Dueling initiatives – shaping L.A. in the voting booth

■ Union coalition working to put a new initiative on the ballot

BY GREGORY CORNFIELD

The battle over how to deal with growth in Los Angeles continues after a new initiative aimed at development and affordable housing was introduced last week.

A coalition of labor unions and housing advocates launched the Build Better Los Angeles (BBLA) initiative last week that would require affordable units be included with residential projects near transit zones and General Plan amendments. If approved, the initiative would also ensure that construction jobs go to residents through a local hire provision.

“Simply says, developers who build affordable housing will move quicker... as long as they hire local people,” said Rany Hicks, secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and spokesman for Build Better LA. “It is through this initiative that Los Angeles can guarantee not just an affordable housing stock that is large enough to meet our needs, but that the people who build it are also from the communities where it will be located.”

See initiatives page 21

Hillary hits Hancock Park

■ Hundreds arrive for Clinton fundraiser

BY GREGORY CORNFIELD

A quiet intersection in Hancock Park transformed into a Hillary Clinton campaign site Monday night.

Police, valet, media crews, delighted neighbors and opportunistic protestors buzzed around the corner of Las Palmas Avenue and First Street where Clinton stopped to fundraise for her campaign to become President of the United States.

Hundreds of guests arrived at the home of Jon Van – the co-founder of MarketShare who hosted the fundraiser for the First Lady of the United States, New York Senator and U.S. Secretary of State. The cost to attend started at $2,700, and a donation of $27,000 allowed guests to take a photo with Clinton, who is fresh off a victory in the Nevada Democratic caucuses.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, City Councilman David Ryu, 4th District, and West Hollywood Mayor Lindsey Horvath joined the party and are all Clinton supporters.

Horvath has been a long-time Clinton supporter and met with her last week. Horvath went to high school near Las Vegas and helped Clinton secure victory in Nevada last week.

Horvath remembered when she was going to meet Clinton for the first time in 2007. Horvath said she was waiting with a group of people to meet Clinton when she noticed a little girl with her mother. When Clinton got closer, the young girl ran past Horvath to greet the presidential nominee. When the girl returned to her mother’s side, Horvath heard her say, “I want to be president just like her one day.”

Horvath shared that story with Clinton when their paths crossed again in 2012. Clinton encouraged Horvath to run for city council again after a failed election campaign, and Horvath told Clinton the same.

“Now that Horvath is mayor, her encounters with Clinton mean a little more. After her victory speeches in Nevada, Clinton walked backstage, noticed Horvath and said, “Oh, mayor.‘”

Horvath said she told Clinton how important her example has been to a young woman working in a political role. See Hillary page 21

iPhones ‘back door’ debate lands at The Grove

■ Elected officials call for FBI to pull request

BY PATRICIA SANCHEZ

On Feb. 16, a federal judge ordered Apple to assist the FBI in unlocking the iPhone that belonged to San Bernardino shooter Syed Rizwan Farook.

Demonstrators rallied in front of the Apple store at The Grove on Tuesday to support Apple’s decision to deny the court order. While the group of supporters was small, individuals felt strongly about what they called a fight for security and privacy.

“Privacy is important to me, and I want to thank Apple for standing up for my privacy,” said Cheryl Caskill, one of the demonstrators. “Once [privacy is] gone, it’s hard to get it back. It’s like what Benjamin Franklin said. ‘Those who surrender freedom for security will not have, nor do they deserve, either one.’”

The demonstration was part of a global protest organized by Fight for the Future, a nonprofit organization.

Trinity Cheng, co-founder of Fight For the Future, said Tuesday’s protests were to implore the FBI to reflect on their actions.

About a dozen demonstrators showed up Tuesday night to show their support for Apple.

“It’s people coming together to fight and voice our opinions,” Cheng said. “We’re trying to tell the FBI not to go forward with their order because it’s not just about Apple or our iPhones. I don’t think [the FBI] understands what they’re asking for.”

The FBI’s demands, Cheng said, could lead the government down a slippery slope that limits individual freedom and rights to privacy.

Nicholas Linindoll said he supports Apple because the FBI’s demands are a step in the wrong direction for individual privacy.

“We live in a digital age. We all have so much information on our phones and it’s so important that we have strong encryption and security and no back doors,” Linindoll said. “I’m just here to support this fight because unfortunately I think the FBI is not defending our rights.”

Support of the tech company’s stance spans further than street level.

See Apple page 21

Fairfax High School’s soccer team goes for new glory

■ Lions make a new name for themselves

BY PATRICIA SANCHEZ

The Fairfax High School Lions are known for their powerhouse football team and their award-winning basketball team. Their soccer team, however, has not seen as much limelight. But after this season, that might change.

“And we plan to keep changing that during the playoffs,” said Gustavo Arellano, a senior on Fairfax High School’s boys varsity soccer team.

Over the past few years, Arellano explained he and his teammates have worked hard to improve the team’s reputation. With the help of their new coach, Salvador Rosales, the team has come together in a way it never has before and made it to the second round of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF).

See Fairfax page 22

Fairfax High School has been improving all season and made it to the second round of the playoffs. The team plays today at 3 p.m.
26 ‘King Georges’
Amita Childs will direct and perform a cabaret-style reading as part of the Los Angeles LGBT Center’s Spring Arts Festival, March 3 through 5. Tickets are $12. 1225 N. La Cienega Blvd., (323)969-2800, www.lagaycenter.org.

March
1 ‘Sex With Strangers’
Laura Eason’s ‘Sex With Strangers’ runs Tuesday, March 1 through Sunday, April 10 at the Geffen Playhouse. Directed by Marsha Norman, this accomplished novelist Olivia meets fast-talking blogger Ethan – better known for his sexual prowess than his writing. As she worries she will become just another entry in his little black book. Their union brings together two utterly different worlds; the winner is declared in this romantic comedy set in the worlds of New York’s chicest literary circles and some of Los Angeles’ hottest bedrooms.

3 Rock Photography

Latinx Rights
The 16th Biennial Conference of the Chicano Movement in the 1960s and 1970s at a free screening of the PBS series “Latin American,” held on Thursday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fowler Museum at UCLA. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion on Latinx history and civil rights activism. The program is presented in conjunction with the exhibition “Joe Montoya’s Abundant Harvest.” 308 Charles E. Young Drive North, UCLA. (310)206-4351, www.fowler.ucla.edu.

6 TREE Academy Open Houses
TREE Academy, a new school opening this fall on Olympic Boulevard, is holding open houses on Sundays, March 6 and 13 from 2 to 3 p.m. Parents of prospective students can meet with the school’s founders and learn more about the academy’s innovative approach. TREE Academy serves high achievers and students who feel disengaged in traditional academic settings. The school is currently enrolling students in the 6th-12th grades, with little to no grades to come. Financial aid is available. 5555 W. Olympic Blvd. (424)204-5165, www.treeacademy.org.

9 Job Fair
HireLive is hosting the “Los Angeles 3rd Job Fair” on Wednesday, March 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Doubletree Hotel Downtown. Positions for inside and outside sales reps, account executives, technical sales managers, pharma- ceutical sales reps, sales trainers, merchandisers, mortgage brokers, financial planners, customer service representatives, and insurance sales reps, retail managers and many other occupations are available. The companies represented offer competitive benefits and training. 120 S. Los Angeles St. www.HireLive.com.
West Hollywood settles with Ian Owens

BY GREGORY CORNFIELD

The city of West Hollywood agreed last week to pay former deputy Ian Owens and his attorneys $500,000 to settle his lawsuit against the city and his former boss, Councilmember John Duran.

Owens filed a lawsuit last May alleging sexual harassment, discrimination, retaliation, wrongful termination and defamation. The agreement states that it should not “in any way be construed as an admission” by the city or Duran, “or any admission of any unlawful acts or other liability whatsoever.”

Part of the settlement includes that all parties agreed to say, “The lawsuit filed by Ian Owens against the city of West Hollywood and Councilmember John Duran has been resolved.” Thus, Duran and Owens declined to comment.

“Mr. Owens has received a significant number of press inquiries relating to the settlement,” said Owen’s attorney, Aanand Ghods-Mehtani, in an email. “At this point, Mr. Owens is looking to move on with his life. With regard to assertions that there was no wrongdoing on the part of the defendants in this case, we obviously disagree, and we believe the settlement speaks for itself. It simply makes little sense for any defendant to pay half a million dollars to settle legal claims that do not have merit.”

City Attorney Mike Feuer explained that the city’s insurance organization played a significant role in the decision to settle.

Also as a part of the agreement, Owens and his attorneys will return all copies of Duran’s email contact information.

Owens was put on administrative leave in January 2015 after he allegedly eavesdropped on Councilman John Heilman’s deputy Fran Solomon and accused her of working on Heilman’s reelection campaign on city time. Owens claimed he informed Duran and City Manager Paul Arevalo several times of Solomon’s alleged wrongdoing and was ignored.

After he was suspended pending an investigation, Owens alleged sexual harassment by his boss, Duran. Owens claimed he refused repeated sexual advances from Duran “well over” 100 times during his employment since 2012.

Duran and Owens initially met in 2012 using a dating phone app. After a brief relationship, Duran hired Owens as his council deputy. “Mr. Owens never accused me of sexual harassment until he was caught and walked out of city hall for his wrongdoing,” Duran said in a statement last year. “This sexual harassment claim against me is meant to deflect attention away from his own misconduct at city hall.”

Owens waives any claims he has to rights or benefits as a result of the Memorandum of Understanding between the city and the Association of Council Deputies (ACD). Owens also forfeits any claims to his former position and agrees he will not seek any future employment or business relationship with the city.

A court date has not been set yet for the case ACD has against the city for dissolving the council deputy system earlier this year.

California Secretary of State Alex Padilla this week released the first of three voter registration reports for the June 7, Presidential Primary Election.

The report shows that 17,259,413 Californians are currently registered to vote – up 231,123 from 2012.

The complete Report of Registration is due in registered voters since 2012, up by 455,980.

The complete Report of Registration is available online at sos.ca.gov/elections/upcoming-elections/june-7-2016-presidential-primary-election/154day-presprim-16/

CA Secretary of State publishes voter data for June 7 primary

“Only 70.2 percent of eligible Californians are currently registered. If the election were held today, over 7 million otherwise eligible Californians would be left on the sidelines.”

- Alex Padilla

CA Secretary of State

Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer is hosting Ethiopian Community Forum at 6 p.m. tomorrow at St. Mary’s Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church.

Attendees will get to meet Feuer and members of the City Attorney’s Office to learn about their work and connect with local police officers from the LAPD Wilshire Division. Community members are encouraged to “bring questions, ideas and concerns.”

The event will be held in Abo Wolde Giorgis Hall at the church at 5707 Shenandoah Ave. Parking will be free.

For information, call (213) 978-3347.
Wilshire Division captain to depart for new post

By Edwin Folven

Capt. Howard Leslie, the commanding officer of the Los Angeles Police Department’s Wilshire Division, will leave the station March 20 in his position as captain at the LAPD’s Central Division.

