Beverly Center unveils $500M revamp

Redesign focuses on enhancing indoor experience

BY GREGORY CORNFIELD

The Beverly Center will start a $500 million transformation this month aimed at recreating the structure and modernizing the experience. The center and its stores will stay open throughout construction, which is expected to be complete by the holiday season in 2018, developers announced Monday.

Owner Robert Taubman said he, his brother William and Taubman Centers have been working for years on the plan to reimage the 886,000 square-foot mall at 8800 Beverly Blvd. The first noticeable difference will be a new exterior that will incorporate a perforated steel facade. There will also be a new streetscape, eight new street-level restaurants, additional valet parking and a “smart” parking system. Inside, there will be a new gourmet food hall and a redesigned central area.

“We are reimagining every part of this iconic fashion destination,” Taubman said. “We have listened to our stakeholders, shoppers, retailers, tastemakers, millennials and the surrounding communities to understand what they desire for a new Beverly Center. We are addressing every weakness and will deliver a customer experience as unique as it was the day it opened.”

Taubman Centers plans to update the shopping mall that opened in 1982 to adapt to a time when consumers have endless options online, and when brick and mortar businesses face more competition than from just another chain down the street.

Mayor Eric Garcetti recalls ‘hanging at the mall’ after the Beverly Center opened in the 1980s.

Gardening class plants seeds of knowledge

BY PATRICIA SANCHEZ

Students from Hancock Park Elementary School are digging deep for its newly created SEEDS Farm, a garden full of edible plants. The school and the Sustainable Environmental Enhancement Development program – a bond-funded program that creates or improves school greening projects – partnered to create SEEDS Farm, an outdoor learning environment where students grow and study plants through hands-on learning.

Hancock Park principal Ashley Parker said the garden will further enhance the school’s dedication to incorporating its outdoor environment with in-class learning. She said individual classes have partici-

Packs of cigarettes targeted by pack of smoking bills

BY GREGORY CORNFIELD

A package of bills aimed at tobacco use are gaining momentum in the California Legislature and could spark significant change to the state’s smoking culture.

Governor Jerry Brown may soon be able to sign laws that would change the legal smoking age in the state from 18 to 21, put more restrictions on electronic cigarettes and vaporizer pens and raise the tax on each pack of cig-

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See WeHo women page 21

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### Calendar

#### 10 Photo Exhibit
Astronauts and their families will lead a discussion on his exhibit “It Started in the ’60s” on Thursday, March 10 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Perfect Exposure Gallery. Simmons will discuss his photography, philosophy on life and growing up in Chicago during the 1960s. 3519 West Sixth St. (312)381-1137, www.theperfectexposuregallery.com.

#### 12 Gardening Class
Register for a landscape redesign seminar on Saturday, March 12 from 9 a.m. to noon at the West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room. Participants will learn how to design gardens and landscaping to capture rainwater and how to organize plants according to water use and design principles. 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. (310)844-8351, or email Clases@WatershedWiseTraining.com.

#### Spring Boutique
St. Anne’s Guild invites the public to celebrate the changing season at its annual Spring Boutique on Saturday, March 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Handcrafted items, Easter baskets, toys, books, clothing, jewelry and more will be offered. Proceeds benefit St. Anne’s Guild’s programs for women, children and families. Box lunches are available for $25 and must be ordered in advance. 155 N. Occidental Blvd. (312)381-2931 or (312)293-4748.

#### Mike Nichols Tribute
The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is holding a tribute to Mike Nichols (1931-2020) on Saturday, March 12 beginning at 3:30 p.m. The tribute begins with a screening of Nichols’ “The Graduate” (1967) followed by a discussion on his life and career. “The Graduate” will be shown after the discussion at 7:30 p.m. Individual movie tickets are $15; admission to the panel discussion is free. 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd. (323)848-6377, or email mche@weho.org.

#### ‘Beyond Jacob’s Ladder’
LA Print presents “Beyond Jacob’s Ladder” on Saturday, March 12 at 9:30 p.m. by a concert by Freedom Post 43 in Hollywood. The show starts Saturday, March 12 at American Legion Post 43 in Hollywood. The production coincides with the world premier of “Beyond Jacob’s Ladder” on Saturday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the National Council of Jewish Women, Los Angeles council house. The production is a modern retelling of an ancient story by 10 writers covering sibling rivalry, love, loss and what it means to find redemption. A question and answer session follows the show. Advance tickets for NEJWLA members are $25; admission is $40 at the door. 534 N. Fairfax Ave. (323)852-8536 or email maya@ncjwla.org.

#### ‘Things With Strings’
The Metropolitan Master Chorale presents “Things With Strings” on Saturday, March 12 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 13 at 2 p.m. in the West Hollywood City Council Chambers. The chorale’s concert features performances by a string quartet and string quintet with guitar accompaniment. Songs range from classical to contemporary. General admission tickets are $25-$20 for seniors, students, veterans and people with disabilities. $5 for children 12 and under. 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. (323)844-6377, or email mchore@weho.org.

#### Art Exhibit
Haphazard Gallery is holding an exhibit titled “Tidied,” a solo exhibition of new work by artist Megan Johnson, running Saturday, March 12 through Saturday, April 2. Johnson’s works in oil and watercolor on canvas and stretched paper focus on tides and their fluidity. The reception is scheduled March 12 from 7 to 9 p.m. 1543 Sawtelle Blvd. (310)960-1410, www.haphazard.co.

#### L.A. Hootenanny
L.A. Hootenanny performs at 9:30 p.m. by a concert by Freedom Post 43 in Hollywood. The show starts Saturday, March 12 at American Legion Post 43 in Hollywood. The production coincides with the world premier of “Beyond Jacob’s Ladder” on Saturday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the National Council of Jewish Women, Los Angeles council house. The production is a modern retelling of an ancient story by 10 writers covering sibling rivalry, love, loss and what it means to find redemption. A question and answer session follows the show. Advance tickets for NEJWLA members are $25; admission is $40 at the door. 534 N. Fairfax Ave. (323)852-8536 or email maya@ncjwla.org.

#### 13 Textiles Lecture
Join Ellison Findly, professor of European philosophy, poetics and literature, at Trinity College, for a discussion titled “Mythic Imagination” on Sunday, March 13 at 2 p.m. at the Fowler Museum at UCLA. Finally will examine ritual textiles and hybrid designs that are central to Laur-Tai culture in Laos. 308 Charles E. Young Drive North. www.fowler.ucla.edu.

#### ‘She’s History!’
The Los Angeles Philharmonic Association’s “She’s History!” event on Friday, March 18 at 8 p.m. at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre. Amos is one of the top flamenco guitarists of his generation and heir apparent to Paco de Lucía. The guitarist is from Corobóa, Spain, and is respected and admired for his innovation and renovation. Tickets start at $36. 4641 W. Eighth St. (323)939-1128, www.lafammencofestival.com.

#### ‘LA Print’ Lecture Series

- March 16 at 8 p.m. in the West Hollywood City Council Chambers. Co-hosted by the Los Angeles Art Book Fair, the lecture series continues with a forum titled “The Photographic Eye, the Cinematic Eye” with author and photographer Peter Momsen. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. www.americancinematheque.org.
- March 17 at 8 p.m. in the West Hollywood City Council Chambers. “She’s History!” event on Friday, March 18 at 8 p.m. at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre. Amos is one of the top flamenco guitarists of his generation and heir apparent to Paco de Lucía. The guitarist is from Corobóa, Spain, and is respected and admired for his innovation and renovation. Tickets start at $36. 4641 W. Eighth St. (323)939-1128, www.lafammencofestival.com.

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Hiking halted for four months at Runyon Canyon

90-year-old water pipe broke dozens of times over past decade

BY GREGORY CORNFIELD

Head to Runyon Canyon Park now while you can. On April 1, the city will close the parking hiking trails for four months to fix a 90-year-old water pipe.

“Public safety is the overarching reason to begin immediate work on this critical infrastructure project,” said Councilman David Ryu, 4th District. “This temporary closure, while inconvenient, is absolutely necessary in order to keep the surrounding neighborhoods safe by improving the park’s fire and flood protection systems.”

The closure was announced last Wednesday. Throughout the week, hikers stopped at the trailhead signs to read about the closure for the water system improvement project. Officials said they need to close the trails to replace a six-inch pipe that runs through the park, which is also a source of water for firefighters protecting the park and surrounding areas.

Runyon Canyon Park is one of the most popular and “most beloved” parks in the city with approximately 3,500 visitors per week. Officials said the closure is a “necessary inconvenience” that is “one of the facts of life of living with aging infrastructure.”

“The hiking trails are not just for water pipe maintenance. City officials will close the hiking trails in Runyon Canyon Park on April 1 for water pipe maintenance.

The park will be closed from April 1 to July 31, but it will reopen on August 1. Throughout the closure, crews will work from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.

“We’ll make every effort to deliver this project as quickly and as efficiently as possible,” he said. “When we’re done, we want to leave behind a park that’s better than what we have now, and that’s our commitment from DWP.”

Adams said there is no easy way to replace infrastructure that was installed before existing roads and homes were in place. But he said the project was necessary after at least 34 breaks in the park in the last 10 years on “one of our worst-rated pipelines in the system.”

