is their chance to shine. Salonen and the L.A. Philharmonic’s performance of Debussy’s ‘Pelléas et Mélisande’ is led by Esa-Pekka Salonen, a concert hall phenomenon whose interpretations of Debussy’s ‘Pelléas et Mélisande’ have been widely praised.”

The L.A. Philharmonic also announced its 2016 Summer Season that ends in late September. The 29 participants in the “Managing to Leading” program will create and execute organizational projects designed to improve community health. Over the next year, the community college’s health initiative participants will learn about leading in a time of change, get in-depth look Los Angeles’ healthcare needs and focus on related topics in healthcare.

The Los Angeles LGBT Center will host MOpx on Saturday, Feb. 27 from noon to 9 p.m. featuring a min-conference and workshops throughout the day. The event’s theme is “Healthy Lives, Healthy Relationships, Healthy Selves.”

Cedars-Sinai sponsors leadership development program for clinics

Cedars-Sinai is sponsoring an intensive leadership development program for local community college managers to prepare a pipeline of leaders to guide their organizations through a challenging new health-care landscape. The 29 participants in the “Managing to Leading” program will create and execute organizational projects designed to improve community health. Over the next year, the community college’s health initiative participants will learn about leading in a time of change, get an in-depth look Los Angeles’ healthcare needs and focus on related topics in healthcare.

The event is free, but space is limited.

For information, visit lalgbt.org.

Crossword Puzzle

Across
1. Fungal spore sacs
2. Shuffleboard
3. Casual
5. Shakes
10. Quarrel
14. Pentomogony
15. Figurative
17. Makes a poor purchase
18. Seed covering
19. Aim
20. In a bowl
21. Riyadh resident
22. Puffed up
24. Fey
26. Rag
32. Oriental tie
33. Shade of white
34. Cruise stopover
37. “___ Her to Heaven” (1945 Tierney film)
38. Getting older
42. Separate the strands of a rope
43. Word with steel or snare
44. Put the kibosh on
45. Go up and down
47. one
50. Theories
52. Iran-Contra affair figure
56. Edwin playwright John
61. Some computer programs
62. Gambled, in a way
65. Scientific instruments
66. Midmonth time
67. Snuffle, in London
68. Beneficary
69. Latin infinitive

Down
1. Old Jewish scholars
2. City slicker
3. South American rodent
4. Private
5. Shamus
6. Singer DiFranco
7. Time delay
8. Out
9. Voiced
10. Dwelling: var.
11. Desktop feature
12. Giradino move
13. Varnished
14. Brief brawl
15. Bishop’s seat in ancient Rome
16. ___ furnace
17. Gridiron move
18. Seed covering
19. Aim
20. In a bowl
21. Riyadh resident
22. Puffed up
24. Fey
26. Rag
32. Oriental tie
33. Shade of white
34. Cruise stopover
37. “___ Her to Heaven” (1945 Tierney film)
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67. Snuffle, in London
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Answers on page 22

West Hollywood presents ‘Lesbian Speakers Series’

On Saturday, March 19 at 5 p.m., there will be a screening of “The Passionate Pursuits of Angela Bowen,” a documentary about Angela Bowen, a black, lesbian, feminist activist, writer and professor. On Friday, March 25 at 7 p.m., there will be a film screening and discussion of “Liz in September,” which is based on the classic lesbian play “Last Summer at Bluefish Cove.” The film stars Latina lesbian supermodel Patricia Velasquez and will be directed by Fina Torres.

The event is free, but space is limited.

For information, contact Corey Roskin at (323) 848-6403 or croskin@l wheo.org.
Oscars refresher: A break with Marvel’s ‘Deadpool’

Sure, awards season is about the best, brightest and top films of 2015. But just this once, the golden eumuch should make an exception for a film so outlandish, so brazen and so refreshing.

Please dear Oscar, just this once let the top film of 2016 into your party.

Before I go full fanboy about how hysterical and equally awesome some “Deadpool” is, we must discuss the peculiar history of Marvel Comics’ Merc with the Mouth. Ever since Ryan Reynolds first played the character in 2009’s X-Men Origins: Wolverine – a film so bad the franchise used time travel to erase everything that transpired in it – Deadpool fans wanted more. And with Reynolds on board, things seemed promising.