Leslie has served at the Wilshire Division since August 2013, first being assigned as the division’s patrol captain. In Sept. 2014, Leslie became the division’s commanding officer after Capt. Eric Davis retired.

Leslie said he enjoyed working at the Wilshire Division and one of the best parts was meeting people in the community and building relationships. He said his focus was always maintaining the public’s safety and he is proud of his accomplishments.

"We established a very effective foot beat program at The Grove and throughout the division. While crime is up, our crime numbers at the Wilshire Division are very good," Leslie said. "I certainly fol lowed the meddling of the media on what the public looks at as wonderful relationships. It’s been absolutely won derful."

The Wilshire Division had the second lowest increase in overall crime in 2015 in all of LAPD. Leslie said he stressed a proactive approach to policing in which officers work with community mem bers to identify concerns and loca tions where crimes are occurring. Leslie said he will follow the same approach at the Central Division, which covers downtown Los Angeles and the surrounding area. Before coming to the Wilshire Division, the division’s new commanding officer worked at the LAPD’s Pacific Division.

Capt. Rolando Solano has been assigned as the Wilshire Division’s new commanding officer, effective March 20. He is currently captain of the LAPD’s Emergency Services Division, and previously served as the commanding officer at the West Los Angeles Division.

A 26-year veteran of the LAPD, Solano also previously worked as a detective at the Wilshire Division early in his career. Leslie said he expects a seamless transition and added that although he is excited about his new job at the Central Division, leaving the Wilshire area is bittersweet.

"The officers here are fantastic," Leslie said. "I’ve made a lot of really good friends here.

Nightclub closed for alleged code violations and crime

By Edwin Folven

The Los Angeles City Council voted Wednesday to revoke a Hollywood nightclub’s conditional use permit (CUP) because of multiple code violations and criminal activity.

The council upheld a recommendation by the Los Angeles Department of City Planning (DCP) to close Cashmere, located at 1300 N. Hollywood Blvd. The nightclub was also referred to by the name The Day After. Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, recommended the closure.

The nightclub, which has an entrance off McCadden Place just north of Hollywood Boulevard, was the focus of numerous Los Angeles Police Department and Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) investigations.

"The incidents at Cashmere presented the city with an opportunity to streamline the process of bringing rogue nightclubs into compli ance," O’Farrell said. "These events serve as an example of the problems caused by some club operators tothumb their nose at the law and their utter disregard for the safety and security of their employees and patrons."

Bars and nightclubs must receive a CUP from the city to operate. The permit regulates hours of operation, age restrictions, alcohol and food sales, capacity and promotions. O’Farrell said revoking Cashmere’s CUP is part of a larger effort to regulate nightclubs in Hollywood.

"My office has created a task force consisting of the city attorney’s office, LAPD, DCP, LADBS, the Los Angeles Fire Department and Alcohol and Beverage Control to make sure scuttle clubs like Cashmere comply with city per mits," O’Farrell added. "If they do not, we will shut them down as expeditiously as possible. Let this send a strong message."

Revoking the CUP means Cashmere must close immediately. If the owners continue to operate, law enforcement will take action to close the club.

The city council’s decision came on the heels of the closure of another Hollywood nightclub, Supercub, which had been cited for multiple violations and whose conditional use permit expired last week.

City attorney lawsuit targets pot delivery service

Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer’s office has filed a lawsuit seeking an injunction to halt Speed Weed, a marijuana delivery and distribution business, alleging it violates Proposition D.

"Marijuana delivery services circumvent the will of the voters who passed Proposition D," Feuer said. "My office will continue to ensure that only qualified patients and primary caregivers can transport medical marijuana.

"The lawsuit alleges that Cosmic Mind, a corporation doing business as Speed Weed, is a marijuana delivery service that does not comply with Proposition D," the lawsuit says.

Civil penalties of up to $5,000 for each day of violation are also being sought.

Since Feuer took office, 716 illegal marijuana delivery businesses have been closed in Los Angeles. The Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office has begun investigating 2,300 criminal cases against 1,444 defendants.

Criminal cases are filed against multiple marijuana delivery businesses, including one owner charged with their proprietor’s employer. The city attorney has also taken civil action to halt the proliferation of medical marijuana businesses, including sequesturing an injunction to close a medical marijuana delivery business and another against the Nestdrop smartphone medical marijuana delivery app. Feuer is also including businesses that contribute to Proposition D violations, including a firm that provided security guards for dispensaries.

Assembly members call for student privacy protections

California State Assembly members Mike Gatto (D-Los Angeles), Melissa Melendez (R-Lake Elsinore) and Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego) have proposed new student privacy protections to require school districts to keep sensitive information – such as social security numbers and other sensitive information for students except where required by federal law.

"During an era of omnipresent intrusion in our lives and increasingly frequent data breaches, all levels of government should be taking steps to safeguard our sensitive, personal information, especially where it involves our children," Gatto said.

Man dies after fight over $20 debt

By Edwin Folven

A transient who stabbed another man to death during a fight over $20 on Feb. 17 near 1649 N. La Brea Ave. in Hollywood has been identified as Darren Little, 43. Authorities added that although it is illegal to use locations in the city to cultivate, process, store, distribute, or sell marijuana, it does not provide immunity from enforcement for a medical marijuana business. It calls for medical marijuana deliveries to be stopped in the business. It calls for medical marijuana deliveries to be stopped in the business.

The stabbing occurred at approximately 11:15 p.m. and was recorded by surveillance video. Police arrested David Brooks, 31, for allegedly stabbing Little to death.

Investigators learned about the stabbing during interviews with friends of the two men who were present when the fight occurred. Brooks, was released last year on bond for another stabbing.

Little lived in an apartment in the 1200 block of Hollywood Boulevard and said he frequents the area around Hollywood Boulevard and Las Palmas Avenue on Feb. 17.

No charges were filed after a stabbing occurred at the corner of Hollywood Boulevard and Las Palmas Avenue on Feb. 17.

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City council approves motion for smoother transitions

The Los Angeles City Council on Wednesday unanimously approved Councilman David Ryu’s motion to form a “standardized transition plan” between incoming council members and their predecessors.

Ryu introduced the motion in December after he started his term without any documents from his predecessor, former Councilman Forrester Dawson. LaBonge chose to destroy more than 100 boxes of documents from his 14 years in office. Thirty-six of the boxes were retained by city and returned to Ryu’s office, but the city clerk’s office and LaBonge have support ed Ryu’s proposal for a more “seamless transition.”

“Council districts deserve a seamless transition between elected leaders so that current cases and projects are not delayed when offices turn over,” he said. The city council instructed the Los Angeles Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) and City Attorney’s Office to report to the Rules, Elections, Inter-governmental Relations, and Neighborhoods (REIRN) Committee in 30 days with an update on the progress of forming transition protocols.

At the REIRN committee meeting on Feb. 16, an assistant CLA confirmed that there are currently transition procedures for council offices, although, those procedures are unwritten.

Councilman Herb Wesson, 10th District, seconded Ryu’s motion confirming that there are currently transition rules, departing officials can leave nothing behind.

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“As has been widely reported, my office start ed with no documentation or paper work related to open land use cases, consistent inquiries, or information on outstanding commitments of discretionary funds,” Ryu said in a letter. “Background material could have been useful for service delivery to our constituents but more importantly could provide information necessary for important issues facing the district and city.”

Ryu said without transition rules, departing officials can leave nothing behind.

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Councilman Herb Wesson, 10th District, seconded Ryu’s motion and is the committee chairman. He said it is necessary to have a written set of step-by-step standardized procedures for transition between council offices.

Councilmen Paul Koretz, 5th District, and Marquese Harris-Dawson, 8th District, agreed after experiencing similar issues as Ryu when they took office.

The Los Feliz Neighborhood Council (LFNC) unanimously adopted a resolution to support Ryu’s motion after they learned that LaBonge ordered the destruction of the documents that “more than likely included valuable, and perhaps irreplaceable information regarding ongoing projects, log of constituent service requests, and records of financial expenditures.”

Communication, clearly defined rules and continuity are three known hallmarks of effective organizational management and leadership,” LFNC said in a statement. “[The motion] would not only be to the public’s benefit, but the current lack of a clear policy has proven to be an onerous public detriment and cause for derision.”

Ryu suggested that records retention protocols, similar to those that apply to the mayor’s office and state and federal officials, could be good models for the city council offices.

Holly Wolcott, Los Angeles City Clerk, said her office will also continue to work with both the mayor’s office and city council offices on transition and records retention protocol and schedules.

Ryu added that he is open to all recommendations “as long as there is a seamless transition.” He declined to comment on specific recommendations that he hopes the city implements, but said he hopes they become a new template.

L.A. to map out substandard streets

Councilman David Ryu, 4th District, initiated the first step to establish a Construction Overlay Zone for the Hollywood Hills and other neighborhoods experiencing a recent influx of home construction and renovations.

Ryu directed the departments of transportation and planning to prepare a map highlighting all “Substandard Hillside Limited Streets” and report back to the planning and land use management committee with recommendations to mitigate the impacts of construction.

“In the past decade, an increase in single-family home construction in the hillside, particularly on substandard streets, has exacerb ated construction impacts to neighborhoods including… traffic congestion, parking availability, roadway degradation, and public safety due to construction vehicles and machinery forced to park on narrow hillside streets,” Ryu’s motion read.

It calls for the city to implement guidelines and standards that will mitigate the effects of construction.

“Developers and neighborhood residents should have a clear understanding of what oversight and regulation the city deems appropriate for development projects and their associated impacts,” the motion read.

An overlay district map that marks the streets that are less than 20 feet wide could be the foundation for a Construction Overlay Zone, Ryu explained that the map will be used citywide, but for now the focus is on areas such as the Hollywood Hills.

“If I’m having these problems, I know my colleagues are as well,” Ryu said.

Ryu said his office has been receiving complaints about overwhelming construction for the past six months. He explained that the trouble started because permits are not needed for minor remodels or redevelopment on residential properties. The concerns do not arise when one

See map page 22
Recruitment effort launched for Jewish reserve officers

BY EDWIN POLVEN

The Los Angeles Police Department unveiled a new program Monday to recruit more members of the Jewish community as reserve police officers.

The announcement was made at a press conference at LAPD headquarters in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, which is spreading information about the program. Reserve officers are trained at the police academy and undergo other specialized training required of full-time police officers, but they are not paid. Reserve officers generally work part-time for the LAPD and are required to work a minimum of 16 hours per month.

Lt. Darnell Davenport, of the LAPD’s Training Division, said the goal is to bolster the department’s ranks and provide an opportunity for people who want to get involved in law enforcement. Reserve officers are a valuable part of the department and perform clerical and administrative duties, patrol and security at special events. The department currently has 385 reserve officers. The goal is to eventually increase the ranks city-wide to 2,000 reserve officers, Davenport said.

“There is an opportunity immediately for them to join,” Davenport said. “We want 60 people per [police academy] class.”

Davenport said reserve officers are screened the same way as full-time paid police officers. Prospective Jewish officers undergo background investigations, a polygraph test, and medical and physical examinations before being accepted into the police academy.