The park will be closed from April 1 to July 31, but it will reopen earlier if work is completed ahead of schedule. Marty Adams, LADWP senior assistant general manager, said closing the trails completely, instead of leaving them partially open for hikers, cuts construction time in half and minimizes safety risks. Crews will work seven days per week in three staging areas. On weekdays, crews will work from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.

“We’ll make every effort to deliver this project as quickly and as efficiently as possible,” he said. “When we’re done, we want to leave behind a park that’s better than what we have now, and that’s our commitment from DWP.”

Adams said there is no easy way to replace infrastructure that was installed before existing roads and homes were in place. But he said the project was necessary after at least 34 breaks in the park in the last 10 years on “one of our worst-rated pipelines in the system.”

LAFD deputy chief Chuck Butler said replacing the water pipe will improve the current service capability of 400 gallons of water per minute and this will certainly be a major inconvenience,” Ryu said.

“However, the temporary closure of all hiking trails will allow additional crews to work faster and finish sooner in time for the summer and fall fire season. And most importantly, it keeps the public away from the equipment and open trenches.”

The hiking trails are not just a source of water for firefighters protecting the park and surrounding areas. Runyon Canyon Park is one of the most popular and “most beloved” parks in the city, with approximately 3,500 visitors per week. Officials said the closure is a “necessary inconvenience” that is “one of the facts of life of living with aging infrastructure.”

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**Retired LAPD sergeant charged after standoff**

- **Defendant accused of assault during domestic dispute**

**BY EDWIN FOLVEN**

- Felony charges were filed Tuesday against a retired Los Angeles Police Department sergeant who allegedly assaulted his husband with a handgun at a residence in West Hollywood last Friday, prompting a nearly four-hour standoff with sheriff's deputies.

  - The defendant, Mitchell Grobeson, 57, is facing one felony count of assault with a firearm and making criminal threats. The incident was reported at approximately 10:30 a.m. in the 12800 block of West Knoll Drive, said Lt. David Smith with the West Hollywood Sheriff's Station.

  - Grobeson is accused of pointing a handgun at his spouse and demanding that she return to the residence following a domestic dispute, according to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. The victim left, but called sheriff's deputies and asked them to accompany him to the residence to retrieve personal belongings.

**Police seek suspects in Hollywood burglary and “scratcher” ticket theft**

- Police are searching for two suspects who burglarized a mini-market in Hollywood on Feb. 22 and stole several hundred lottery “scratcher” tickets.

  - The two male suspects smashed a window at a store in the 12800 block of North Las Palmas Avenue at approximately 4:20 a.m. and stole the tickets.

  - Police later obtained surveillance footage of the men redeeming winning lottery tickets at different liquor stores, convenience stores and gas stations in neighboring areas.

  - The Los Angeles Police Department's Olympic, Rampart and Central Divisions.

  - One suspect is described as African American, 46 to 55 years old, 5 feet 10 inches to 6 feet tall and approximately 150 to 170 pounds. The second suspect is African American, 35 to 45 years old, 5 feet 6 to 5 feet 10 inches tall and approximately 210 to 240 pounds.

  - Anyone with information is asked to contact Dets. Aluotto or Velasco, with the LAPD's Rampart Division, at (213)972-8029 or (213)972-2931.

**Feuer secures order forcing nuisance motel to close**

- Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer has announced that his office has secured a court order for the one-year closure of the Bronco Motel in South Los Angeles. The decision was made after the owner repeatedly violated terms of a permanent injunction by failing to make necessary improvements to stop rampant gang and narcotics activity. The property is expected to be closed in the next 60 days.

  - When served an injunction to stop the rampant criminal activity associated with this motel, we expected the owner to comply,” Feuer said. “That’s what the neighborhood deserves. So when the owner failed to follow through, we insisted the property be closed. This community deserves to be safe.”

  - A permanent injunction was issued on June 15 against Vaudel, Inc., the owner of the Bronco Motel, located at 5501 S. Western Avenue, and the motel's owner, who are accused of allowing “a gang and narcotics sales, multiple gun arrests, a gang-related homicide and a shooting,” according to the complaint.

  - Judge John Doyle ruled that the motel owners and operators repeated violated the terms of the injunction.

**Councilman calls for reexamination of Prop. 47 funds**

- City and community leaders recently called on state lawmakers to fund the proposed expansion of Prop. 47 in this year’s state budget.

  - Councilman Marqueece Harris-Dawson, 8th District, introduced a resolution Tuesday that was passed unanimously by the city council urging state lawmakers to reevaluate the formula that determines funding for reentry, drug treatment, mental health, youth development and crime victim services. The motion also calls for the state to fully fund the initiative in the June budget.

  - “We are calling on our leaders in Sacramento to ensure local communities, especially here in Los Angeles, have the resources they need to properly fund services and to ensure we have the ability to meet our public safety needs,” Harris-Dawson said. “Proposition 47 is saving the state millions in reduced prison and other costs, but if we don’t uphold the law and reinvest that money in our local communities, we are setting ourselves up for failure.”

  - The measure passed Proposition 47 in November 2014. It changed the lowest level, nonviolent crimes like drug possession and shoplifting from $950 to felonies under $2,500. It also aimed to divert the state from sending drug offenders to prison and other costs, but if we don’t uphold the law and reinvest that money in our local communities, we are setting ourselves up for failure.”

  - The governor estimated $29.3 million in savings from Prop. 47 in his January state budget proposal. It could have a dramatic impact on the city and county of Los Angeles, Harris-Dawson said.

  - The Los Angeles County public defender’s office estimates that the defender estimate approximately 690,000 residents in Los Angeles County are eligible for reclassification under Proposition 47. Additional funds could be provided to the city and county.

**What does CAMBRA mean for you?**

- The usual suspects in the disease of carries are:

  - **Bacteria**
  - **Pt. Diet**
  - **Saliva**
  - **Genomes**

- We want to cover bacteria and pH together since they are very hard to separate. Bacteria are a very real problem because the entire mass of different bacteria found in our mouth is a sickly thin film on the teeth called biofilm. The pH of the saliva and the bacteria can be like drug possession and shoplifting for the biofilm. If the biofilm gets acidic then nice bacteria can start behaving badly. No longer are there only 3 bacteria that cause cavities, but now over 40 bacteria have been identified as play... We will be focusing on the biofilm that exists on the teeth and the mouth, but keep in mind that the biofilm is not just the teeth. It is a film made of bacteria and acid that accumulate on the teeth and gums.

**Why are the teeth so important?**

- The teeth are a very important part of the body because they help us eat. They are also an important part of speech. And the gums are very important because they hold the teeth in place.

**What can we do to prevent cavities?**

- There are many things we can do to prevent cavities. But the most important thing is to keep the teeth clean. This means brushing and flossing regularly. It also means seeing a dentist regularly. And it means eating a healthy diet.

**What can we do to prevent gum disease?**

- There are many things we can do to prevent gum disease. But the most important thing is to keep the teeth clean. This means brushing and flossing regularly. It also means seeing a dentist regularly. And it means eating a healthy diet.

**What can we do to prevent bad breath?**

- There are many things we can do to prevent bad breath. But the most important thing is to keep the teeth clean. This means brushing and flossing regularly. It also means seeing a dentist regularly. And it means eating a healthy diet.

**What can we do to prevent tooth decay?**

- There are many things we can do to prevent tooth decay. But the most important thing is to keep the teeth clean. This means brushing and flossing regularly. It also means seeing a dentist regularly. And it means eating a healthy diet.

**What can we do to prevent oral cancer?**

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Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, is calling for new regulations on street tree pruning after tree trimmers hired by a billboard company allegedly damaged nine trees at the Sunset Plaza Triangle in Silver Lake.

The damage occurred in December between Christmas and New Year’s Eve. A field deputy for O’Farrell reported the incident in early January, and the councilman also learned about it through angry Facebook posts, said Tony Arranaga, communications director for O’Farrell. Six of the nine trees were pruned excessively, according to the councilman. Three need to be replaced.

The city addresses illegal street tree trimming as a code violation of failing to obtain a permit. Offenses can be punishable as misdemeanors resulting in $1,000 fines, according to Arranaga. The councilman is looking to put more teeth in the law and called the tree trimming at Sunset Triangle Plaza “vandalism.”

“I asked the bureau of street services and the city attorney to report on the establishment of administrative fines and other potential improvements to current practices in order to preserve our urban canopy,” O’Farrell said.

“My goal is to create a more robust policy that will provide more tools to crack down on these acts of vandalism.”

Arranaga said the trees were allegedly trimmed by a company hired by Outfront Media because they blocked views of a billboard on a nearby building. Arranaga said O’Farrell is working with the billboard company on remediation, but no further specifics have been disclosed.

Frank Mateljan, a spokesman for the Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office, said no case regarding the trimming is pending and information about the incident has not been referred to the city attorney’s office. Mateljan added that the city attorney’s office is currently drafting a response to O’Farrell’s request for tougher regulations.

“We’re waiting to hear back,” Arranaga said. “It’s going through the public process.”

O’Farrell’s motion was considered on Feb. 22 in the council’s Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee. Once a report is received from the city attorney’s office and bureau of street services, the motion will likely be evaluated by other council committees before going before the full city council.

Mayor Eric Garcetti this month announced a citywide effort to help prepare employers and employees for L.A.’s minimum wage increase that is due to take effect in July.