Small problem. Fox Pictures wouldn’t greenlight an R-rated superhero film, and you can’t do this character without crass speech and a whole lot of gore. His superpowers include the ability to regrow limbs, after all.

Plus, I imagine all the breaking of the fourth wall and other oddities turned off producers who don’t like taking chances. So the project remained in the wind, just pillow talk among Hollywood insiders after the after party.

Then somebody leaked test footage of the film in 2014, generating sizable interest online. So Fox gave in and began fast tracking the project (the screenplay had been completed some time ago). Here we are, and you’ll never find a film with this many Easter eggs or stabs at terrible Reynolds film, namely “Wolverine” and “Green Lantern.”

As for the storyline itself, you won’t find it much different from a run-of-the-mill origin story. Wade Wilson (Reynolds) is a mercenary who enjoys sticking it to anyone for a paycheck. But then he meets Vanessa (Morena Baccarin) in the drug world. Together they become the best, brightest and top films of 2015. Sunset Shadow’s Esme Baccarin appears as Negasonic Teenage Warhead and Ryan Reynolds stars as Deadpool in the new superhero film.

And by the time Wade learns he isn’t going to become a superhero with his special powers but a “super slave,” as Ajax (Ed Skrein) says, it’s too late.

His abilities eventually arrive but at the price of that pretty face (and the rest of his body as well). Now Wade, dawning his Deadpool persona so people don’t have to stare at his ugly mug, is working his way through Ajax’s organization to find the one man who can fix him.

Unfortunately, X-Man Colossus (Stefan Kapicic) and newbie Negasonic Teenage Warhead (Brianna Hildebrand) can’t allow Deadpool’s reign of terror to continue unchecked, so they seek out our double-sword-and-handguns-wielding antihero.

In the meantime, he’s still ashamed of his appearance, so Wade distances himself from Vanessa. But that’s OK, he’s got a new roommate: the foul-mouthed, elderly woman Blind Al (Leslie Uggams). And he can always rely on his best bud Weasel (T.J. Miller) to remind him just how haunting that messed up face really is.

I can’t praise this film enough. Reynolds is meant for this role. It has the right amount of snark coupled with some brilliant writing by Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick (“Zombieland”). And let’s never forget the man of the hour, director Tim Miller.

With only minor credits to his name, he took a $58 million budget (less than half a normal superhero film budget) and turned it into a recipe for the most profitable film of 2016 thus far, and the best opening weekend for an R-rated film ever.

The action sequences are incredibly fun, but “Deadpool” knows its characters. Vanessa isn’t some useless damsel. She’s just as vulgar as her man with magical banter. Colossus is ridiculously corny, camping things up nicely. Negasonic, while under used, almost steals the show. Even the villains Ajax and Angel Dust (Gina Carano) get their dues.

For my money though, the interactions between Wade and Blind Al are gut busting. Those few scenes set the tone from something even more magical in future installments (the sequel is already a go!).

So much love went into every scene, even the opening credits and especially the stingers after the closing ones. And after several bland comic book attempts – “Blade: Trinity,” “Wolverine,” “Green Lantern” and “R.I.P.D.” – Reynolds need look no further.

This is the only role he’s allowed to play from this day forward. Come on Oscar, if he agrees to that will you let the man into your stuffy old white people party?
The Harlem Globetrotters will make a stop at the Los Angeles Staples Center on Sunday, Feb. 21 at 12:30 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. The Harlem Globetrotters are giving back, and fans are encouraged to nominate a worthwhile cause or a deserving family in need of a smile, and the Harlem Globetrotters will help as many fans as possible throughout the tour. For information, visit greatasket.com.

The Harlem Globetrotters' 90-year celebration will feature some of the greatest athletes and entertainers. The Los Angeles Staples Center is located at 1111 S. Figueroa St. For information, visit harlemglobetrotters.com.