Three different classifications exist for reserve officers. Level III reserve officers—who those who work solely in administrative and perform clerical and administrative duties—must undergo 52 weeks of police academy training. Level II and Level I reserve officers patrol neighborhoods and perform all the functions of regular officers, and must undergo 28 weeks of police academy training. Full-time police officers undergo seven months of police academy training.

Sgt. John Martinez, with the LAPD’s Training Division, said the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles approached the department with the idea of a special program for recruiting members of the Jewish community. He said the department tracks officers by ethnicity but not religion, so the number of Jewish officers—both full-time and reserve officers—is undetermined.

Prospective Jewish reserve officers will be assimilated into the regular reserve officer program, so it won’t cost the city any additional money. A new component of the training covers Jewish customs such as not working or using electronic devices on the Sabbath.

Ivan Wolkand, chief operating officer for the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, is spearheading the recruitment project. Wolkand became a Level II LAPD reserve officer in 2014 and is assigned to the Wilshire Division. He regularly patrols neighborhoods and serves as a liaison to the Jewish community.

He said he was inspired to become a reserve officer by former Wilshire Division commanding officer, Capt. Eric Davis. The experience has been rewarding, he added.

“It’s been so fulfilling for me. It’s been a real eye-opener,” Wolkand said. “I divide my time between community outreach programs and driving around with different officers. You see how hard it is to be a cop in Los Angeles and how stretched the department is. I’ve never been out without being inspired by how officers handle situations in the community.”

Wolkand said he recognized the need for a special recruitment program because he is often approached by Jewish neighbors seeking information about the department and his job as a reserve officer. He said the new recruiting program is an ideal way for the department to spread information, because once people become reserve officers they can disseminate information to others.

“We are one of the few communities that is in the gun sights of everyone from Islamic and domestic extremists to neo-Nazis,” Wolkand said. “A lot of people feel extremely vulnerable. I felt the community wasn’t doing enough to control our own security. My response was ‘We need to take responsibility for our own security,’ and the department has recognized this.”

Capt. Howard Leslie, commanding officer of the Wilshire Division, said he supports the new recruitment program for the Jewish community. Wolkand is one of two Jewish reserve officers in the division with a direct connection to the Jewish population.

“We are the largest Orthodox Jewish community this side of Brooklyn. The new program is fantastic,” Leslie added. “The idea had been floating around for a long time. Every time we have new officers coming in, we have to explain to them the customs of the Jewish community. This will make it so much easier.”

Davenport said the department will hold a series of recruitment forums. A meeting will be held tonight from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Wilshire Division, 4489 W. Venice Blvd.

Anyone seeking information about the reserve officer program is asked to call the LAPD’s Training Division, Reserve Officer and Volunteer Unit at (310)342-3100 or visit joinlapd.com.

Homeowners dig in to replace dead trees in Hancock Park

BY EDWIN POLVEN

The Hancock Park Homeowners Association (HPHA) has taken the lead in replanting trees after approximately 20 dead or dying elms were removed along Rossmore and Las Palmas Avenues, and Muirfield Road.

HPHA president Cindy Chvatal said the homeowners association is helping with replanting because the city has limited funding.

“The trees have been there for a long time and some of them were dying. The drought finished them off,” Chvatal said.

“HPHA’s homeowners association paid for the stump removal and we are planting new liberty elms. At least a dozen have been planted already,” Chvatal said.

Chvatal said the association is also working with Councilman David Ryu’s office to have the remaining trees trimmed. Ryu is coordinating with the city’s urban forestry division and Chvatal hopes the remaining trees on Rossmore Avenue between Wilshire Boulevard and Melrose Avenue can be saved.

“We hope the ones that are still alive can be salvaged,” Chvatal said. “We are working with urban forestry and hope the trimming will happen this spring. Our hope is we can keep them alive another seven to 10 years."

Chvatal said the cost of stump removal ranges from $150 to $600 per tree, and the association has also bid an arborist to help with the replanting. The costs were covered by fees collected by the association. HPHA member Gary Nelson nurtured the liberty elm saplings in his backyard until they were ready for planting over the past two weeks.

Chvatal said she is optimistic the remaining elms along Rossmore Avenue can be saved and stressed the importance of watering, even if it is only one time a week.

The trees are 50 to 60 years old and after four years of drought some are in bad shape,” Chvatal said. “The large mature trees aren’t getting water, which makes them susceptible to disease. It was a double-whammy for these trees.”

Ethics Commission issues $15,900 penalty

The Los Angeles Ethics Commission conducted an administrative hearing last week and unanimously assessed a $15,900 penalty for violations of the city’s campaign finance laws.

Kelly M. Lord is a candidate for city office during the 2011 elections. He and his campaign committee, Lord for City Council District 12 2011, were charged with accepting a campaign contribution in excess of the $500 per person limit, failing to maintain campaign records, and failing to file a pre-election campaign disclosure statement.

At the time, Lord was serving as treasurer of the Northridge East Neighborhood Council (NENC) and had a city purchase card issued in his name. Lord allowed a campaign consultant to charge $4,700 to the NENC card to pay for creating Lord’s campaign website. When those charges were questioned, the consultant refunded the total amount to the city.

However, Lord and his campaign did not pay the consultant for his services resulting in an excess contribution of $4,280 made to the committee.

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“..."We interviewed several recommended real estate brokers before choosing Allison Schwarz. She stood out in the interviews for her interpersonal skills, intelligence, self-confidence and preparation which distinguished her from the rest. Her advice and strategies were on point and critical throughout the process. She had excellent marketing strategies in place that promoted the house beautifully and quickly sold it. The property was sold at a price over and above our asking. We can't say enough good things about Allison and thank her for getting us through a stressful time and, of course, getting the house sold at a premium..." “Recent Zillow Review
Recruitment effort launched for Jewish reserve officers

Pilgrim School students competed in math and science competition against 24 other schools in a regional qualifying contest for the National Science Bowl (NSB).

Pilgrim School won two matches and competed in a physics challenge. The regional title went to North Hollywood High School, the defending champions.

It was the second year Pilgrim School competed in the event, a huge accomplishment said Bryan Cardella, the team’s coach and science teacher at Pilgrim School.

With a little over 100 students at the school, Cardella said recruiting 10 students to join was great. The team faced schools with a much larger student population in a competition that hosts more than 9,000 students each year.

“If you think about it, 10 students make up 10 percent of the school, so just generating interest was difficult,” Cardella said. “But I reached out to students who were doing well in my science classes, and we were able to put a small team together.”

Senior Jonathan Lee, the team’s captain, said during their first year at the NSB, the team wasn’t sure what to expect and the new experience shocked them.

“The other teams had been competing for a long time, and we weren’t too familiar with the rules. It was hard, but the good kind of hard.”

Junior Chanon Boonyindee said he was excited to show the other teams and learn from them.

“My favorite moment was when they competed in the physics challenge. They realized through the scrimmage how polished and advanced the other teams were,” Cardella said. “It was great for them because it made them more aware about what they needed to work on.”

When they competed in the regional competition, the team was better prepared. Lee said they were determined to do well.

“We didn’t let our size bring us down, and we just focused on winning as many matches as we could,” Lee said.

Competing against more seasoned teams was tough, but Lee said he and his teammates learned from it and enjoyed competing.

“My favorite moment was every single time I or my teammates buzzed in and got the right answer,” Lee said. “Last year we were intimidated by the other teams, but this year we felt more up to the challenge.”

Pilgrim School won two matches and participated in a physics challenge.

“Last year we were complete rookies. This year, I expected more, and they gave it their all. I’m happy with that.”

Pilgrim School’s NSB team will include five returning members next year. Lee said although he is a senior, he will remain active with the science bowl team and help recruit future members.

Expanding the program, Cardella said, will be easier after their two years of experience.

“We encourage anyone who wants to join to reach out to us,” Cardella said. “It’s a fulfilling experience, and it’s exciting to do something science related outside of class. Our team lets the students rejoice in their nerdiness with fellow science lovers.”

Pilgrim School makes strides with science team

“"We learned so much. We didn’t just study science, but had mock competitions and learned all the rules. It was hard, but the good kind of hard."”

“I enjoyed watching the team compete, especially during the physics challenge where they created a catapult from scratch,” Lee said.

“They were more confident, more cohesive and they were much quicker to the buzzer. They also displayed a lot of teamwork during the physics challenge,” Cardella said.

“The students hadn’t even heard of the National Science Bowl,” Cardella said. “But I reached out to students who were doing well in my science classes, and we were able to put a small team together.”

Senior Jonathan Lee, the team’s captain, said during their first year at the NSB, the team wasn’t sure what to expect and the new experience shocked them.

“The other teams had been competing for a long time, and we weren’t too familiar with the rules or as fast to the buzzer, but it was still a good experience,” Lee said.

“They were more confident, more cohesive and they were much quicker to the buzzer. They also displayed a lot of teamwork during the physics challenge,” Cardella said.

“It was great to interact with other teams and learn from them,” Boonyindee said. “It’s important because it gave us a chance to network with students from other schools, and you get to use your knowledge in a different way outside of class.”

Cardella said he enjoyed watching the team compete, especially during the physics challenge where they created a catapult from scratch.

“They realized through the scrimmage how polished and advanced the other teams were,” Cardella said. “It was great for them because it made them more aware about what they needed to work on.”

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“My favorite moment was every single time I or my teammates buzzed in and got the right answer,” Lee said. “Last year we were intimidated by the other teams, but this year we felt more up to the challenge.”

Junior Chanon Boonyindee said he built relationships with other schools during Saturday’s competition, and he was excited to show off what he learned.

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Cardella said he enjoyed watching the team compete, especially during the physics challenge where they created a catapult from scratch.

“They were more confident, more cohesive and they were much quicker to the buzzer. They also displayed a lot of teamwork during the physics challenge,” Cardella said. “It was really fun seeing them interact with each other to pull off a task they had no time to prepare for beforehand. Last year we were complete rookies. This year, I expected more, and they gave it their all. I’m happy with that.”

Pilgrim School’s NSB team will include five returning members next year. Lee said although he is a senior, he will remain active with the science bowl team and help recruit future members.

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Students from Pilgrim High School competed in the National Science Bowl on Saturday, Feb. 20. The team won two matches and participated in a physics challenge.
The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles held its annual Super Sunday phone-a-thon fundraiser on Feb. 21 and raised more than $1.3 million for community services. Approximately 400 volunteers called people throughout Los Angeles seeking donations for Federation programs helping elderly survivors of the Holocaust and people with special needs. The funding is also used for educational trips to Israel for young people and the Jewish Federation’s security initiatives.

“It’s certainly our biggest fundraising day,” said Mitch Hamerman, senior vice president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles. “It’s a day for the community to come together and give back by volunteering their time and making a difference.”

Hamerman said many local civic leaders volunteered at Super Sunday, including Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer, Los Angeles City Councilman Paul Koretz, State Assemblyman Richard Bloom. Super Sunday is an annual fundraiser that has been held for more than 30 years, Hamerman added. For information, visit www.jewishla.org.