The first increase goes into effect on July 1, mandating a minimum wage of $10.50 for companies that have 26 or more employees. The rate will go up for small business employees in 2017.

To ensure a smooth transition and maximize compliance with the new law, the city’s Bureau of Contract Administration (BCA) is launching an extensive public education initiative to help prepare employers for the salary increase and to inform employees of their rights.

The BCA will initially provide a series of trainings for city staff, neighborhood councils, business associations and labor unions on how to best educate their constituencies and members. The city will also partner with grassroots community outreach organizations to spread the word to working people and businesses throughout Los Angeles.

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 Residents of the Miracle Mile had the opportunity to speak with Congresswoman Karen Bass, D-Calif., Tuesday night at the first “Congressional Conversation Series.” Bass will visit neighborhoods in her district to meet residents, hear their concerns and answer questions.

During Tuesday’s event at the Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies, nearly 50 residents discussed topics ranging from Metro Purple Line construction to the La Brea Tar Pits construction plans. Bass addressed most of the concerns herself, but Metro representatives answered questions as well.

Residents asked how the new Metro stations will fit into the area’s existing architecture, and many had questions about how Metro will work around the area’s natural landscape, such as the La Brea Tar Pits. Livingston Lake, construction relations officer for the Purple Line Extension, said Metro has been working closely with the Miracle Mile Residential Association (MMRA) to ensure that new structures built by Metro coincide with MMRA’s standards. She and other Metro representatives also said they are monitoring construction sites carefully and are in constant communication with the La Brea Tar Pits and Museum to protect the geological conditions of the area.

“I live very close to the Tar Pits, so if something is off I’ll know right away,” Lake said.

Homelessness was another concern for many residents and Bass explained how she is working on legislation that affects prisons and mental health facilities. The lack of mental health support and current prison regulations she said, are two contributing factors to homelessness.

Brandon Abraham, a teacher at Manual Arts High School, said he came to the event to raise awareness about overcrowded charter schools. He said many teachers in the district and across the state have concerns about charter schools using public school facilities, and while he doesn’t oppose the charter school system as a whole, he said he wanted to bring the issue to Bass’ attention.

“It’s one thing to start your own charter school with your own space, but when you infringe on an existing public school you change the culture of our campus. That’s a big problem,” Abraham said. “[Bass] seemed to be listening, and she seemed full of empathy. She was taking notes the entire time, and I think she did a good job at trying to address everyone’s concerns. I hope she takes what we said to heart and genuinely listens and wants to hear from people,” Roth said. “She also follows up with many of the comments. A recent example is from a recent town hall meeting where people raised a lot of concerns about Apple and the FBI. [Bass] took those questions directly to the FBI. She really sees herself as being a representative for the people.” Bass said the Congressional

See Bass page 8

Join us for an open house event Thursday, March 24, 2016 from 12:00pm-2:00pm and 5:00pm-7:00pm.

THE LOFT at Beverly Place is a new concept in urban living, combining a full range of amenities and urban-living features while focusing on brain health and independence. Join us for a special open house event to tour THE LOFT, meet the leadership team and enjoy drinks & hors d’oeuvres.

Visit silveradocare.com/Loft3SVP or Call 1.866.907.1842 to reserve your spot.
The West Hollywood City Council on Monday approved a 45-day moratorium on the demolition of Craftsman-style homes while the city studies the possibility of designating the residences historic status or creating a special historic Craftsman home district.

The moratorium follows a request by Councilman John Duran to examine whether Craftsman-style houses on Lexington Avenue should be preserved. The city received positive feedback about the plan, and the study was expanded to homes on Hampton and Norton Avenues, said John Keho, assistant director of community development for West Hollywood. He estimated that approximately 60 Craftsman-style homes are located on the streets.

"The city wants to look at them because there was a large number of comments from people in the neighborhoods who believe there is significant history with these homes," Keho said. "We will hire a consultant to do a survey."

Keho said the study is expected to take 60 to 90 days. The 45-day moratorium on demolition can be extended as needed by the council.

Rachel Dimond, senior planner and historic preservation commission liaison for West Hollywood, said the homes represent a bygone era. Many are 100 or more years old.

"They are all Craftsman structures from the early 20th century and represent the first developments outside of Old Sherman, which was the first town that is now West Hollywood," Dimond said. "It was located outside of the agricultural fields that were once here. These represented the first worker-style family houses in the area around 1910 to the late '20s."

Dimond said the consultant will evaluate the homes' architecture and whether they have "characteristic designing features of the Craftsman-era." Keho said particular attention will be paid to whether the homes were remodeled or altered over the years.

"Many times they have been remodeled so significantly they might not be considered historic," Keho added.

The study’s findings will be evaluated by the city’s historic preservation commission prior to being sent to the city council, which will make final decisions on whether individual properties should be granted historic status.

If a significant number of homes are determined to be historically significant, the council could create a preservation district. The neighborhood around Harper Avenue, north of Fountain Avenue, was previously designated as a historic district because apartment buildings there housed actors and others involved in the early days of the film industry.

Victor Omerleczenko, a member of the West Hollywood Preservation Alliance, applauded the city council for approving the moratorium and launching the study. The alliance lobbied the city council to evaluate the homes.

"The moratorium gives these Craftsman homes some degree of protection while the historic survey is being conducted," Omerleczenko said. "We are very happy the city council was open to this moratorium. It’s a very good sign."

Vctor Omelczenko
West Hollywood
Preservation Alliance

The West Hollywood City Council has approved a moratorium on the demolition of Craftsman-style homes while the city conducts a survey on whether the residences should be granted historic status.
Residents will have a new role in helping the Wilshire Division fight crime with the newly formed Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) comprised of neighborhood council and business representatives.

The new board is scheduled to meet for the first time on March 17. The CPAB will have eight members representing the six neighborhood councils in the LAPD’s Wilshire Division, as well as the Miracle Mile Chamber of Commerce and the Melrose Business Improvement District.

Commanding officer Capt. Howard Leslie said the CPAB will focus on crime issues in individual neighborhoods and members will serve as liaisons between the police department and residents.

"Statistically, I can tell you where the crime is, but statistics don’t always tell me about neighborhood problems. Sometimes there are issues residents know about that hasn’t been brought to our attention,” Leslie said. “Their biggest concern might be traffic problems or a major crime issue but affect the lives of people in the neighborhood. I think it’s important for us to find out what is affecting neighborhoods and what people see as a problem.”

A previous CPAB dating back to the 1990s was dissolved. Leslie said the former CPAB no longer represented the individual communities in the Wilshire Division and was comprised of a patchwork of people who attended meetings sporadically.

"Before, I didn’t have representation who had the ability to go back to their neighborhoods and spread the information," Leslie said. “People would just show up and it wasn’t as effective as I would have liked.”

Julie Stromberg, a board member for the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council, will serve on the new Wilshire Division CPAB. She said it is an “exciting” opportunity that will enable the neighborhood council to become more involved in public safety. Leslie reached out to Stromberg because of her community involvement on the neighborhood council and as a member of the Ebell of Los Angeles.

“I have been interested in becoming more involved with the police department. The department has been working really hard with outreach and trying to disseminate information on criminal activity and events,” Stromberg said. “I would like to help them with their outreach and create a better symbiotic relationship between the community and the police department.”

Leslie asked the new CPAB members to discuss crime issues with others in their neighborhoods and present them at the first meeting with others in their neighborhoods.

Stromberg, who lives in Windsor Square, said issues one-by-one. Leslie said CPAB meetings will not be open to the public because she wants to work directly with the board members. The goal is for the CPAB members to field community concerns prior to meetings and present them to authorities, as opposed to having a large group of people show up at meetings to present issues one-by-one. Leslie said the CPAB may grow to include more members and hold public meetings.

“It may grow by a small amount but if I want it to be manageable in size,” Leslie said. “If people want to be involved in sub-committees, the board can determine if that’s appropriate. We will be posting information about the meetings on our website at lapdwlaphire.com.”

Capt. Leslie said the CPAB will meet on the third Thursday of each month. He will provide direction at the first meeting, but will soon hand the reins to other command staff members, as the captain is transferring to the LAPD’s Central Division on March 20 as that division’s new commanding officer.

Capt. Rolando Solano, the incoming commanding officer for the Wilshire Division, said he has been briefed about the new CPAB and looks forward to working with members. Solano previously served as commanding officer at the LAPD’s West Traffic and West Los Angeles Divisions, and said community outreach is a major part of promoting public safety.

“These boards are critical,” Solano said. “If you live in a community where the problem is not violent crime but there is a continuing problem, we want to hear about it.”

Folven: "It’s a really a lot of fun. It’s sort of in the experimental phase because we’ve been figuring out the best way to reach people and come to conversations, and we wait and see what the turnout is. I really enjoy working with the community to interact with people, and they seem to really like the idea of meeting their Congressmen of the 37th District by not just addressing issues, but by going forth with ideas."
Young women encouraged to become legal leaders

With winter storm weather in the forecast for Friday and next week, Mayor Eric Garcetti reminded Angelenos to take advantage of the city’s inclement weather policy, which keeps homeless residents safe and out of their sensitive buildings during harsh winter weather.