In addition to fan requests, the team is planning to bring their bullying prevention program to over 400 schools and community centers, talk to youth about character education and physical fitness, visit children's hospitals and lend a hand to those in need.

On the court, the Harlem Globetrotters' 90-year celebration will feature some of the greatest athletes and entertainers.

After the game, Harlem Globetrotter members will sign autographs and take photos with fans.

Tickets for the Staples Center show can be purchased at harlemglobetrotters.com.
The Natural History Museum (NHM) and La Brea Tar Pits and Museum are joining together for a new campaign called “HowDoYouMuseum?” The campaign highlights the museum’s expanding digital presence and joins a series of dynamic initiatives that seek to engage visitors inside and outside museum walls. NHM is asking some of their favorite celebrities, artists and scientists to create art that explains what it means “to museum” at the historic NHM and La Brea Tar Pits Museum.

Patrons are encouraged to share their experiences at NHM and La Brea Tar Pits and Museum online with the tag #HowDoYoumuseum for a chance to have their photos shared through NHM’s website and social media.

Featured patrons also have the chance to win prizes including behind-the-scenes tours, free memberships, museum merchandise and more.

For information, visit nhm.org.

The Fowler Museum at UCLA will host an opening reception for the “José Montoya’s Abundant Harvest: Works on Paper/Works on Life” exhibit on Saturday Feb. 20 from 6-9 p.m. The exhibit features Montoya’s drawings to date and will be on display from Feb. 21-July 17.

The exhibition honors the life and work of the artist in a comprehensive survey that includes nearly 2,000 works, the inspiration for which Montoya drew from fields and field workers, farm towns and port cities of post-war California.

This exhibition also examines the central role artists and poets played in the Chicano movement and its impact on immigrant rights, as well as the other social and political issues during the time.

Montoya’s personal experience in the fields and his understanding of the harsh living conditions faced by migrant workers influenced both his activism and his art.

In the 1940s, Montoya to California’s San Joaquin Valley. At the age of nine, he started working in the fields alongside his father.

During his youth and throughout his life, Montoya wrote about these experiences in essays and poems. In addition to his contributions as an artist, Montoya was a lifelong educator. He received his master’s degree from Cal State Sacramento, where he taught for over twenty-five years as a professor of art, photography and education.

In 2002, he was named post laureate of Sacramento.

José Montoya’s Abundant Harvest: Works on Paper/Works on Life” is organized by the Fowler Museum at UCLA and is co-curated by playwright and filmmaker Richard Montoya and independent curator Selene Preciado.

The Fowler Museum at UCLA is located at 308 Charles E Young Dr. For information, visit fowler.ucla.edu.

Natural History Museum shows how ‘to museum’

Hollywood Pantages creates magic new show

The Fowler Museum at UCLA will host an opening reception for the “José Montoya’s Abundant Harvest: Works on Paper/Works on Life” exhibit on Saturday Feb. 20 from 6-9 p.m. The exhibit features Montoya’s drawings to date and will be on display from Feb. 21-July 17.

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The Fowler Museum at UCLA is located at 308 Charles E Young Dr. For information, visit fowler.ucla.edu.

LACMA receives generous gift

Fashion and basketball enthui- satist James Goldstein has promised his John Lautner- designed home, its contents and the surrounding estate to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA).

The promised gift includes a James Turrell Skylapse, an in- finity tennis court and an entertain- ment complex. Goldstein’s fash- ion collection. Also included are works of art by Ed Ruscha, Kenny Scharf and others, archi- tectural models of the property and a 1961 Rolls Royce Silver Cloud are included in the gift.

“Over the course of many meetings with Michael Govan, I was very impressed with his appreciation for the history of the house and the role it has played in the cultural life of Los Angeles, as well as with his vision for continuing that tradi- tion when the house becomes an important part of LACMA’s col- lections,” Goldstein said. “Following last year’s 50th anniversary gifts to LACMA, I decided now was the perfect time to announce that I will leave my house and its contents to the museum. Hopefully, my gift will serve as a catalyst to encourage others to do the same to preserve and keep alive Los Angeles’s architectural gems for future generations.”