Housing corporation appoints new director

The Board of Directors of Hollywood Community Housing Corporation (HCHC) has nominated Sarah Letts to be the corporation’s new executive director. Letts brings over 25 years of affordable housing experience to HCHC. She has held positions with community-based nonprofits including the Community Corporation (HCHC) has announced.

California Senate President pro Temore Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles), chair of the Senate Rules Committee, has appointed former senator Dean Florez to the Air Resources Board (ARB). The position was created by AB 1288 and advocates for environmental justice. Florez, a Democrat from Los Angeles, served in the California Senate from 2002 to 2010, and in the California Assembly from 1998 to 2002. He represented the cities of Bakersfield and Shafter.

Florez is currently president and CEO of Balance Public Relations and was formerly CEO of the 20 Million Minds Fund. Compensation for the position is $41,889 per year.

The Air Resources Board is responsible for controlling emissions from motor vehicles and stationary sources and for coordinating and reviewing all government programs affecting air quality.

“Senator Florez will be a distinguished addition to the ARB with the experience to fight for kids struggling to breathe in our communities and the resolve to stand up to the oil lobby who want to keep the status quo,” De León said. “Dean grew up in the Central Valley and knows more than most what it’s like to breathe polluted air. As a Senator, he wrote the landmark law to eliminate the 63-year old agriculture exemption from clean air laws and he created the program to get dirty diesel school buses off the road so kids didn’t develop asthma.”

Florez added that he is eager to begin the work.

“Today’s ground zero on air pollution is located in communities of color in Los Angeles, Central Valley and the Inland Empire. People there don’t drive high-end cars, but they breathe dirty air and suffer from pollution more than others,” Florez said. “I spent my career in the Senate working to protect these communities and am honored to be chosen by Senate pro Tem De León and his colleagues for this important assignment.”

Grant helps organization expand center for women

Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services, an organization providing mental health and substance use services, has received a $300,000 grant from the W. M. Keck Foundation. The grant will be used to complete renovations of Via Avanta, a community setting for women with mental illness and substance use disorders who often have children living with family or in foster care.

The Keck grant supports the final phase of a $2.3 million project to finish renovating the 22,000-square-foot complex in the San Fernando Valley. Usually homeless when they enter Via Avanta, mothers and children up to six years old participate in programs that promote healthy bonds and aid the women in recovery.

Since the 1970s, Via Avanta has been a haven for women with drug and alcohol problems and was one of the first programs in California to accept women for substance use treatment without requiring them to separate from their children.

As more and more seriously mentally ill and homeless women began entering the residential program, Didi Hirsch won the support of former Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, whose district included Via Avanta. Yaroslavsky helped secure funding to convert the facility into a dual-diagnosis treatment center.

Didi Hirsch also launched Project 60 Women & Children, a Via Avanta program to reduce family homelessness by addressing untreated mental illness in mothers.

With Yaroslavsky’s help, Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services received more than $4.1 million to complete the project. Didi Hirsch will celebrate the completion of renovations on March 4. Yaroslavsky and current Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, 3rd District, are expected to attend.

For information, visit www.didihirsch.org.

The Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra (LACO) held its annual Super Sunday phone-a-thon fundraiser in Paris Feb. 14 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel. The gala raised $475,000 for LACO’s artistic and education activities. Pictured are gala co-chairs Sandy and Pat Gage, honoree K. Eugene Shutler and LACO executive director Scott Harrison. Shutler, a philanthropist and LACO Board chairman, was honored for his dedication to the arts and civic engagement. More than 300 guests attended the gala celebrating French music, culture and cuisine. Guests were transported to the City of Lights with a concert, auctions and dining, as well as can-can dancers. For information, visit www.laco.org.
Bill will protect users against computer ransomware

Sen. Bob Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys) has introduced legislation to help protect computer users by outlawing the practice of infecting computing with ransomware, making it the criminal equivalent of extortion.

Ransomware is software that allows a computer hacker to access computers, hold them hostage and demand payment in exchange for relinquishing the attack. Under the bill, a person engaged in the activity could be convicted of a felony and sentenced to up to four years in prison.

Ransomware can often go beyond the extortion of money. It can allow hackers to steal passwords and obtain access to bank accounts and other private or sensitive information. It can lead to identity theft and the exorbitant costs and damages involved.

Even if ransom is paid, hackers rarely unlock the victim’s computer. For those who don’t fall for the scam but instead try to regain control of their computer, it often requires the costly assistance of a professional computer technician.

Ransomware is just one type of electronic criminal activity that has risen associated with the widespread use of computers, cell phones and the Internet. According to a recent report, 43 percent of companies in 2014 experienced data breach, including highly visible and damaging attacks that hit Sony, Home Depot, Target and Bank of America.

The legislation is sponsored by TechNet, a bipartisan trade organization that advocates for technological companies.

"Ransomware is the latest and most insidious tactic of hackers," said Andrea Deveau, California executive director of TechNet. "Simply put, hackers are holding the networks of major institutions and businesses hostage until they receive a financial payoff. This practice has to be stopped immediately or we will see ransomware proliferate, putting major institutions and businesses at extreme risk."

Forums focus on women’s issues

Clergy and Laiety United for Economic Justice (CULE) is holding a forum titled “Women in the Economy” on Thursday, March 3 from 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Wilshire Boulevard Temple-Glazer Campus.

The forum will explore workplace challenges women face, and participants will weigh how faith traditions confront gender inequality. Attendees will also discuss the latest approaches to addressing the systemic inequality of women in the economy.

NCWIL’s director of legislative and community engagement, Maya Paley and NCWIL’s board member Sandra Fluke will speak at the event. Other topics include ending human trafficking, closing the gender pay gap and stopping workplace harassment and assault.

Tickets are $5; lunch is provided. For information, call (213)268-1244 or visit www.cluejustice.org/marathon_2016.
Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education has unanimously approved a resolution to ensure that the nearly 200,000 Los Angeles middle-grades students are on the path to high school graduation.

The resolution titled “Creating a Collaborative to Focus on the Middle Grades” brings together a team of parents, students, educators, school leaders, researchers, district staff and other experts who will create a framework to reimagine the middle grades. The team’s report will be presented to the Board of Education in June. The group will be a collaboration between Learning Group and Working Group members.

The Learning Group represents community members and stakeholders. During their sessions, experts will present information on topics and issues affecting middle grade students. The public is invited to attend the sessions, and there will be time at the end for public comment.

The Working Group is defined in the resolution and includes a middle school parent; middle school student; representation from UTLA, AALA and SEIU Local 99 unions, the Division of Student Health and Human Services, the Division of Instruction and the Office of Educational Services; and academic researchers. The group will analyze and prioritize input collected at the Learning Group sessions and create a collective vision.

The first Learning Group session will take place on Thursday, Feb. 25 at 4 p.m. at Nightingale Middle School, 3311 N Figueroa St. Additional Learning Group sessions will be held on March 17 and 31, and April 14.

For information and a Learning Group meeting schedule, visit www.lausd.net.

LAUSD and healthcare app partner to fight HIV

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and Healthvana have collaborated to enable high school students obtain free HIV and STD testing by using an app.

Last month, the Centers for Disease Control published a study showing that only 22 percent of high school students who have had sex have been tested for HIV.

“I am really proud of our relationships with numerous health agencies and partners that have developed products to help our teens in LAUSD,” said Timothy Kordic, of the LAUSD Health Education Programs and HIV/AIDS Prevention Unit. “The students can now find health services they need in their local areas with ease and why they are attracting new collaborations with diverse groups such as popular online dating applications. Since we know that young people are turning to online spaces to find relationships, it is important to us that these spaces also have links to positive health information and services.”

Healthvana is a cloud-based technology platform that improves communication between healthcare providers and patients. The company offers electronic patient intake, electronic test results delivery and an HIV/STD testing locator. Since its launch in 2014, Healthvana has delivered more than 200,000 test results to patients throughout the United States.

District focuses on improving middle grades

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Obama set to stump for his legacy
Meyer Garrett: announces entrepreneurs in residence

Mayor Garretti this week announced this year’s participants in the Entrepreneur Residence in Entrepreneur (EIR) program, which was launched in 2014 to connect the region’s most accomplished entrepreneurs in the city with L.A.’s future business leaders and job creators. This year’s EIRs are Eva Lo and Jason Nazor, two professionals with decades of experience between them, who will work to help achieve successful businesses.

The EIR program enlists two expert entrepreneurs each year to work with the city to create initiatives aimed at supporting entrepreneurs in L.A. During their year with the EIR program, they help shape city policy and create initiatives that help entrepreneurs across L.A. They will also work with local non-profit organizations and institutions to help foster more entrepreneurship and economic growth across Los Angeles.

The new EIRs will build on the EIR program’s progress, which was led by Kristina Z “Z” Holly and Amir Tehrani. Holly studied the local entrepreneurial ecosystem, surveying more than 1,000 local L.A. businesses. The survey uncovered a variety of opportunities for improving the local entrepreneurial community in L.A., a goal she is now pursuing further through her new initiative “Make it in L.A.” Tehrani focused on digital divide in L.A.’s startup economy. He launched the mayor’s Sharing Economy Jobs Fair in South L.A. last August to bring residents who are looking for work to underserved neighborhoods.

The biggest problem I’ve been seeing in the service dog community these days is not people who are deliberately faking their dog as a service dog. Rather, the biggest problem seems to be people with emotional support dogs who truly believe they have all the same rights as service dog handlers.

These people are causing untold problems and expenses for local and restaurant owners by misinforming them about where emotional service animal owners are allowed to go. The ADA clearly states, “Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.”

Don Finley
Red Deer, Alberta, Canada

Projects near Metro stations should have more residents

RE: “100 affordable units added to DTLA Downtown.

One hundred affordable units sounds like a lot, but when you consider it’s only a half block from a Metro station, this is way too low. Good infill but underutilized space for its mass-transit accessibility. The city of Los Angeles needs to think smarter and not just be proud of building something affordable. This is a great start, but it could have been much better if there was a community process to build these pets not allowed in public places.

Emotional service animals are allowed in only no-pet housing and on public transit prescribed by a mental health professional. Very simple: service dogs are trained to perform work and tasks to mitigate an individual’s disability.

An emotional service animal is a pet that provides comfort at home or on flights. Businesses, learn the law and don’t be afraid to assert yourself in the workplace and tell people with emotional service animals they have to leave. Businesses have the right to tell the service dog and person with an out of control service dog to remove the dog as well.

Karen Ann Young
Amsterdam, New York

New solutions needed to solve gun problems

Gore’s changing to reduce gun violence,” Feb. 18 issue

Ongoing debates about the Second Amendment have focused on the individual private right of citizens to keep and bear arms, or a right that can be exercised only through militia organizations like the armed forces, the National Guard and police forces.

In the meantime, our country has enough guns in circulation to arm every person living here. Let’s face reality: We don’t need the NRA — by whatever means — has succeeded in arming our nation despite all the death and destruction caused by guns. Now, we learn that concealed guns will be allowed in classrooms in the nation of Texas.

I also pestered the mayor, council and City Hall for the Charter Services Commissioners and for assigning its powers to the mayor’s office. I pestered the mayor and council for giving the city’s department heads powers the Charter vests in the Board of Civil Service Commissioners — powers which make the department heads less accountable to the public.