The inclement weather policy directs the Los Angeles County Fire Department’s Operations Center to activate Inclement Weather Shelters at designated locations across the city when heavy rains, cold temperatures and high winds hit. The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) manages these temporary shelters and notifies existing shelter residents that women’s meaningful representation in decision-making around the United Nations is a key example of the effectiveness and sustainability of these efforts,” the senators wrote in the letter. “Additionally, a female Secretary-General would bring a different perspective on the numerous challenges facing the UN and would help to ensure further dedicated attention to gender throughout the organization.”

The letter noted the lack of representation of women in top leadership positions at the UN, with men appointed to nearly 92 percent of high-level senior positions. Despite Secretary-General Ban’s previous efforts to promote women to senior leadership positions, men have since replaced many of these female leaders.

In 1997, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution that called for the consideration of regional rotation as a part of the election of Secretary-General as well as gender equality. While the UN has upheld the consideration of regional rotation, it has not given full consideration to gender equality.

Under the terms of the UN Charter, all member states are allowed to nominate potential candidates to the Security Council. The recommendation of the Security Council requires at least nine votes in favor, out of the 15 members, and must include the support of all of the five permanent members.

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"We are doing everything possible to keep residents safe during the El Nino winter weather." - Mayor Eric Garcetti

Sen. Feinstein supports new appeals court judge

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), a senior member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has announced her support for President Barack Obama’s nomination of Judge Lucy H. Koh as a U.S. Circuit Judge for the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

"Lucy Koh has excelled in her role as a district judge for the Northern District of California, and I’m so pleased she is being nominated to the 9th Circuit," Feinstein said. "Lucy Koh is a highly respected member of the federal judiciary and will bring a wide range of experience to the 9th Circuit, having served as a state and federal judge, federal prosecutor and partner at a major law firm. Having confirmed Judge Koh unanimously more than five years ago, I hope the Senate moves quickly on her nomination.”

Lucy Koh has served as a federal district judge in the Northern District of California since 2010, when she became the first Korean-American woman to serve as a federal district court judge. She was confirmed unanimously by the Senate, 90-0.

Koh also previously served as a superior court judge for Santa Clara County, an assistant U.S. attorney for the Central District of California and counsel at the Justice Department and U.S. Senate. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals is based in Pasadena.

Committee approves bills supporting homeless vets

The House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs last week unanimously passed two bills authored by Congressman Ted W. Lieu (D-Los Angeles) H.R. 3484, the “Los Angeles Homeless Veterans Leasing Act of 2016” grants the Secretary of Veterans Affairs leasing authority to construct permanent supportive housing on the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center campus.

Congressman Lieu thanked Chairwoman Jeff Miller, Ranking Member Corrine Brown, and the members of the House Committee of Veterans’ Affairs."These bills [each address urgent needs for our local Veterans. Los Angeles County has the highest number of homeless veterans in the nation," Lieu said. "One immediate need is to build a proportionate number of permanent housing units for our homeless Veterans. H.R. 3484 will grant the VA the authority to begin implementing this key component of the West LA VA Master Plan."

Lieu explained that H.R. 3434 would authorize an additional $35 million for critical seismic retrofits for buildings on the campus.

Boxer urges Obama to push for first woman UN Secretary-General

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) today praised the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs for advancing two bills authored by Congressman Ted W. Lieu (D-Los Angeles) "These bills [each address urgent needs for our local Veterans. Los Angeles County has the highest number of homeless veterans in the nation," Lieu said. "One immediate need is to build a proportionate number of permanent housing units for our homeless Veterans. H.R. 3484 will grant the VA the authority to begin implementing this key component of the West LA VA Master Plan."

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The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) will celebrate Nowruz, the Iranian New Year, with activities throughout LACMA’s campus on Sunday, March 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. The celebration includes storytelling, calligraphy and crafts rom 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Director’s Roundtable Garden.

A traditional Iranian costume parade, dance and musical performances, and Haft Sin display will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. in the L.A. Times Central Court and Hancock Park.

In addition to Iranian New Year, Nowruz celebrates the coming of spring.

The group NIYAZ will also perform at 5 p.m. in Hancock Park, a park space surrounding the museum. NIYAZ blends medieval Sufi poetry and folk songs from the group’s native Iran and surrounding countries.

LACMA is located at 5905 Wilshire Blvd. For information, call (323) 857-6000, or visit www.lacma.org.

LACMA is celebrating Nowruz on March 13 with a parade, music and family activities.

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LAUSD offers new online resources for art study

The Arts Consortium and the Arts Education Branch of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) has launched Artscape, an innovative arts-integration website to bring the arts to traditional classroom subjects. The goal is to engage students and enhance academic performance.

Artscape showcases LAUSD’s “Art & Artifact” collection and uses artwork to aid teachers and inspire students. The first-of-its-kind website can be viewed at www.artscape-integrate.org.

Artscape will host ongoing exhibits featuring the paintings, drawings, ancient artifacts, rare books and historic photographs housed in the district’s collections. It opens the collection to public access for the first time. The exhibits are tied thematically to learning resources for elementary and high school students and teachers.

Artscape provides interactive, interdisciplinary lesson plans for primary and secondary level students. All lesson plans are based on themes related to the site’s exhibits and use photographs of artworks from the district’s collection as visual aids for classroom instruction.

Artscape also promotes student self-expression through exploring art. Students are invited to self-reflect and think critically by entering arts-based essay contests. The contests will be offered twice yearly, and students can win gift cards and have their writing published on the website. Students can also submit their personal artwork for consideration for Artscape’s Student Gallery. All published student essays and artwork will be permanently available on Artscape, providing valuable reference materials for student college applications.

Artscape’s ongoing Guest Artist Spotlight bridges aspiring student artists and established artists from the contemporary art scene. The first guest artist featured is Nathan Sawaya, who works with LEGO blocks.

For information, visit www.achieve.lausd.net/arts.

LaUSD board member Dr. Ref Rodriguez authored the resolution to recognize teachers, students, administrators and parents affected by multiple sclerosis. As a community, acknowledging the barriers that exist for those who battle diseases like multiple sclerosis is important to ensuring the district remains as inclusive as possible, Rodriguez said.

“In order to give all students an equal opportunity to learn in the classroom, it is critical that we quickly assess students’ needs and ensure that they have the necessary resources to be successful,” he added.

Multiple sclerosis is a disease of the central nervous system that varies from person to person. In Los Angeles County, approximately 11,000 people are afflicted with multiple sclerosis. Raising awareness about the symptoms is incredibly important, Rodriguez said. An estimated 10 percent of individuals experience symptoms before turning 18 years old. The resolution calls for the district to recognize and raise awareness about the disease.

District raises awareness about multiple sclerosis

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education unanimously passed a resolution Tuesday recognizing March as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month.

LAUSD board member Dr. Ref Rodriguez authored the resolution to recognize teachers, students, administrators and parents affected by multiple sclerosis. As a community, acknowledging the barriers that exist for those who battle diseases like multiple sclerosis is important to ensuring the district remains as inclusive as possible, Rodriguez said.

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The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) will hold its “Customer Service Saturday” event on its 13th year on Saturday, March 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at customer service centers in West Los Angeles, Van Nuys, Watts and the Crenshaw District. The West Los Angeles service center is located at 1394 S. Sepulveda Blvd.

Customers can receive assistance from staff members who will accept payments, process service order requests, answer billing questions and resolve billing issues. Informational displays will offer information on LADWP programs and services. LADWP will host customer workshops at its Crenshaw and Van Nuys locations. This month’s workshop topic is the LADWP Solar Incentive Program and how generating renewable energy can help customers save on their electric bills. Representatives will also answer questions on solar billing and how to read meters. For information, schedule and addresses for the other service centers, visit www.ladwp.com/saturdays.

CHLA launches #MakeMarchMatter

Children’s Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) has launched Make March Matter, a month-long campaign to rally local businesses and individuals in support of children’s health. "This year, one of the first of this annual campaign is to raise $1 million to support critical, life-saving care. In addition to the new fishing, the work will including rolling gates at the street level parking lot on Hollywood Boulevard to allow for better traffic flow. In partnership with the Barnsdall Art Park Foundation, O Farrell is looking into funding more security measures and revitalizing the currently inaccessible Schindler’s Terrace.

Barnsdall Art Park is a city-owned facility near Vermont Avenue and Hollywood Boulevard. It includes an art gallery and the famed Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Hollyhock House, which recently underwent a $4 million renovation. The house’s former garage is being converted into a bookstore, and the motor court will be restored in the coming months. For information, visit www.cd13.com.

City council celebrates World Spay Day

Councilmember Paul Koretz, 5th District, recently joined L.A. Animal Services and 30 spay/neuter partners to celebrate National Spay/Neuter Awareness Month and World Spay Day at Los Angeles City Hall.

On display were spay/neuter vans used by the Lucy Pet Foundation, Amanda Foundation, and SpayLA, which provide mobile services to neighborhoods.

L.A. Animal Services also brought shelter pets that were available for adoption. All cats and dogs adopted from L.A. Animal Shelters are spayed or neutered, vaccinated and microchipped.

"We are excited to celebrate World Spay Day and raise awareness about the importance of spaying and neutering pets," said DeAnn Marshall, senior vice president at CHLA. "By spaying or neutering your pet and encouraging others to do so, you are helping to eliminate unwanted pets’ births, reduce the number of homeless animals and decrease the number of pets crowding our city animal shelters."