Built in 1963 by John Laurner, the house was purchased by Goldstein in 1972. In 1979 Goldstein worked with Laurner to rebuild and adapt the house, and recently he has been com- pleting an entertainment com- plex on the property designed by Duncan Nicholson. Construction continues to expand and enhance the space.

“Over several decades, Jim Goldstein has lovingly cared for this house, which is an excep- tional example of domestic architecture and a tremendous legacy in our own backyard,” said Michael Govan, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg director. “Great architecture is as powerful an inspiration as any artwork, and LACMA is honored to care for, maintain, and pre- serve this house, as well as to enhance access to this great resource for architecture stu- dents, scholars, and the public. We are excited to collaborate with other arts institutions on events that speak to Jim’s inter- ests and that connect and reach across creative disciplines—architecture, film, fashion, and art.”

The residence has been the set- ting for numerous fashion shoots and music videos, and has been featured in several movies, most notably as Jackie Treehorn’s house in the Coen brothers’ sem- inal film, The Big Lebowski (1998).

LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit lacma.org.
The Hammer Museum presents the West Coast debut of the exhibit “Leap Before You Look: Black Mountain College 1933-1957” running Sunday, Feb. 21 through May 15.

The exhibit is the first comprehensive examination of Black Mountain College (BMC) in North Carolina, which has had a profound impact on art practice and instruction. The exhibition chronicles how BMC became a seminal meeting place and dynamic crossroads for artists, musicians, poets and others who became leading practitioners of the postwar period. They include Anni and Josef Albers, Merce Cunningham, Robert Rauschenberg, Elaine and Willem de Kooning, Buckminster Fuller.

The exhibit includes painting, sculptures, weaving and pottery. More than 250 objects by nearly 100 artists will be on display. True to the interdisciplinary nature of the school, the exhibition features two soundscapes, a grand piano and a dance floor for gallery performances. Also included are documentary photographs, archival books and audio recordings of poetry readings.

The exhibition is organized by the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston and curated by Helen Molesworth, chief curator at The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

“We are thrilled to bring ‘Leap Before You Look’ to the West Coast, honoring the values of the renowned experimental Black Mountain College and heralding its role in shaping major concepts, movements, and forms in postwar art and education,” said Ann Philbin, director of the Hammer Museum. “The exhibition underscores Black Mountain College’s interdisciplinary emphasis on inquiry, experimentation and discussion, and reflects some of our deeply held beliefs in art and its capacity to expand one’s internal horizons and encourage participation in community.”

The Hammer Museum is located at 10899 Wilshire Blvd. For information, call (310)443-7041, or visit www.hammer.ucla.edu.

Get up close with hippos at the L.A. Zoo

The Los Angeles Zoo is holding its new “Hippo Encounter” program every Saturday, Sunday and holiday at noon. Groups of up to 15 people can go behind the scenes for approximately 20 minutes and get an up-close view of the zoo’s 15-month-old baby hippo Rosie and its mom Mara. Zookeepers will share information about hippos – the third-largest land mammals – and specifics about their daily routines and care.

Participants can also watch staff feed the hippos, and they can reach out and feel the animals’ cool, smooth skin. An unforgettable photo opportunity concludes the program.

“Hippo Encounter” is for adults and children ages 4 and older who are accompanied by an adult. Tickets are $15 and advanced purchase is recommended by visiting the zoo’s website at www.lazoo.org.

The Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens is home to a diverse collection of 1,100 animals representing 250 different species, many of which are rare or endangered. The Los Angeles Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive in Griffith Park at the junction of the Ventura (134) and Golden State (5) freeways. For information, call (323)644-6001, or visit www.lazoo.org.
**The Wallis presents winter classical music series**

**March 11.** The Wallis presents a performance by pianist Ye Chun titled "Next Generation @ The Wallis" on Friday, Feb. 19. A wine reception and conversation with the musicians will follow the concert at 8 p.m. Chun is the winner of UPM's 2015 Averneng arts fellowship and winner of the 2013 Cliburn Competition.