Meanwhile, I keep reading about policemen using guns to kill and maim suspects, often unarmed. In the hope that by its brevity, it will encourage city officials to submit their own annual reports.

During the past six months, I have repeatedly asked Mayor Eric Garcetti for information on the enforcement of the Charter Section that requires officers and boards to submit to the mayor and council annual reports related to their work. Despite the fact that my requests were made under the California Public Records Act, they were consistently denied by the mayor.

Now, as Garcetti is starting to act like a candidate for re-election, he appears to be planning to smack me down for not being familiar with the information he released so soon. I would rather dirty politics and I hope he doesn’t do that.

Samuel M. Sperting
Monterey Park

Your teeth are crooked or crowded, what does that mean to you?

If your teeth are crowded it makes it harder to keep them clean, which, in turn, leaves you at a greater risk of developing cavities. Gum disease is considered to be the same risk as smoking for heart disease — this isn’t good.

If your teeth are not aligned properly, it can lead to issues such as headaches and/or TMJ dysfunction, which in turn can lead to tinnitus and other oral appliances.

At Southern California Dental Health Associates our doctors know how important it is to have a good-looking smile. Gum disease is for your overall health.

Letters to the Editor

Laws on service dogs and emotional support animals need more enforcement

RE: “Service dogs may be your best friend but not others,” Feb. 18 issue

I think all service dogs should be required by law to wear something clearly identifying them as registered service dogs. I think it would help to have that requirement in the ADA, if that’s a federal law.

I grew up with dogs and love them. I work in an area that has friends or companions.

We are deeply appreciative of President Obama, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Fox and the U.S. Congress for this investment in Los Angeles County.

Metro Board Chair Mark Ridley-Thomas

member of the Senate appropria- tions committee worked hard to secure these important federal funds.

In May 2014, the U.S. Department of Transportation provided and Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGGA) in the amount of $1.2 billion for the Westside Purple Line Extension (Section 1) transit project. It was later accompanied by an $856 million low interest federal Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan.

The Westside Purple Line Extension transit project, which is currently under construction, is expected to provide a high-capacity, high-speed, dependable alternative for commuters to travel between downtown Los Angeles, Glendale, and Westwood in 25 minutes. The project, which will be built in three phases, will continue from the current station at Westsider/Western extending westward for about nine miles along Wilshire Boulevard with seven new stations at Wilshire/La Brea, Wilshire/Fairfax, Wilshire/La Cienega, Wil- shire/Rodeo, Century City/Con- stellation, Westwood/UCLA, and Westwood/Westheimer. For infor- mation, visit metrorail.net.

Feds provide $300 million for subway projects

The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded $300 million to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) for two major subway projects.

The federal funding will benefit both the Regional Connector and Westside Purple Line Extension transit projects.

$200 million will go toward the Westside Purple Line Extension (Sections 1 and 2) for the Federal fiscal year.

“we are deeply appreciative of President Obama, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Fox, and the U.S. Congress for this investment in Los Angeles County. This $300 million will allow us to continue our mission to better serve millions of Angelenos with expanded and improved transit services,” said Metro Board Chair Mark Ridley-Thomas. “I am especially appreciative it protects us Senator Dianne Feinstein, who as a senior
Free chef cooking and tasting

Dine Out Long Beach Restaurant Week 2.0 presents a free cooking and tasting series on Saturday, Feb. 27 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Friedman’s Appliances in Long Beach. Four chefs, a mixologist, sommelier and beer experts from Stella Artois will lead the free classes. The first class starts at 11 a.m. with chef Janine Falvo of Sip Bar + Lounge at the Renaissance Hotel. Chef Pete Lehmer of Gladstone’s will lead a class at 1 p.m. Participants will learn tips from chef David Coleman of Michael’s Restaurant Group (Chianina, Michael’s On Naples and Michael’s Pizzeria) at 2 p.m. Jim Tate of Parkers’ Lighthouse and Queensview Steakhouse will prepare signature dishes at 3 p.m. For wine and beer lovers, sommelier Alicia Apolo of Taste Wine-Beer-Kitchen will pour a tasting of her favorite wine selections, and experts from Stella Artois will serve signature Belgium beer to guests in a keepsake chalice. Long Beach Restaurant Week 2.0 runs through March 5 at nearly 50 restaurants. Lunch menus start at $10 and three-course dinners start at $20 with optional wine and beer pairings. Visit www.dineoutlongbeach.com for a list of participating restaurants, to view menus and make reservations. Friedman’s Appliances is located at 1827 E. Spring St., Long Beach. (562) 989-7756.

Oscar Night viewing party

Dress up and head to Upper West Restaurant to watch the 88th annual Academy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 28. The Oscar viewing party begins at 4:30 p.m. Guests can vote for their favorite Oscar contenders and win prizes. Upper West will donate 25 percent of the evening’s proceeds to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Team in Training. The suggested donation is $20. Reservations are recommended. 3321 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. (310) 586-1111.

E.P. & L.P. special Chinese banquet

Three chefs from opposite coasts come together on Monday, Feb. 29 for an evening celebrating modern Asian flavors and contemporary Chinese cuisine at E.P. & L.P. Restaurant. E.P. & L.P. executive chef Louis Tikaram will partner with Jeremiah Stone and Fabian von Hauske, an internationally recognized chef duo from Contra in New York City. Enjoy the flavors of Fiji, the South Pacific, Vietnam, France and Southeast Asia. Dishes include oyster with Lapsang tea.
Love & Salt offers late night love menu

L eap Year falls on Monday, Feb. 29, and Love & Salt will celebrate with its “Late Night Love” bar menu specials from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Diners can order chef Michael Fioretti’s two-patty “downlow” burger with aged pimento cheese, caramelized onions and tomato aioli, or choose from six pizzas for $20. A glass of red or white wine or craft beer is served with the meal. The menu is available at the bar and chef’s counter only. 317 Manhattan Beach Blvd., (310)545-5252.

Extra patty on Leap Day at Dog Haus


Hollywood Hotel celebrates Leap Year

T he Hollywood Hotel offers special packages for stays on Monday, Feb. 29, including 29 percent discounts on rooms and upgrades from deluxe rooms to superior rooms for $29, subject to availability. The packages are only available to guests on Feb. 29. Room rates start at $99 and packages range from $125 to $235. Guests can start their day with a complimentary breakfast buffet, sit by a pool surrounded by gardens and enjoy a cocktail in the stylish outdoor bar and lounge. 1160 Vermont Ave., (323)315-1800.

Venice’s LEONA

California flavors with a hint of Korean pizzazz

S trolling along the canals in Venice, built in 1905 by developer Abbott Kinney, is a relaxing experience. It’s a charming area with its eclectic architecture, the bridges that span the canals and the graceful white egrets that fly overhead. My niece Karina joined me for lunch recently and we opted to sit on the patio to enjoy the beautiful, warm weather. The interior dining room has a modern Restoration Hardware décor with oil lights, white brick walls, dark wood and caramel leather colored banquettes.

The juicy burger at Leona comes on a grilled brioche bun with cheese and Kennebec potato fries.

Arrington’s dynamic menu offers interesting dishes with bulgogi, octopus and homemade kimchi. This talented chef integrates flavors from around the world into appealing dishes at Leona.

Arrington previously worked at nearby at the Jonathan Beach Club in Santa Monica and with the classically French trained Josiah Citrin at Melisse. She appeared on Bravo’s “Top Chef: Texas” and Food Network’s series, “Chef Hunter,” where she won. At Leona, her menu focuses on California cuisine with some Korean influences. She is well known at the Santa Monica Farmers Market, where she selects ethically harvested produce.

My favorite dish of the day was the heirloom squash soup with flash fried sage leaves, bright red pomegranate and pepita seeds in the center. It was a gorgeous combination of colors, textures and flavors. The earthy squash was bedazzled with the sweetness of the pomegranate seeds. The pepita seeds added a delightful crunch to the smooth pureed soup. Sunflower and grain bread accompanied the soup, perfect for dipping.

A foodie friend sitting next to us on a day at the beach. Chef Arrington’s sweet cookies include a crispy miso brown butter chocolate chip, zippy ginger macadamia nut and coconut macaroon. They are an ideal snack to pick up before or after a day at the beach or to nibble while exploring the Venice canals.

Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., weekend brunch is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner is served from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Every Tuesday through Sunday, the cookie window is open from 11 a.m. to closing. Leona’s is closed on Mondays. 55 121 Washington Blvd. (310)822-5379.
POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between Feb. 15 and Feb. 21, and were compiled from www.crimemapping.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)355-8800.

Feb. 15
At 12:01 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Sunset and Schrader.
An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1200 block of Sweetzer at 12:02 a.m.
At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7500 block of Hampton.
An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1600 block of Schrader at 4 a.m.
At 6:20 a.m., an attempted burglary was reported in the 6300 block of La Mirada.
An unknown suspect committed a theft in the 8800 block of N. La Brea at 7 a.m.
At 7:45 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident near the corner of Western and Lexington.
An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7200 block of W. Sunset at 10 a.m.
At 12:10 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of McCadden and Sunset.
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6300 block of W. Third at 1:30 p.m.
At 2:45 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of S. Rimpau.
An unknown suspect committed a theft in the 6300 block of W. Third at 3 p.m.
At 5:11 p.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 850 block of Sunset.
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 6300 block of W. Sunset at 7 p.m.
At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of Saint Andrews.
At 11:45 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 800 block of Sunset.
Feb. 16
At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the 1000 block of Sunset.
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of Ogden at 8 a.m.
At 9 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 100 block of Sunset.
An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6100 block of W. Sunset at 9:30 a.m.
At 9:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 400 block of Edinburgh.
An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 900 block of S. Yucca at 9:45 a.m.
At 11 a.m., a grand theft was reported in the 100 block of Saint Andrews.
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6800 block of Hollywood at 12 p.m.
At 11:20 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Western and Lexington.
At 11:45 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 700 block of Kings at 9 p.m.
At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Beverly and Crescent Heights.
An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 6300 block of Edgewood at 11:30 p.m.
Feb. 17
At 11:45 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Sunset and Schrader.
At 12 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1400 block of N. Detroit.
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7400 block of Franklin at 12:10 p.m.
At 2:50 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1000 block of La Brea.
An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of S. Western at 3 p.m.
At 3:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 800 block of Sweeter.
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1800 block of Outpost at 4 p.m.
At 4:15 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 400 block of Sunset.
A petty theft was reported in the 6500 block of Hollywood at 4:20 p.m.
At 4:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of Crescent Heights.
An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1200 block of N. Cherokee at 4:30 p.m.
At 4:55 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 5500 block of Santa Monica.
An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 5000 block of Sunset.
An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 2000 block of Vine.
An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Gardner at 10 p.m.
At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8700 block of Burton Way.
Feb. 18
At 3:23 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Fountain and Vesta at 4:20 a.m.
At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Clinton and La Brea.
A petty theft was reported in the 8700 block of Santa Monica at 5:30 p.m.
At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a bicycle in the 4100 block of Wilshire.
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Sotma and Cherokee at 9 p.m.
At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6400 block of Santa Monica.
An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Sunset and Schrader at 10 p.m.
Feb. 19
At 1:20 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a theft in the 6600 block of Vine.
An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Orange Grove.
At 2:20 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Sunset and Wilcox.
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of Western at 3:20 a.m.
Feb. 20
At 2:23 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the corner of Colgate and Wilshire.
An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8400 block of Santa Monica at 2:10 a.m.
At 8 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 3800 block of Ingraham.
An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1200 block of Formosa at 8:30 a.m.
At 1 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1000 block of Queen Anne.
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. Clark at 4 p.m.
At 6:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8600 block of Santa Monica.
Feb. 21
At 11:30 p.m., a suspect committed a burglary in the 500 block of N. Windsor at 8 a.m.
At 1:20 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 800 block of S. Norma.
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of Clark at 11 a.m.
At 6:55 a.m., a robbery occurred near Barton and Saint Andrews.
A burglary was reported in the 900 block of Spaulding at 7:20 a.m.