It is the law in Los Angeles that all cats and dogs are spayed or neutered after the age of four months. Spaying or neutering reduces the demands on shelters and may improve the lives of our four-legged best friends. Spaying or neutering can also reduce the risk of cancers and other diseases and can eliminate undesirable behaviors such as fighting or spraying.

LADWP invites residents to ‘Customer Service Saturday’

The Los Angeles Children’s Chorus (LACC) will honor four visionaries who have left their mark on the chorus at its Gala Bell Canato on Wednesday, March 16 at 6 p.m. at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles.

The gala will honor five-time Academy Award-winning film composer John Williams and LACC founding director Rebecca Thompson. Longtime LACC supporter and arts patrons Eileen and Ken Leech will also be recognized for their dedication to the chorus.

Actress Jane Kaczmarek will host the celebration, which includes musical tributes by 300 singers from five LACC ensembles led by artistic director Anne Tomlinson. Audience members will also enjoy a three-course dinner, wine and a live auction. Proceeds benefit Los Angeles Children’s Chorus’ artistic, educational and scholarship programs.

"We are proud to recognize these distinguished honorees for their immeasurable contributions to the Los Angeles Children’s Chorus," said Gala Bell Canato chair Cheryl R. Scheidemantle. “Without Rebecca Thompson, there would be no LACC. John Williams, whose exceptional music has touched people around the world, has collaborated with LACC on numerous projects, providing unparalleled artistic opportunities for our choristers. And Eileen and Ken Leech have been steadfast supporters of the chorus for nearly two decades, helping to bolster LACC in its mission to provide outstanding choral music training to children."

Tickets are $375. The Millennium Biltmore Hotel is located at 506 S. Grand Ave. For tickets and information, call (626)793-4231, or visit www.gala-bellcanato.org.

Los Angeles Ballet celebrates tenth season

The Los Angeles Ballet (LAB) will host its tenth season gala on Saturday, March 12 at the Skirball Cultural Center. LAB is partnering with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and music director Gustavo Dudamel to honor the ballet company’s decade of dance as well as the visionary individuals who have made significant contributions to the arts.

Honorees include Robert Day, chairman and CEO of the WMI Keck Foundation, who will receive the Angel Award; and actor, dancer and singer Ben Vereen, who will receive the Spirit Award. Humanity and past LAB Global Impact honoree Ghada Injam will present the award to Day, and vocalist Paula Abdul will present the honors to Vereen.

The gala will feature dance routines and music from the compa- ny’s production of “Don Quixote” and a live pledge drive. Proceeds from the gala support LAB’s arts and outreach programs throughout Los Angeles County.

Founded by artistic directors Theoild Chirstensen and Colleen Neary, LAB is known for its pro- ductions of Balanchine repertory, stylistically meticolous classical ballets and a commitment to new works. At the end of the tenth se- ason, LAB will have presented 32 productions with 54 works, includ- ing 15 commissioned world pre- mieres. In addition to “Don Quixote,” which runs through March 26 at different venues throughout the county, LAB’s tenth season featured an original staging of The Nutcracker set in 1913 Los Angeles during the holi- days and will conclude with the company’s premiere of Frederick Ashton’s “Romeo and Juliet” run- ning May 7 through June 4.

The gala begins at 6 p.m. with a cocktail reception and viewing of Liluhammer’s fashion installation, fol- lowed by dinner, tributes and the performance at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets start at $75. The Skirball Cultural Center is located at 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd. For information call (310)989-7782, or visit www.labollet.org.

LACO examines the brain, hearing loss and music

The performance will also fea- ture LACO assistant concertmas- ter Tereza Stanislav and violinist Susan Ruhik, violinist Robert Brophy and cellist Trevor Bayard in a collaborative demonstration with Kahane on keyboard.

Tickets start at $65. The Moss Theater is located at 3131 Olympic Blvd. in Santa Monica. For information and tickets, call (310)822-7003, or visit www.laco.org.
Return of Thai tea

Enjoy refreshingly tart and tangy blood orange, passion fruit and pineapple flavored sweet tea ice blended beverages toasting the S2 Spring Open House at The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf. The teas are made from handpicked, loose leaf Assam black tea with fruit for a refreshing twist on the classic ice blended varieties. Guests may also enjoy sweet and creamy Thai tea beverages. Guests who visit participating stores on March 10 from 6 to 6 p.m. may enjoy any 12-ounce spring beverage for $2. Thai teas are available until May 15.

New Dog Haus opens in NoHo

Get a free dog on Friday, March 11 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the gourmet hot dog, sausage and burger hot spot’s new location in North Hollywood. The Dog Haus was founded in 2010 by partners Hagop Giragossian, Quasim Riaz and André Vener to recapture their nostalgic childhood experience of enjoying hot dogs. Franchisee Diana Ramos welcomes everyone and André Vener to recapture their nostalgic childhood experience of enjoying hot dogs. Franchisee Diana Ramos welcomes everyone.

National Noodle Day

National Eat Your Noodles Day is observed on Friday, March 11. Celebrate at Obicà Mozzarella Bar, Pizza e Cucina, which makes all pastas in-house and serves them with sauces rich in flavor and made from local, organic ingredients. They include paccheri pasta with tomato sauce, basil and creamy mozzarella di bufala, homemade squid ink tagliatelli with crab ragù and Santa Barbara sea urchin; and squid ink taglierini with crab ragù, mozzarella di bufala; homemade tomato sauce, basil and creamy mozzarella di bufala; homemade tomato sauce, basil and creamy mozzarella di bufala.

March Madness at Rock & Brews

The rock-inspired, family-friendly Rock & Brews will broadcast the 2016 Men’s NCAA Basketball Tournament games on multiple screens and offer March Madness beer specials. The fun begins Tuesday, March 15 and runs through Monday, April 4 for the national championship game. Rock & Brews will also host “Battle of the Brews,” pitting beers against each other in a tournament-style competition. Guests are invited to vote for their favorite beers to advance to the championship. The winning brand will win a tap takeover at the restaurant for a day. Rock & Brews will also offer play-er’s pint upgrades with 20-ounce pours of draft beers during all NCAA tournament games. Rock & Brews recently opened a new location inside Terminal 1 at LAX. It is Rock & Brews’ second location at LAX, with the first inside Terminal 5. 143 Main St., El Segundo. (310)615-9890.

Paul Martin’s American Grill

On Wednesday, March 16 and Thursday, March 17, enjoy a $25 St. Patrick’s Day special at Paul Martin’s American Grill that includes a house salad, braised corned beef with cabbage, baby carrots and red potatoes, 2361 Rosecrans Ave., El Segundo. (310)643-9300. A Pasadena location has opened at 455 S. Lake Ave.

St. Patrick’s Day at Tom Bergin’s

The iconic Tom Bergin’s Public House is celebrating 80 years of St. Patrick’s Day festivities with an indoor and outdoor St. Patrick’s Day bash on Thursday, March 17 from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. the following morning. Since opening in 1936, Tom Bergin’s has become one of the most beloved, historic Irish pubs. It has the second oldest liquor license in Los Angeles County. Mayor Eric Garcetti will attend St. Patrick’s Day at Tom Bergin’s on St. Patrick’s Day 2014. The outdoor St. Patrick’s Day festivities are held in the parking lot from 11 a.m. to midnight. A Guinness truck will feature taps pouring Guinness, Guinness Blonde, Guinness IPA and Harp Lager Guinness. Magners Irish Cider and Coors Light will be served in cups that turn green when filled with beer. Pints are $5. Irish-inspired cocktails will be available for $10 at four bars. Guests can play games on two beer pong tables and a DJ will spin popular tunes. The partially-vented area has picnic table seating and Tom Bergin’s merchandise will be available.

Boneyard Bistro

On St. Patrick’s Day, Boneyard Bistro will serve beer-battered cod and chips with seasoned fries, malt vinegar and tartar sauce. Enjoy the classic fish & chips with over 42 beers on tap and more than 100 craft beers.

Knuckle & Claw

Silver Lake’s seafood restaurant Knuckle & Claw is celebrating its first anniversary on Saturday, March 12 with 51 oysters and 59 half-bottles of champagne. Enjoy classic East Coast fare including lobster rolls, shrimp rolls and crab rolls. Knuckle & Claw also serves grilled cheese sandwiches and clam chowder. 3112 W. Sunset Blvd., (323)407-6142.

Half off whole pies on Pi Day

During lunch service on Pi Day, Monday, March 14, the newly-opened New York pizza truck Made in Brooklyn will sell whole pies at 50 percent off. The Made in Brooklyn truck will be at 3000 Exposition Blvd. from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Customers can also place orders by calling (323)844-3642.
Healthy fast casual dining makes LYFE better

by Jill Weinlein

Walking into LYFE’s newest fast-casual dining destination in Playa Vista, I was surprised at the dog-friendly cut-ting ceremony. The lively resta-

rant was abuzz with opening day festivities. Finding a seat at the din-

ing counter, I had the opportunity to meet Chance Carlisle, the president and CEO of LYFE. "Having worked closely with award-winning chefs and vegan consultants Art Smith "Soul Food" and Matt Ronnen during an 18 month taste

test, the end result was great tasting, healthier cuisine made from

scratch with menu items under 600 calories. The sodium counts are

lower than 100,000 free meals to LGBT youth and low-income

seniors each year. The evening will feature a screening of "City of Gold," a documentary chronicling Gold’s

taste and seventh in California," Carlisle said. "Isn’t it about time to let little ones eat healthy food, like their parents?

cardboard and only has 62 calories a glass.