**Metro to feasibility study of three route options**

**Service dog regulations lack official process**

**City council to consider status again in 15 days**

From HCM page 1

According to the CHC, the Edinburgh Bungalow Court "reflects the broad cultural, political and social environment of the city and the community for its association with the rapid development that occurred in Hollywood and its surrounding areas in the early 1920s.

*CHC's report continues*... after the boom of the film industry, new jobs and an influx of people employed in film production, there were 500 to 600 people living in and working at the Edinburgh Bungalow Court multi-family housing type in Hollywood.

*CHC's report continues*... In 2010, the developer applied for a demolition permit last year, which was placed on hold while an environmental impact report for a proposed replacement project was prepared.

*CHC's report continues*... The developers withdrew the original plans and the city reactivated the previously rejected plans. On the day construction was set to begin last September, crews met with members of the bungalow community at a HCM application was filed. Demolition was again halted pending appeals.

*CHC's report continues*... Guy Penn, one of the owners with BLDG Edinburg, LLC, said at the PLUM hearing that they have worked with the community and they understand it is a complicated issue.

*CHC's report continues*... "But it's inherently an unsafe place to live," he said. "We believe it should be redeveloped."

*CHC's report continues*... The owners claim that the bungalows are beyond repair and that the community support is vital to making the proposed project a reality.

*CHC's report continues*... They have a point of view instead of going from the projects. There's a point of view and the city council to consider status again in 15 days.

*CHC's report continues*... The courtyard also "embodies the distinguishing characteristics of architecture and defacement of general sanitation issues." The neighbors who teamed up to defend the bungalow are respectful of the buildings, and are committed to saving their place to live," he said. "We believe they are a reality until they reach an agreement and won't finalize any potential proposal until they reach an agreement with the community and city council office."

The neighbors who teamed up to oppose demolition said they have been working with new neighbors into the homes to examine them, but the owners will not let them in. However, L.A. Conservancy may be allowed to examine the property over the next two weeks.

*Park Labrea News/Beverly Press 21 February 2016*

"I'm a dog lover, so it doesn't really bother me if someone wants to have their dog with them," Christopher said. "My dog is small, hypoallergenic and is comically trained. I don't see why it's such a big problem."

*Park Labrea News/Beverly Press 21 February 2016*

"My client has restored many of the buildings, and are committed to saving them where the public want them to be," Fox and Jennings had neighbors complaining about the eyesore and complained about the eyesore and the eyesore and the eyesore."

"We train our dogs for two years, have them tested by Assistance Dogs International and personally match a person to a dog that best suits his or her needs," Malatino said. "Registering websites make it easier for people to take advantage of ADA regulations and make it easier for people who really need the assistance to be taken seriously."

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"My therapist prescribed Bronson [for me], and he helps tremendously with my PTSD," he said. "I get a lot of these websites are probably fake, and people take advantage of [these websites], but I've seen people give them dirty looks because they think he's not a real support dog. With his registration and our support dog, Bronson, helps with his symptoms. He registered Bronson online because he said he was tired of people hassling him over his dog.

"Leasing will go into Metro's pro- posed Metro lines. Approved projects will go into the Metro rail here," Wentzel said. "I am a supporter of anything that improves the mass transit sys-

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*Park Labrea News/Beverly Press 21 February 2016*
Metro to offer funds for affected businesses

From page 5

Shalonda Baldwin, deputy executive officer for Metro said the BIF provides financial assistance to small businesses adjacent to construction that meet certain requirements. The program is subsidized by public funds, and Baldwin said it’s a way to provide financial assistance to businesses directly affected by construction.

To qualify, a business must be for-profit, employ 25 or fewer employees and must be located directly adjacent to the rail corridor or Metro construction.

While some business owners welcomed the strict requirements, Baldwin explained why they’re necessary.

“It’s a program that’s not required by Metro,” Baldwin said. “With that in mind, and because we’re using public funds, we must be able to demonstrate construction has an immediate impact on [businesses] and that the plan controls and publics. It’s not matter of caring about a certain area over another.”

Metro also plans to launch a website in March that will update people about construction progress.

Current Metro construction on the north side of Wilshire Boulevard will continue through April, and Metro will transition to construction on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard through the summer.