Two suspects sought in fatal stabbing

Detectives with the Los Angeles Police Department’s Northeast Division are seeking two suspects who shot and killed a victim on Feb. 26 in the 3000 block of Griffith Park Blvd.
A man was pronounced dead at Norato in the 6200 block of Hollywood.
A second suspect stabbed the second unidentified victim in the left hand. Paramedics took both victims to a hospital where Norato later died from his injuries. The second victim was treated and released.

Suspect convicted of illegally accessing e-mails

An Oregon resident has pleaded guilty to a felony computer hacking charge connected to a phishing scheme that gave him illegal access to sensitive personal and financial information from approximately 360 e-mail accounts, including those belonging to people in the entertainment industry.
Andrew Helton, 29, of Portland, pleaded guilty on Feb. 19 to a felony violation of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act. Helton was specifically charged with one count of accessing your private communications and your accounts, including those belonging to people in the entertainment industry.
According to a plea agreement, from March 2011 to May 2013, Helton engaged in a phishing scheme to obtain usernames and passwords of his victims. He sent e-mails to victims that appeared to be from Apple or Google and asked them to verify their accounts by clicking on a link. Once the victims clicked on the link, they were taken to a website that looked like an Apple or Google login page. When the victims entered usernames and passwords on the website, Helton used that information to access the victims’ e-mail accounts.
Helton obtained approximately $4,000 in unconditional payments from users for about 360 e-mail accounts. He used the information to access and view the contents of the e-mail accounts.

The FBI investigated the case.
Restaurant News
from page 13

Celestino Draggo, Suzanne Goin, Joe Miller, Susan Feniger, Mary Sue Milliken, Alain Giraud and Jenny Rush of Blue Plate Group. Advance tickets are $150 for the early session; $250 for the evening session. Food trucks will sell snacks.

Free parking is available at Beverly Hills High School, 241 S. Moreno Dr., and pet-friendly shuttles run to the park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Approximately 3,000 people and 250 furry friends are expected at the festival. Roxbury Park is located at 471 S. Roxbury Dr. For information, call (310)285-6831, or visit www.beverlyhills.org/woofstock.©2015 Disney

Celebrating 70 years of Our People, Our Places

All the local news you need www.beverlypress.com

The city of Beverly Hills is inviting dog owners to its annual “Woofstock/90210” on Sunday, March 6 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Roxbury Park’s “Wiggly Field.”

The festival for dogs and their owners features a pet parade, contests, pet-related goods and services, adoptions and family entertainment.

More than 35 pet vendors will be present at specialty booths, including “The Dog Wedding” booth where photos can be taken of pets in wedding costumes. Face painting and body art for pets and their owners is also available. Other events are the “Pet Parade Costume Contest” with categories for Su “Paw” Heroes, Most Creative and Funniest Pet and Pet Talent Show. The festival also includes Zoom Room agility demonstrations and the “Disc Dogs Pet Show.” The Pet Care Foundation will offer dogs for adoption. Food trucks will sell snacks.

The festival is expanding beyond coffee by serving farm-to-roasting coffees and its new signature shims – low-caffeine, lemon, agave and egg white. lavender gin fizzes with Bombay gin, lemon, cream and egg white; and mezcal sours with Ilegal mezcal, lime and housemade bloody Marys made with Tito’s vodka and horseradish. Guests can enjoy Baltaire bloody Marys made with Tito’s vodka and horseradish.

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The Grammy Museum's traveling photo exhibition, "Bob Dylan: Photographs by Daniel Kramer," will come to Los Angeles from Feb. 29-May 15. The exhibit documents Dylan's transformation from folk musician to rock 'n' roll icon in more than 50 photographs taken by New York-based photographer and film director Daniel Kramer.

In the 1960s, Dylan wrote songs about serious social, political and cultural issues. His music blended elements of American folk music, blues and rock.

"The unique photographs Daniel Kramer captured while working with Bob Dylan during one of the most pivotal moments of his career sheds a never-before-seen light on one of America's greatest songwriters," said Bob Santelli, the Grammy Museum's executive director.

"We first opened this exhibit in Dylan's hometown of Hibbing, Minnesota. Now, we are thrilled to showcase the incredible work Minnesota. Now, we are thrilled to showcase the incredible work of his career sheds a never-before-seen light on one of America's greatest songwriters," said Bob Santelli, the Grammy Museum's executive director.

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Oscar predictions 2016

Here we are. Awards season comes to a climax with the main event. And never has the backlash been so great. But the show must go on, despite boycotts and anyone else who saw the film “Brooklyn” and had no idea what that was.

Best Picture

In a world that believes in the ideals of truth, beauty and love, “Mad Max: Fury Road” is the only option. In this reality, I honestly don’t know. Going into awards season, “Spotlight” is the Jib Blush of the nominations; everyone just expected it to sweep. Then that pesky Foreign Press took the Oscar bait and picked “The Revenant” (I still don’t understand how “The Martian” was in the comedy category.)

But then we all learned how votes are determined – a freak algorithm. It’s convoluted enough to allow a more forgettable nominee like “Bridge of Spies” to sneak in. Or maybe one of the year’s most delightful films, “The Martian,” might just take it all. It’s a crapshoot.

Best Actress

Cate Blanchett is the clear favorite for her role in “Carol,” one of the most important pieces of lesbian literature. But her performance, stunning at it is, seems to borrow quite a bit from her character in “Blue Jasmine.” The real winner of 2015 is Brie Larson for “Room.”

Best Actor

The time has finally come. Leo can finally go home a happy man and put that golden trophy next to his AFI, BAFTA and three Golden Globe awards.

Best Supporting Actress

It’s difficult to care about this category since Alicia Vikander was snubbed for her role in “Ex Machina.” Sure, she’s nominated here for “The Danish Girl,” but that move simply opens the door for Rooney Mara to win without much competition.

Best Supporting Actor

Without Steve Carell for “The Big Short,” only Sly Stallone (“Creed”) and Christian Bale (“The Big Short”) are in this ring. Temper aside, Bale proves once more he’s one of the best actors in town, but the idea of Rocky going home without the belt is unconscionable.

Best Director

It’s George Miller (“Mad Max”), or Todd McCarthy (“Spotlight”). I doubt “Max” wins it all, but the Academy might choose Miller for his long history in the industry alone. Then again, Adam McKay, the man behind “Anchorman” and “Step Brothers,” will likely never be on this list again. I must meditate further on this one.

Original Screenplay

I’m so thankful “The Hateful Eight” didn’t make this list. Rant over. “Inside Out” is the most original film of the year. But if “Ex Machina” wins, the world would still be on the right path.

Adapted Screenplay

Drew Goddard made a survival film on Mars something delightful and suspenseful in “The Martian.” That said, this one could go any direction except to “Brooklyn.” That one film going home empty-handed.

Snubs

I’m not sure I want to live in a world where “Avator” gets a best pic nom and “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” isn’t good enough. Then again, this wretched planet also accepted “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button” over “The Dark Knight.”

In 2011, the Academy placed “Toy Story 3” on the same list as “The King’s Speech,” “Black Swan” and “The Social Network.” “Inside Out” is twice as good as TS3 and far better than half the best pic choices. #OscarsSoWhite raises legitimate, albeit not shocking concerns about the Academy as a whole. It’s still a white boys club just like the entire film industry. This doesn’t even consider the old guard’s asinine stance on women, no more clearly visible than in a wildly sexist quote by Disney CEO Michael Eisner.

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Sound Off

“Inside Out” wins best animated feature. “Star Wars” and “Mad Max” have their picks of technical awards. “Mad Max” for makeup and hairstyling. “Sicario” might have a slot at music. Host Chris Rock makes a series of jabs at the Academy’s diversity problem, but no real changes result from anything that transpired this season.

LAMOTH screens short animated film ‘When Man to Man Is a Wolf’

The Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust (LAMOTH) will host a screening of the animated short film “When Man to Man Is a Wolf” on Feb. 28 at 11 a.m.

After the screening, there will be an exhibition of student work inspired by the film. “When Man to Man Is a Wolf” is a short film based on LAMOTH Survivor Advisory Board member Lida Budgor’s experiences during the Holocaust. It was created by the Advanced Animation class at College of the Canyons. LAMOTH is located at 100 The Grove Dr. For information, visit lamoth.org.

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Park Labrea News/Beverly Press 17 February 25, 2016

photo courtesy of Open Road Films

“Spotlight,” a film about the Boston Globe’s investigation into child abuse in the Catholic Church, is expected to be a favorite among Academy voters.

photo courtesy of Open Road Films

“Mad Max: Fury Road” is a top contender for best picture at the 88th Academy Awards on Sunday.
Brazilian Nites Productions and Goldenvoice are hosting the 16th annual “Brazilian Carnaval of Axé & Samba” on Friday, Feb. 26 at the El Rey Theatre in Los Angeles.

The event features Carla Visi, the former leader singer of the Brazilian band Cheiro De Amor. Brazilian Nites Productions brings the energy of Brazil to California with music, dancing, Samba drummers, masks, authentic Brazilian food and elaborately dressed Samba dancers. The event is open to all ages, and costumes are encouraged. Carnaval’s special charity partner is The Midnight Mission, a human services organization in downtown Los Angeles. The Midnight Mission will have a booth at the event.

Tickets are on sale at brazilian-nites.com or goldenvoice.com. The El Rey Theatre is located at 5515 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit theelrey.com.

Cuban painter, sculptor and photographer Aimee Garcia returns to Couturier Gallery with a new body of work titled “Suprematist Speech” on display now through March 26.

The exhibition is made up of mixed media collages. The collages use images from newspapers and magazines that have been applied to the interiors of unassembled cardboard boxes. In addition to these works, the exhibit will include self-portraits printed on canvas with embroidery. All the text and images have been obscured with embroidered colored thread creating blocks of color of various shapes and sizes.

Garcia was born in Matanzas, Cuba and currently resides in Havana, Cuba. She studied at the Vocational School of Art, Matanzas, the Professional School of Art and at the Superior Institute of Art.

She began her career as a painter in the 1990s. When digital cameras became commonly available, she began practicing photography.