Enjoy LGBT Center’s ‘Simply diVine’ benefit

The Los Angeles LGBT Center’s "Simply diVine" event – a premier food and wine event for the LGBT community – will be held Saturday, April 9 from 5 to 9 p.m. at McCadden Place in front of the Boulevard 34 at 8000 S. Sunset Blvd in El Segundo Plaza. Guests will sample food and beverages from many of L.A’s most popular restaurants, food trucks, wineries, distilleries, breweries, juicers and coffee roasters.

Pulitzer Prize-winning food critic Jonathan Gold will join the non-profit Careers through Culinary Arts Program (C-CAP) Los Angeles at the organization’s annual fundraiser on Monday, March 14. C-CAP Los Angeles provides food service career opportunities and culinary arts education for underserved youth. The evening will feature a screening of “City of Gold,” a documentary chronicling Gold’s

journey through Los Angeles’ cultural culinary scene.

Gold and the film’s director Laura Gabbert partnered with C-CAP Los Angeles on the project to raise awareness and funding. The benefit will be held at the Wine Bar at the Landmark Theatres Westside Pavilion. It begins with a reception featuring tastings from The Wine Exchange and beer from El Segundo Brewery. Some of Gold’s favorite foods will be served, including sliders from West Coast Prime Meats and pork tostadas from Susan Feniger and Mary Sue Milliken’s Border Grill. Culinarians and fruit from Melissa’s Produce, and an oyster bar, courtesy of Michael Cimarusti’s new Cape Seafood and Provisions, will be available. Spago will offer desserts.

During the movie, guests will get to vote and choose a winning pop-corn by Sherry Yard will be served.

After the film, KCRCW Good Food’s Evan Kleiman will moderate a question and answer session with Gold and Gabbert.

A reception begins at 6 p.m. and the documentary begins at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds support C-CAP Los Angeles’ programs. 10580 West Pico Blvd. Tickets are $101 and can be purchased by visiting ccapca.org. Call (213)352-1941 for more information.

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Enjoy ‘City of Gold’ with L.A. Times columnist Jonathan Gold

The Denise Fraser Trio, DJ Asha and members of the Eye of Newt Circus will provide entertain-

ment. Tickets start at $125. The Venue at Ed Gould Plaza is located at 1125 S. McCadden Place. For a complete list of ven-
dues, information and tickets, visit simplydivinela.org.

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37 March 10, 2016

Wörth Park La Brea News/Beverly Press

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37 March 10, 2016

Wörth Park La Brea News/Beverly Press
Feb. 29

At 3 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 4000 block of Leeward.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7400 block of Beverly at 4 p.m.

At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 600 block of S. Hayworth at 7:30 p.m.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8400 block of Beverly.

March 5

At 1:43 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 700 block of West Knoll at 6:30 a.m.

At 2 p.m., a suspect assaulted a victim in the 8400 block of Beverly.

March 6

At 12:30 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1400 block of N. Ivar.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 3800 block of N. Santa Monica at 2 a.m.

Detectives with the Los Angeles Police Department’s Rampart Division successfully helped identify a robbery suspect involved in multiple hold-ups committed in a two-hour period.

On Friday, Jan. 22, at approximately 5:40 p.m., the suspect entered a market located in the 1800 block of West Pico Boulevard. The suspect argued with the victim, grabbed a 12-pack of beer from a refrigerator, punched the victim, and fled on foot.

On that same date at approximately 6:30 p.m., the suspect approached another victim and demanded his phone. When the victim refused, the suspect punched him in the face.

The victim ran toward a group of people and a woman told the suspect to leave the victim alone. The suspect then demanded the victim’s wallet. When the victim refused, the suspect punched her in the face and fled on foot.

A suspect is described as a Hispanic man approximately 20 to 25 years old with a shaved head. He is 5 feet 6 inches tall, weighs approximately 140 pounds and has brown eyes.

In addition, surveillance camera footage of the suspect can be viewed by visiting lapdonline.org. Anyone with information is urged to call the detectives with the Rampart Division at (213) 484-3029.

———

Defendant charged with murder of victim found in box

A defendant was charged on March 4 with fatally stabbing an acquaintance whose body was found in a plastic storage container in the Baldwin Hills/Crenshaw area.

Kenneth Mullen Watkins, 28, was charged with one count of murder with the special allegation that he personally used a knife. Prosecutors said on Jan. 12, a family member reported 52-year-old Terry Nagle Benjamin missing. Tenants at an apartment complex in the 4100 block of Santa Tomás Drive had complained about a foul smell. The same day, the building owner went to Benjamin’s apartment and found his body inside a storage box. Benjamin was stabbed multiple times, prosecutors said.
St. Pat’s Day festivities at the Farmers Market

The Original Farmers Market, corner of Third and Fairfax, is holding its annual St. Patrick’s Day celebration on Thursday, March 17.

The Market will be decorated in an emerald hue during the Irish-themed, family-friendly celebration. Live music, Irish fare and green beer will be available throughout the day.

The entertainment runs from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., with Glen the strolling bagpiper playing Celtic tunes. From 6 to 9 p.m., Stuart Marks and The Paddy O’Does Band will perform on the West Patio stage.

Visitors can enjoy traditional Irish food at Magee’s Kitchen, which will serve its famous corned beef, cabbage and potatoes. Corned beef and cabbage has been on Magee’s menu since the 1940s and is made from an original recipe unchanged for the decades. The special St. Patrick’s Day price for the dish is $13.75. Normandie Bakery will offer special green St. Patty’s Day cookies. Zia Valentina will offer St. Patrick’s inspired green waffle espresso shots.

Beer lovers can revel in the selection at the Farmers Market bars – EB’s and Bar 326 – which are offering green beer and ale in addition to dozens of domestic and imported drafts, including Irish favorites Guinness and Harp. Live music will be presented by EB’s Beer & Wine.

The Original Farmers Market is located at 6333 W. Third St. For information, call (323) 933-9211, or visit www.farmersmarketla.com.

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The California Science Center Foundation has announced the route for Mission 26: ET Comes Home, the journey of the external tank (ET-94) used in space shuttle missions. The tank is being shipped from the Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans through the Panama Canal to Los Angeles. It will be pulled by a truck along streets to its final destination near the California Science Center. The Samuel Oschin Pavilion. The journey will take six to eight weeks. ET-94 is expected to arrive around May 21.

A space shuttle fuel tank is being shipped to Los Angeles, where it will be displayed at the California Science Center as part of the Space Shuttle Endeavour exhibit.

The California Science Center is located at 700 Exposition Park Drive. For information, call (323) 964-7100 or visit www.californiasciencecenter.org.

WHAT IF I DO NOT ESTATE PLANNING?

It is important to understand that the transfer of your property after your death may be determined by something other than the laws of intestacy, even when you die without a will. Title to certain categories of property may pass outside the probate estate. Generally, upon your death, your half interest in any community property presumably belongs to your surviving spouse. Additionally, if you own property as a tenant in common with your tenants with right of survivorship, the property will pass directly to the remaining joint tenant upon your death and will not be part of your probate estate (at will, however, be a part of your taxable estate). Effective planning requires a knowledge of the consequences of each property interest and type of ownership.

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The Autry presents new Native American coming-of-age story

The Autry Center for the American West presents Native Voices at the Autry’s premier of the production “They Don’t Talk Back” running through March 20.

Native Voices is the only theatre company dedicated exclusively to developing and producing new work by Native American artists. Frank Henry Kaash Kanie's play follows a troubled teen from a broken home who receives the culture shock of a lifetime when he is sent to live and work with his Tlingit grandparents in a remote fishing village in Alaska. A funny and heartfelt exploration of the meaning of family and life emerges in a contemporary coming-of-age story. Tickets are $10 for members; $20 for nonmembers. The Autry is located at 4700 Western Heritage Way. For information, call (323) 955-4354 or visit www.TheAutry.org/NativeVoices.
Drag Angeles opens to full house

Drag Angeles, a gallery that takes a look at the Los Angeles and West Hollywood drag scene from the late 1800s to today, boasted a full house during its opening reception on Saturday, March 5. The exhibit will be on view now through June 27.

During the event, photographer Austin Young took portraits of patrons and took a group photo to be displayed for the remainder of the exhibit.

Drag Angeles is a collaboration between West Hollywood Arts, the Los Angeles LGBT Center, Gochis Galleries and CAP UCLA with assistance from the ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives.

MOCA says ‘Don’t Look Back’ with its 90s exhibit

The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) will host an opening reception for MOCA members on Friday, March 11 for the new exhibit “Don’t Look Back: The 1990s” running March 12-July 11.

The exhibit will be located at The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA.

The exhibition includes works by Catherine Opie, Cady Noland, Sarah Sze and Paul McCarthy, among others.

“Don’t Look Back: The 1990s” is categorized into six sections titled: Installation; The Outmoded; Noir America: Place and Identity; Touch, Intimacy, and Queerness; and Space, Place, and Scale.

The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA is located at 152 N. Central Ave. For information, visit moca.org.

Women honored for media contributions

The Alliance for Women in Media Southern California Affiliate (AWM SoCal) announced the names of six women who will be honored at the 57th Genii Awards on Thursday, May 5 as part of Digital Hollywood.