“Wilshire [Boulevard] is in the over-heated economy,” Baldwin said. “We want to reduce the damage potential for the entire burden to pay for the property owners, which is approximately $4,300, and since it can be spread over a longer period of time, the rent increase is expected to be about $1,800 per month. Rent stabilization ordinance, mandating the retrofit of wood-frame buildings, with soft, weak or open front walls, existing non-dwell concrete buildings built prior to 1980. Soft first-story buildings have open sections on the first floor, such as garages, tuck-under parking spaces and basements. Weak first-story property owners will have seven years to strengthen “soft- story” wooden apartments and 25 years to strengthen concrete buildings.

City staff estimates that there are approximately 13,500 soft-story buildings with 171,000 units, 99 percent of which were constructed prior to 1979 and are subject to the city’s rent stabilization ordinance. The list of concrete buildings includes Park La Brea, and management has more than two decades to work with the city and tenants on the best plan moving forward, if one is ever deemed necessary.

Some West Hollywood residents worry that the city is spending too much on the project already, and that cost will continue to rise.

“We consider getting ‘Ellis-ed’ out of their homes and there is a lack of affordable housing. The city won’t do the many things it could to support sure citizens of the city. This money could be better spent.”

WeHo considers parks in ‘over-heated’ economy

From page 3

center building with two rooftop swimming pools, a multi-use sports court for basketball, volleyball and dodgeball, as well as meetings rooms and offices. The building will also house a tiny tos program that allows access to others. The building’s public access television studio.

The building’s defining architect is an exterior grand staircase that will rise from ground level to the second story.

In addition to providing access to the building, the stairway will be for fitness stair climbing and seating for special events. The project will also include an AIDS monument, a new off-leash dog park, playgrounds and public restrooms.

Councilman John Duran said the additional money needed is significant. “It’s more than the back amenities at the park or change the timeline for the project,” he said. “We have the ability to process all the permits and if the pass through will work.”

“We understand why they [split rent], but it’s not what we want- ed,” she said. “We’re interested to see how this plays out.”

Officials estimate the average cost to retrofit each unit is approximately $5,400; and since it can be spread over a longer period of time, the rent increase is expected to be about $1,800 per month. Rent stabilization ordinance, mandating the retrofit of wood-frame buildings, with soft, weak or open front walls, existing non-dwell concrete buildings built prior to 1980. Soft first-story buildings have open sections on the first floor, such as garages, tuck-under parking spaces and basements. Weak first-story property owners will have seven years to strengthen “soft- story” wooden apartments and 25 years to strengthen concrete buildings.

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Building owners prepare for retrofit measures

From retrofit page 1

There have been approved property owners who have raised rents by as much as $75 per month. Landlords said the rest of new funding becomes available to the city.

Councilman Gil Cedillo, 1st District, said the compromise came after more than a year of public meetings with landlord and tenant advocate groups.

“From the beginning, I stated that the entire burden to pay for the project’s price tag.”

“I hope is that with some additional thinking about ways to manage the use of the funds we could get the increase at least in half,” D’Amico added. “I think we owe it to ourselves to do more work now to save millions of dollars in the end.”

West Hollywood Mayor Lindsey Horvath declined to comment on the cost increase until city staff provides options for potential savings.

“This is a very important pro- ject and I’m excited, but I want to make sure we have all the information we need,” Horvath said.

Some West Hollywood resi- dents worry that the city is spending too much on the project already, and that cost will continue to rise.

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Park La Brea management said they are in the early stages of commu- nicating with the city to learn what measures might be needed to retrofit their residential buildings.

“Scorpion” executive producer Danny Gross, the director of the Park La Brea Riders Association, said the 50- plus site is unique. He said the group is in favor of sharing the costs between landlords and tenants on all improvements and safety measures. He said even though the Park La Brea towers are made with steel and the garden apartments are made with stone, anything that can be done to increase safety in regard to earth- quakes should be done. Preparedness is one of the association’s top con- cerns.

“The cost the tenant will bear is a cost of safety,” he said.

Answers From Page 16