Her work can be found in public collections such as the Arizona State University Art Museum; the Museo del Barrio in New York, and the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes in La Habana, Cuba.

The Couturier Gallery is located at 166 N. La Brea Ave. For information, visit couturiergallery.com.

Democratic presidential candidate visits local mall

A photograph in the June 26, 2014 issue of the Park Labrea News and Beverly Press showed Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton at a public book signing at the Barnes & Noble bookstore at The Grove. The former first lady, senator and U.S. secretary of state was promoting her book “Hard Choices,” and thousands of people waited in line for a chance to meet Clinton and have their books signed. On Monday, Clinton visited Hancock Park for a fundraiser at the home of Ellen Goldsmith-Vein and Joe Vein. For information, see page 1.

Coagula Curatorial presents “Self-Portrait,” the first solo show by New York based artist Emma Sulkowicz on display from Feb. 27- March 13 with an opening reception on Feb. 27 from 7-11 p.m.

A screening of “Performance With Object” will run during regular gallery hours during the three weeks following the exhibit.

Sulkowicz is known for her 2014 artwork performance “Carry That Weight.”

Sulkowicz will show two new works in the exhibit. The first is “Self-Portrait” where the artist will be on a platform in the gallery during regular gallery hours. Participants are invited to interact with her. On another set of sculptural platforms, viewers can interact with “Emmatron,” a life-sized replica of Sulkowicz, using an app to enable the replica to answer a series of pre-determined questions.

The Coagula Curatorial gallery is located at 974 Chung King. For information, visit coagulacuratorial.com.
SAG-AFTRA honors actors with prestigious award

The Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) has named performers Morgan Fairchild and Anne-Marie Johnson as the recipients of the 2016 Ralph Morgan Award.

I am delighted with the Honors and Tributes Committee’s recognition of both Anne-Marie Johnson and Morgan Fairchild as recipients of the 2016 Ralph Morgan Award,” said SAG-AFTRA Secretary-Treasurer and L.A. Local President Jane Austin. “Both of these accomplished women embody the award’s spirit of self-sacrifice through their countless hours of committee and board service for both SAG-AFTRA and AFTRA. Additionally, these women have made significant contributions outside the boardroom for the betterment of all performers and have worked tirelessly on numerous social issues.”

The Ralph Morgan Award recognizes SAG-AFTRA members and/or union staff for their devotion to serving members. Fairchild is a performer whose career spans 53 years on stage and screen and in film. She made a name for herself as an activist who supports AIDS research, women’s rights and the environment. She also encouraged entertainment industry professionals to become better educated and more active on environmental issues. Fairchild’s career is extensive, with work ranging from feature films to regular television series roles.

Johnson was active for more than 15 years as a Screen Actors Guild National Board member and officer. For four years, she served as a senior advisor to the president and has completed four terms as a first vice president. Johnson also served as an AFTRA National Board member from 2009 to 2012. Throughout her career, she starred in several successful television series and has guest starred in multiple hit shows.

An award ceremony will be held for Johnson and Fairchild at the SAG-AFTRA Los Angeles Local reception on March 6 for L.A. local members only at the Sportsmen’s Lodge located at 12833 Ventura Blvd. For information, visit sagaftra.org.

EnCorps eaching program receives $250,000 grant

EnCorps received a $250,000 grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation.

The money will fund EnCorps Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Teachers L.A., a recruiting and training program that will serve 138 new Los Angeles STEM professionals and military veterans to address the shortage of quality educators in high need communities.

The W.M. Keck Foundation’s investment helps EnCorps STEM teachers encourage and inspire the next generation of innovators and scientists, resulting in further STEM study and careers, as well as elevated American K-12 learning and competitiveness.

For information, visit encorps.org.

The Wallis Annenberg Center helps students achieve dreams

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is partnering with the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle (LADCC) to offer the Wallis Student Arts Reporters program, an education program designed for students ages 12-18 who are interested in journalism and arts criticism.

The program is part of an initiative of “GRoW @ The Wallis,” the center’s education department that immerses participating students in performing arts reporting.

Students will learn special writing skills at an introductory workshop shop, led by top arts and culture reporters and critics from the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle, and they will have the opportunity to attend and report on select performances at The Wallis.

The program starts on Saturday, March 19 with a mandatory workshop shop from 10:30 a.m. to noon at The Wallis.

Following the introductory workshop, participating students will be expected to review at least three performances per season in at least two genres in theater, dance and/or music.

“We are extremely proud of GRoW @ The Wallis and the variety of classes offered for arts learners of all ages,” said Rachel Fine, The Wallis’ managing director. “The Wallis Students Arts Reporters program is a great example of how the performing arts world extends beyond the performers on stage, and we are thrilled to support the next generation of arts reporters.”

A one-time administrative fee of $50 is required. The Wallis offers financial aid to students in need of assistance.

For more information about scholarships or financial aid, contact Debra Pasquerette at debra@thewallis.org.

The Wallis, along with ASCAP and DreamWorks Animation, also awarded scholarships to six aspiring student songwriters.

Mina Bloom, Rachel Gilbert, Tristan McIntyre, Dylan Schifrin, Bailey Share-Aizic and Juan Solis received a combined $5,000 in scholarship funds to be applied to furthering their studies in musical theater and songwriting.

The scholarship funds were gifted by DreamWorks Animation. The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd. For information, visitthewallis.org.

‘Music For Train Stations’ arrives at Union Station

“Music For Train Stations” is inspired by Brian Eno’s album “Music for Airports” which was designed to define the tense atmosphere of an airport terminal.

Song selections for “Music For Train Stations” have been thoughtfully curated by dublab, an online radio station dedicated to the growth of music, arts and culture, and will pair original music from four local performers with sets by L.A. DJs.

“Delivered via a state-of-the-art six speaker surround sound system, the series is intended to be a calming and disarming auditory encounter among trains, ferocious energy and architectural splendor of Union Station’s grand waiting room,” said dublab Executive Director Alejandro Cohen. “Our goal is for future guests to experience the space in an imaginative new way.”

Metro Art Presents showcases a vibrant mix of arts and cultural programs at Union Station.

The diverse, all ages programming is designed to creatively activate the landmark station, engage the diverse community and attract new riders.

The music will play every Friday in March from 4:40 p.m. at Union Station’s waiting room located at 800 N. Alameda St.

Visit metro.net/about/union-station/events for information.

The Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles (KCCLA) and Kokkos Korean Comics are holding an exhibit titled “Looking to the Future of Korean Comics running Friday, Feb. 26 through Friday, March 11.

The exhibition will showcase the past, present and future of Korean cartoons. In the exhibit, it’s “Future Area,” guests can watch digital comics with audible and sensory effects that can be seen on smart phones, tablets and personal computers.

The original musical “Great Country (Daeguck),” based on cartoon books of the same name, will also be recreated in the exhibit. KCCLA is using that exhibit to promote Korean animation culture.

It includes works by famous artists and illustrators, as well as their comics.

An opening reception will be held Friday, Feb. 26 from 7 to 9 p.m. KCCLA is located at 5505 Wilshire Blvd.

For information and to RSVP for the reception, call (323) 966-3014 or email RSVP@kccla.org.

KCCLA exhibit explores the future of Korean comics

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The Music Center has named 111 high school students as semi-finalists in the 28th annual “Spotlight” program, a free scholarship and arts training program for teens.

An important part of The Music Center’s support for arts education, “Spotlight” provides opportunities for high school students to acquire the skills they need to pursue their careers in the performing arts as well as valuable workforce readiness skills. Semifinalists were named in seven categories including acting, ballet, non-classical dance, classical voice, non-classical voice, classical instrumental and jazz instrumental.

“The young participants will experience what it is like to take risks and learn how to prepare for important transitions in life,” said Jeri Gaile, director of The Music Center’s Spotlight program.

While students compete in this program, they are mostly competing with themselves as they build self-esteem and learn how to persevere to achieve their goals,” Gaile added.

Approximately 1,100 participants auditioned for “Spotlight” this year. Semifinalists attend special master classes with accomplished artists who share their expertise on performance technique, training and professional careers. Students receive feedback on their performances, making their involvement a learning experience.

Each semifinalist will audition again before a new panel of judges who will select the top two finalists in each category. Judges will also identify an honorable mention winner in each category. The winning students will perform in the Spotlight Grand Finale on June 11 at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. The Spotlight program awards more than $100,000 in cash scholarships and five students in each preliminary will receive $1,000. Semifinalists each receive $300.

The Music Center’s Spotlight program offers a free opportunity to showcase the best of this year’s films and TV shows, paying tribute to the stars, the studios and the contributing guilds,” said museum founder and president Donelle Dadigan. The Hollywood Museum is located at 1660 N. Highland Ave. For information, call (323)464-7777 or visit www.TheHollywoodMuseum.com.

**Music Center ‘Spotlights’ teen artists with scholarships**

**Film and TV nominees come to life at museum**

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is hosting its 2016 “Lights, Camera, Action” exhibit running March 10 through August 31 at the Los Angeles Central Library, 630 W. Fifth St. Tickets for the dinner are $500. RSVP required by visiting www.ushmm.org/events/los-angeles-dinner. The Beverly Hilton Hotel is located at 9880 W. Santa Monica Blvd. For information, call (310)556-3222 or email western@ushmm.org.

**Lawyers Philharmonic concert benefits veterans and families**

The Los Angeles Lawyers Philharmonic, under the baton of founder and conductor Gary S. Greene, will perform a benefit concert for veterans and homeless families on Thursday, March 3 at UCLA’s Royce Hall Greene (left) will be joined by celebrity guest actress June Lockhart. They are pictured with Thomas Girardi, founder of the law firm Girardi & Keese and sponsor of the Los Angeles Lawyers Philharmonic.

The performance will include songs from “South Pacific” and “Guys & Dolls.” Additional celebrity guests include actor Ed Asner, who will narrate “The Impossible Dream.” Singer and dancer Cara Lawrence will also entertain, along with singer and songwriter Rozzi Crane, 16-year-old soprano Golda Berkman and the Honorable Arthur Gilbert, who will perform Leroy Anderson’s “The Typewriter” with the orchestra. KNBC 4 weathercaster and comedian Fritz Coleman will serve as master of ceremonies.

Proceeds will be donated to Salvation Army programs for veterans and homeless families including the Westwood Transitional Village, the Bessie & David Pregerson Child Development Center, and the Bessie & David Pregerson Child Development Center, and the Bessie & David Pregerson Child Development Center, and the Bessie & David Pregerson Child Development Center, and the GoodGrow urban farm. Tickets start at $25; $10 for students and free for veterans and active military members. Veterans and military members can pick up free tickets at the VA will be able to call 800-324-6100.

The Los Angeles Lawyers Philharmonic concert benefits veterans and families. For more information and tickets, visit www.HarmonyHelps.org.
U.S. Reps join fight for privacy against FBI

From Apple page 1

protests, however, and politicians from Sen. Diane Feinstein (D-CA) to Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) are proposing bills to keep the government from forcing technology companies to comply with digital surveillance tactics.