Nicole Boxer, Christine Devine, Pat Prescott, Xanthe Wells, Maggie Bellville and Annette Covarrubias along with other women will be honored at the gala event at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles.

AWM SoCal is a nonprofit organization that helps to empower and fuel the professional development of women across the media landscape.

The awards, pronounced “Jeannie” and named in honor of Jeanne Gray McDonald, the Affiliate group founder, acknowledge the notable achievements of women in media and entertainment. Honorees are selected based on their pioneering efforts, dedicated leadership, commitment to quality and excellence and their community contributions.

“The Genii Awards honors Southern California talent within the arenas of radio, television, film, documentary, journalism and entertainment,” said Samantha Brown, AWM SoCal president. “We’re excited to celebrate the contributions of our esteemed colleagues.”

The Skirball Center is located at 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd.

For information visit awmsocalfoundation.org/genii-awards-2016.

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Together we’ll go far
Historically, Disney animated features don’t cover political issues, often favoring racial stereotypes and distanced darmons who neatly fit into domestic roles.

But “Zootopia” journeys down a different path, providing a dash of hope for the studio. For a third time, Disney Animation proves it need not rely on Pixar to tell a good animated tale.

The premise alone is incredibly imaginative. In the old days, animals gave into their basic instincts, providing a dash of imaginative. In the old days, animals gave into their basic instincts, but progress and evolution allowed them to step into a brighter future. They function just like normal humans, though many still maintain some characteristics of their roots.

Rabbits now farm land, often favoring carrots, but they still fear boxes. But that’s not the life Judy Hopps (voiced by Ginnifer Goodwin) hopes for herself. She thinks big, dreaming of patrolling the streets of Zootopia, a metropolis filled with animals in four districts – Tundratown, Little Rodentia, the Rainforest District and Sahara Square – for a missing person, but along the way, they discover something more dangerous that might threaten the stability of the great city.

Disney’s film trailer has never been more misleading. This isn’t just some cute kids movie with clever uses of animal characteristics. “Zootopia” depicts fear between species, namely carnivores and omnivores. The culture of fear reaches its peak in a heart-wrenching scene when an enormous tiger sits next to a mother rabbit and her baby in the subway. The mother pulls her baby away from the tiger – a visual that should resonant with anyone.

Of course, the cross-species analogy is far from perfect. What do you expect, “Animal Farm” greatness? It’s an astonishingly clever way throughout the film and clever way to discuss bigotry in such a clever way. In “Zootopia,” Elba is the highest profile non-white character, and only Octavia Spencer, as Mrs. Otterton, and Shakira, as pop singer Gazelle, are noteworthy beyond that. It seems fundamentally troubling to discuss bigotry in such a clever way through the film and miss such a glaring oversight. It’s like all the white folks involved here feel above it because of the head nod to the topic.

Hopefully this criticism does not undermine the film’s importance. Disney Animation finally gave us a princess film full of female empowerment in “Frozen,” depicted a diverse superhero team complete with an Asian lead in “Big Hero 6” (one of the most underrepresented groups in cinema) and now has created an incredible resource for young viewers and something even more complex for adults.

“Zootopia” is an incredible film, the first contender for best animated flick, and likely the winner unless “Finding Dory” proves it can be more than an unnecessary sequel. The criticism is just to remind everyone that progress isn’t just something for the animals in Zootopia. Once you reach one task, the task isn’t done. If we stop after a single victory, we allow token change to appease guilt without advancing us all to an actual utopia, something all mammals desperately need.

Best Friends Animal Society has made “The Champions,” a documentary about the pit bull terriers rescued from the fighting ring of NFL star Michael Vick, available for direct download through the organization’s website.

The award-winning film has worked to change perceptions of pit bulls. It was screened at film festivals across the country including the Hamptons International Film Festival, DOC NYC and most recently the Santa Barbara International Film Festival.

“This story proves that even creatures who have suffered the most unimaginable abuse have amazing strength, spirit and resilience,” said Darcy Dennett, director and producer of “The Champions.” “But the film also looks at the how pit bull terrier-type dogs are discriminated against as a breed.”

Best Friends Animal Society is sponsoring efforts to gain passage of California Assembly Bill 1825, introduced in February by Assemblymembers Richard Gordon and Brian Maienschein and coauthored by another 20 state legislators.

The bill seeks to give dogs seized in connection with fighting cases a second chance at life, by allowing professionals to individually evaluate them to determine whether they can be rehabilitated and safely reenter society, be placed with sanctuaries or euthanized if appropriate. The bill can be found online and takes into account the cross-species analogy and only Octavia Spencer, as Mrs. Otterton, and Shakira, as pop singer Gazelle, are noteworthy beyond that.

California law mandates that canine victims of cruelty seized and taken into custody in connection with convicted dog fighters are to be automatically deemed “vicious.” This is essentially a way out of their behavior or age.

Criminal seizures of canines in animal fighting busts include mother dogs, puppies, non-aggressive male dogs, dogs on the property but unrelated to any fighting enterprise or so-called “bad” dogs who are in some instances stolen pets.

For information, visit bestfriends.org/Champions or champions.documentary.com.

Zootopia is a metropolis filled with animals in four districts – Tundratown, Little Rodentia, the Rainforest District and Sahara Square.

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Ginnifer Goodwin provides the voice of Officer Judy Hopps (left) and Jason Bateman voices Nick Wilde in Disney’s “Zootopia.”
Immaculate Heart junior aces ACT test

Katie Hughes, a junior at Immaculate Heart High School in Los Angeles, scored a perfect 36 on the ACT test on March 6, 2016. Hughes, who has been a student at Immaculate Heart since her freshman year, is the first student in the school’s history to achieve a perfect score on the test.

Hughes, whose father James Hughes and mother Brenda Reyes live in Eagle Rock, excels in honors and AP classes at Immaculate Heart. She has earned her distinction as a scholar athlete and has competed on Immaculate Heart’s track and cross-country teams since her freshman year. Last fall, she served as captain of the school’s varsity cross-country team, which clinched the Sunshine League Championship for the third straight year. Hughes was named to the Sunshine League’s First Team All-League and advanced with other top Immaculate Heart runners to the CIF-Southern Section Finals.

Hughes also regularly volunteers in the community. For the past two years, she has picked fruit for Food Forward, an organization that donates food to people in need.

“The biggest way I juggle school, sports and other extracurricular activities is to just keep a positive attitude.”

Katie Hughes, Immaculate Heart High School junior

learned about her top score, especially since this was her first time taking the ACT test. “I actually found out in the middle of my track practice,” Hughes said. “I opened the email on my phone and when I saw it, my body just started shaking. I didn’t know how to react. I knew that I felt really good on test day, but I definitely wasn’t expecting this.”

Hughes, whose father James Hughes and mother Brenda Reyes live in Eagle Rock, excels in honors and AP classes at Immaculate Heart. She has earned her distinction as a scholar athlete and has competed on Immaculate Heart’s track and cross-country teams since her freshman year. Last fall, she served as captain of the school’s varsity cross-country team, which clinched the Sunshine League Championship for the third straight year. Hughes was named to the Sunshine League’s First Team All-League and advanced with other top Immaculate Heart runners to the CIF-Southern Section Finals.

Hughes also regularly volunteers in the community. For the past two years, she has picked fruit for Food Forward, an organization that donates food to people in need.

“The biggest way I juggle school, sports and other extracurricular activities is to just keep a positive attitude.” Hughes said. “I try my best to stay optimistic and not stress out, especially when things get hard.”

Although she still has time to ponder which college to attend and her study path, Hughes said she may pursue a major in math or science.

Founded in 1906, Immaculate Heart High School serves female students in the 6th through 12th grades. The school is located at 5151 Franklin Ave. For information, call (323)461-3651, or visit www.immaculateheart.org.
Meet your favorite ‘Sesame Street’ characters at the zoo

Cookie Monster and Grover, two of “Sesame Street’s” most beloved characters, will visit the Los Angeles Zoo on Saturday, March 12 and Sunday, March 13.

The characters will greet guests and pose for photographs during “Sesame Street Live Weekend” at the zoo, appearing from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. “Sesame Street Live Weekend” is free with paid zoo admission. Guests will also receive an exclusive promotion code to save $5 on tickets to Los Angeles performances of Sesame Street Live’s “Make a New Friend” show and an opportunity to enter to win a family four-pack of tickets. “Make a New Friend” will be held on May 7 at the Microsoft Theatre in downtown Los Angeles. For information, visit www.SesameStreetLive.com.

Visitors are also encouraged to view the zoo’s two new Tasmanian devils. The pair are brothers nearly three years old. The endangered Australian species, the world’s largest carnivorous marsupial, is indigenous only to the island of Tasmania. The L.A. Zoo is one of only four zoos in the United States to house Tasmanian devils.

Other “Sesame Street Live Weekend” activities at the zoo include close-up “Animals & You” encounters at 10:45 and 11 a.m., and 12:45 p.m. Visitors can also enjoy the “Elephants of Asia” training demonstration at 11 a.m.; the “World of Birds” show at 11:30 a.m.; a hawk training demonstration at 2 p.m.; and a “Marsupial Talk” at 11:30 a.m. (Sunday only).

The zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive in Griffith Park. For information, call (323)644-6001, or visit www.lazoo.org.