The Encrypt Act of 2016 intro-
duced earlier this month by Lieu dic-
tates that a state or political subdivi-
sion must not request or mandate manu-
facturer’s, developers, sellers or providers of covered products or ser-
vice, including as a condition for sale, to alter security functions in its products to allow surveillance, decrypt or render ineditable information.

Lieu said in a statement that while protecting national security is impor-
tant, Americans and American busi-
nesses shouldn’t have to suffer as a
result.

“The terrorist attack in San Bernadino was horrific and the trag-
ic loss of innocent lives demands a strong response,” Lieu said. “I have several deep concerns, however, about the unprecedented court order that forces Apple to create software it does not have in order to provide a ‘back door’ way to weaken its smartphone encryption system.”

In a letter to the FBI on Tuesday, Lieu further expressed his concerns by threatening to override the department’s decision.

While he said he appreciates the FBI’s dedication to protecting the country, he urges it to come to a different decision with Apple.

“The FBI’s demand that Apple write new code to weaken end-
defenses has generated passion-

They also said “mega develop-
ments” will worsen the affordable housing crisis and congestion in the city.

“The buildings that they’re build-
ing up here in Hollywood … they’reaffleing in a way that’s just making $100,000,” Humphrein said. “But they’re not affordable in the way that they would be affordable if a lot of people had grown up on Hollywood. Businesses were mov-
ing in; might be more appropriate or very hard in the ensuing period to turn this community around, and with much success. The reason we were able to succeed is because of new development. The developers are happy that Hollywood, they are not the enemy. The developers are happy that our neighborhood is full of businesses, they are not the enemy.”

Guber said that he agrees that the plan goes too far but he has a few more needs to be updated, and said develop-
ers “would be thrilled” if that hap-

L.A. debates development

From initiatives page 1

Angeles will be able to close the gap on the affordable housing and good-

job shortage.

Resolution RIBLA for BBLA’s “broad plan” will call the city’s land use policies and funding to build more homes and must move on more jobs.

When the city of L.A. approves a new building, we want it built by the people who live and pay taxes here, by your neighbors, by your commu-

nity, by the men and women who go to school right here,” said Ron Miller, executive secretary of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council. “Build Better LA will help us open a pipeline for jobs and housing. It will bring in more jobs to the neighbor-

hoods of Los Angeles, and more housing to those in need. It builds a better city.”

The Coalition to Preserve L.A. (CPLA) – the group that introduced the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative (NII), called the Build Better L.A., intro-

uates against important matters of public order.

As a computer science major, I

think that’s what’s more than quali-

fied,” said Ryu. “It’s time to have a woman President of the United States, I am a woman.”

Ryu said that as the son of an immigrant mother who made the journey to the U.S. he learned long ago to appreciate the leadership of a strong woman.

Ryu’s passion for helping her city has a strong connection with Los Angeles and Hancock Park,” Ryu said, explaining how California has histor-

ically supported the Clinton family and the Democratic Party. “It’s a win every which way.”

Several protestors also took the oppor-
tunity to voice their opposition to Clinton and Garcetti.

“Twenty-seven thousand, we can’t have it,” one group chanted. “No more of the status quo, money in politics has to stop.”

Holly Mosher, with Money Out Voters In, said she was there to raise awareness about the money that has overpowers.

“Money has overtaken our democ-

Above: Anti-war veteran John Harmes

Corrections:

An article on the Feb. 25 issue about the services it was stated that the definitions of service animals are unclear. Two sources also referred to their dogs as emotional support ani-
mals.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, a service animal is defined as specifically trained to do work or perform tasks for individuals with disabilities, including tasks such as guiding a person who is blind, reminding an individu-
al to take prescribed medications or calming a person with PTSD during

benefit the 1 percent, and not what the majority of people want. You can see why we don’t have sensitive gun laws and why we have mass incar-

ceration. I’m here to point out that Hillary should not be taking these giant donations and having a super PAC, because how is she going to clean up Wall Street if she’s in their pocket?”

Members of CODEPINK, a grass-
roots women’s organization working to end U.S. wars and militarism criticize that Clinton has to “lie for war machine.”

“She’s taken more money than anyone else, she peddles arms deals and weapons manufacturers,” said Chelsea Byers. “We know that when they are investing that much into the election that we can expect a full fall of war. This candidate has taken that money. We want to stop that.”

The Coalition for a Human Los

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L.A. debates development

From initiatives page 1

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An article on the Feb. 18 issue

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Correction:
L.A. announces closures for the Academy Awards

Los Angeles finalized the street closures to accommodate the 88th annual Academy Awards on Sunday. Numerous streets around the Hollywood area, including the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), California State Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) and the Los Angeles Police and Fire Departments were consulted in the planning process.

LADOT will begin to strictly enforce the no-parking policy for the duration of the Academy Awards weekend and times listed below. This will include citing and impounding vehicles parked on these temporarily restricted no-parking streets. Vehicles parked on the following streets will be towed to the Official Police Garages (OPG) in Hollywood when cited by LADOT. Motorists are advised to check the Official Police Garages (OPG) website, opglavcivic.com, to find their vehicle. Alternatively, they can call 311 or Hollywood Tow, (323)466-8583, for information about how to redeem their vehicles.

Additional streets will be closed Sunday beginning at about 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., to assist with the circulation of traffic and reduce incidents.

Details of the closures and maps of affected areas are available from the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and 13th District field offices and they are posted on the Academy’s website, oscars.org/closures.

Area residents are urged to use public transit. For more information call Metro at (323)466-3765 or visitmetrono.

Drivers, bus riders, bicyclists and pedestrians are encouraged to visit LADOT’s website at ladot.lacity.org for information about DASH, Compass Express, bicycling in the city of Los Angeles and an array of transportation services.

Area commuters can visit the LADOT’s website, trafficinfo.ladot.org, for real-time traffic and parking facilities information. Real-time traffic reports are a product of LADOT, innovators of the Automated Traffic Surveillance and Control System (ATSSAC) technology.

Ryu picks public safety over house renovations

From map page 6

neighbor is remodeling. But when four or five neighbors are remodeling and another is building a new home on the same street, Ryu said it has been a growing public safety concern.

Ryu explained that he does not want to impede the rights of individuals to remodel their homes, but some protocols are needed to “space out” and give neighbors some relief and safety assurances.

The city will wait for the planning and transportation departments to develop the map and make recommendations for construction orders.

Tow-away no stopping any time, Sunday only — 6 a.m. to midnight
• Franklin Avenue between La Brea Avenue & Cahuenga Boulevard — both sides
• Hollywood Boulevard between Cahuenga Boulevard & Vine Street — both sides
• Hollywood Boulevard between Highland Avenue & Cahuenga Boulevard — both sides
• Highland Avenue between Cahuenga Boulevard & Highland Avenue — both sides
• Sunset Boulevard between Highland Avenue & Cahuenga Boulevard — east side
• Sunset Boulevard between Highland Avenue & Santa Monica Boulevard — east side
• Sunset Boulevard between Highland Avenue & Sunset Boulevard — both sides
• De Longpre Avenue between Wilcox Avenue & Cahuenga Boulevard — both sides
• Cole Place between Cahuenga Boulevard & Fountain Avenue — both sides
• Fountain Avenue between Wilcox Avenue & Cole Place — both sides
• Hollywood Boulevard between Vine St & Argyle Ave — south side

Tow-away no stopping anytime
• Wilcox Avenue between Sunset Boulevard & Franklin Avenue — both sides
• McCadden Place between Sunset Boulevard & Hollywood Boulevard — both sides
• Yucca Street between Highland Avenue & Las Palmas Avenue — both sides
• Highland Avenue between Sunset Boulevard & Santa Monica Boulevard — east side
• Wilcox Avenue between Fountain Avenue & Sunset Boulevard — both sides
• De Longpre Avenue between Wilcox Avenue & Cahuenga Boulevard — both sides
• Cole Place between Cahuenga Boulevard & Fountain Avenue — both sides
• Fountain Avenue between Wilcox Avenue & Cole Place — both sides
• Hollywood Boulevard between Vine St & Argyle Ave — south side

Ryu takes on Kennedy in second round today

From Fairfax page 1

playoffs. They play at 3 p.m.

“We set a goal for ourselves, and we’re in a position where we can accomplish that,” Rosales said. “We’ve worked on our physical strength, endurance, technical skills and mental strength. We’ve put all that together this year to build a better team.”

Fairfax finished the regular season in second place behind Pacific Palisades High School after a long journey. When they faced Pacific Palisades, last year’s league champions, the team struggled and lost 3-1 early in the season.

Senior Jose Mancia said it was a tough defeat but it was also an eye-opener. The second time around, they were ready for Pacific Palisades and clinched a 1-0 victory.

“We knew we had to step it up against Palisades,” Mancia said. “The second time we faced them was on our home field, so we knew we had to win. It was a great feeling. To win on our home field against such a tough team really motivates us and shows how much better we’ve gotten.”

Rosales said although it was his first year as the team’s coach, he pushed the players to a higher standard. He said it was important to teach them more than just technical skills.

“I like to stress individual responsibility among the players because that turns into collective responsibility throughout the team,” Rosales said. “I push them hard because I want them to play with a high level of competitive- ness, but I also want to make it fun for them. If it’s not fun, they’re not going to want to play.”

The Arellano and Mancia said because their coach is a former Fairfax High soccer player, he motivates them more because he relates to the team.

“At the beginning of the year, he told us about when he played for Fairfax and how his team went to the CIF (playoffs) and lost.”

Arellano said. “He wants us to do even better than his team, and he knows how important it is to us. He really helped us build our chemistry over the season.

Now that the team is in the second round of the playoffs, Arellano and Mancia said the team has picked up its intensity which showed during their first playoff game last Friday when they defeated Comteras High School after two rounds of penalty kicks.

It was a little nerve-racking because we hadn’t participated in [penalty kicks] in a while,” Mancia said. “It was even scarier because there were so many people watching us, but in a way that motivated us as well.

Junio Oscar Gonzalez said he feels like he and his teammates are better prepared for the playoffs.

Last year, the team relied too much on certain players to get them through the season, but this year they’re a more complete team.

“It’s all about what we’ve accomplished this year,” Gonzalez said. “We’ve worked a lot on our chemistry, finishing plays and communicating with each other on the field.”

Arellano said their next playoff game is crucial because it’s the same round they were eliminated in during last year’s playoffs. The feelings from last year’s defeat, he said, are still on his mind.

“I was heartbroken to know the season had ended. We worked hard, but just couldn’t close that game,” Arellano said. “As a senior, I’m determined to push even harder and get past this round. I want to make it to the finals because it’s my last chance to get there.”

Fairfax High School plays today at 3 p.m. against Robert F. Kennedy High School at 701 S. Catalina St. Both teams finished in second place in their respective leagues, and Rosales said he expects to face a tough opponent.

“To be pushed against the ropes in our first CIF game was tough,” Rosales said. “It’s something we haven’t seen all season, but it was good for [the team], and it showed what kind of character they have. We’re not going to give up so easily. I know it’s only going to get harder from here, but we’re up for the challenge.”

Answers From Page 16

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