Library offers a glimpse into NASA careers

A robotic rover landed at the Los Angeles Central Library on March 7 to launch Teen Tech Week at the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL). More than 200 6th through 12th grade students watched a demonstration of the Rover-E by Sarah Marcotte (left), of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). Candice Mack, LAPL’s acting principal librarian for young adult services, participated in a unique demonstration of the lightweight rover’s maneuverability. Mack laid on the floor while Marcotte maneuvered the rover over her in what was described as a “librarian roll over.” “It was great, just like a massage,” Mack said.

The program, titled “Women In Space Exploration,” also focused on gender equity in science and technology in celebration of Women’s History Month in March. Marcotte and Mallory Lefland, a JPL systems engineer with the Mars 2020 Rover Mission, encouraged young women to pursue careers in space exploration. The program also featured Los Angeles City Librarian John F. Szabo and Los Angeles First Lady Amy Elaine Wakeland, wife of Mayor Eric Garcetti.

The Los Angeles Public Library offers educational programs throughout the year at the central library and its 72 branch libraries. The programs engage young people in fun, hands-on activities and focus on science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics. For information, visit www.lapl.org.
Students find their green thumb
From SEEDS page 1

cinated in outdoor gardening projects before, but it was at this moment that the largest garden to date and brings together teachers and students from different grades and classes.
BevGlass, a fifth grade teacher said SEEDS Farm is educational in many ways. Her class is growing Brussels sprouts, chard and other vegetables. They will study the plants’ root systems, how they make chlorophyll and research natural plant habitats.

Yoga fields to remain open
From Runyon page 3

per minute to more than 1,000 gal-
onds of water per minute. While the new pipe is installed, the park will also be restored and improved.

The repaving of the existing fire road and the new water system is as important as the trees, hiking paths and greenery,” he said. “While this park closure is a temporary inconvenience for some, its bene-
fits will not only protect the park we love from fire and floods, it will improve water quality for the sur-
rounding community as well.”

Ryu explained that the city wants to fix the issue instead of reacting to a major pipe break, which can make the project much more difficult to com-
plete. He described the project as “deferred maintenance” that has been needed for a long time.

Ryu pointed to a water pipe that broke in December in the Hollywood Hills on Appian Way

City teams up with initiative to empower women
From WeHo women page 1

affection for the students has personal connections.”
Nadia Sutton, a Women’s Administration board member, said Norman, her friend and colleague, was a big influence in her life.
“I will always remember how Connie as she fought for the rights of trans-
gender women,” Sutton said. “She was my mentor and force. I am honored to have called her a friend. She did a lot of things for trans-
gender women and I am so thankful that she made that amazing.”

West Hollywood Mayor Lindsey Horvath said this year is the most expansive Women’s History Month celebration to date. It is the first time the city is collaborating with Women Manifest, an initiative started by individuals in the community to empower women.

“March is nationally recognized as Women’s History month, a time to commemorate and reflect upon the many accomplishments of women and their continual struggle for equal rights,” Horvath said. “National Women’s History Month provides an excellent venue to rec-
nounce and celebrate women’s his-
tory. It is our opportunity to honor women in our families and communities . . . Not every woman who has made history this month, but women who are making histo-
ry every day.”

West Hollywood and Women Manifest will provide residents with a month of free events.
Tina Banchero, Women Manifest core team member, said partnering with the city is an amazing opportu-
nity for the organization. “We were a group of concerned women who have been through some struggles in their life but have now empowered themselves to break free of that,” said Brooke Mason, Women Manifest member. “We want peo-
ple to get out and celebrate what women in L.A. are doing.”

On Friday, March 11, West Hollywood will host the Women’s Leadership Conference and Network Mini-Film Festival. Friday’s events are held in collabor-
ation with the Human Rights Speakers Series and will highlight the film “Wilhelmina’s War.”
Nick Melvoin launches bid for LAUSD Board in District 4

Nick Melvoin announced on Tuesday that he is running for the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) board seat in District 4.

Born and raised on the westside of Los Angeles, Melvoin is an educator, advocate and attorney, and has devoted his career to fighting for Los Angeles students. "I am running for school board because I believe that every student in Los Angeles deserves the opportunity to succeed and reach their full potential, no matter where they live or what their families can afford," Melvoin said. "Once elected, I will fight tirelessly to build innovative schools and create a better future for all of our students. I firmly believe that better schools are just possible, it's what our kids deserve."

After graduating from Harvard University, Melvoin worked with underserved students as a middle school English teacher at Markham Middle School – a LAUSD campus in Watts. When he and two-thirds of Markham’s teachers lost their jobs due to budget cuts, he fought to be re-hired and worked to end the seniority-based teacher layoffs. In the civil rights case Reed vs. California, he joined the ACLU and Mayor Riordan and Villanueva to successfully argue that indeterminacy of layoffs violated the rights of students.

"The power of public education can change lives, but in Los Angeles, our system is broken. Too many of our kids attend failing schools and too many of our families are left without options."

Melvoin is an adjunct professor from which he graduated with a Master’s Degree in Urban Education. For more information about Melvoin, visit nickmelvoin.com.

Plans revamp food experience

From Beverly Center page 1

"The Beverly Center – like the entertainment and fashion and retail industries – must evolve," Tartabian said.

The updated center will include significant changes that will create a more open and open space for a more outdoor feel, and plans focus on creating a more accessible entrance from the street level. A "continuous ribbon" of new skylights will bring in natural light and "enlarge the entire center. There will also be a more user-friendly central area and significantly more viewing points for visitors to see the city from the higher floors."

The new plans also emphasize additional dining experiences. Chef Michael Mina will create a "multi-concept" gourmet food hall, called "The Galleria," (being planned for the eighth floor).

"The Streets is going to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience of being able to walk through an open, indoor street out to a deck that overlooks Los Angeles and has 15-18 unbelievable little dining experiences," Mina said via video at the presentation on Monday.

Plans for another Mina creation will be announced later this year.

Even the parking experience will improve. A new system will help customers find available parking spots and then help them remember where they parked.

Steve Luftman lives five blocks from the Beverly Center and represents the Wilshire Community Council (MCWCC).

"The council has not taken a position on it," he said. "So if we lost somehow what he impressed with the new plans, particularly with the efforts to make the building more accessible and the additional planned restaurants.

When the shopping center first opened, Mayor Eric Garcetti was in elementary school. He said he used to come to the mall and knows it is an important destination for community members.

"The Beverly Center holds a special place in L.A.'s imagination – it's where an entire generation of Angelenos went on first dates, bought prom dresses and met up with friends on weekends."

Garcetti said. "It's about a lot more than the purchases we make and the things we see. It's about the people we encounter. Reimagining it for the 21st century is a tremendous investment in making those timeless experiences possible for the next generation of Angelenos."

Habit costs CA $13.3B per year

From Smoking page 1

"We are no longer going to sit on the sidelines while Big Tobacco profits from the kids and gets another generation of young people hooked on a product that will ultimately kill them," Hernandez said.

Additional bills authored by Senator Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) and Assemblyman Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove) attempt to define vapor products as "tobacco," and ensure that e-cigarettes fall under laws that prohibit smoking at workplaces, schools, day care centers, restaurants, bars, hospitals and on public transportation.

In January, the California Department of Public Health confirmed that e-cigarettes emitted at least 10 toxic chemicals known to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm. E-cigarette use is also climbing among young people who lawmak- ers say are drawn to the products’ enticing flavors like cotton candy, bubble gum and chocolate. E-cigare-ette use among middle and high school students tripled from 2013 to 2014, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Hans Botros, owner of Smoke and Vape Depot on Fairfax Avenue, said he often sees people under the age of 18 buying, so he moves to cheaper kinds of cigarettes or rolling their own cigarettes or go 

"The idea of comparing vaping to smoking, though, upset Botros. "We're always against treating a product that vapes as a person that smokes," he said.

Botros tries to inform people that the two habits are different.

"There is no second-hand vapor," he said. "Basically, what comes outside of the vaping machine is flavor and carbon dioxide, not car- bon monoxide, no carcinogens, no bad smoking chemicals. As a matter of fact, a lot of people compliment the smell and the vapor because it's basically fruit extracts."

Botros questioned whether the state is acting too quickly with elec- tronic cigarette restrictions.

"I understand that you want people not to smoke," he said. "If we banned vaping, if we put more restrictions on vapers, what will we eventually go back to cigarettes. It's proven clinically, scientifically, everything. Just proven that vaping, according to the U.K. last December, is 95 percent safer than smoking cigarettes."

He said vaping helped him quit smoking.

"The only reason I sell cigarettes to my store is I want people that have never seen vaping before to come to the store to try a pack of cigarettes and we'll talk to them about vaping and how it can help them quit," he said.

Botros opened the store almost one and a half years ago, and he claims more than 380 customers quitting the smoking same way he did. The California Distributor Association, CalChamber and Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association also oppose increasing the tax on packs of cigarettes. The Smoke-Free Alternatives Trade Association (SFATA) opposes tax increases and equating electronic to regular cigarettes.

"This is a clear sign that money and not public health at all the cost of these measures," said Cynthia Cabrera, president of SFATA.

"While we support sensible regu- lations to keep [vaping] products out of the hands of minors, lumping them with alcohol, murder, illegal drugs, AIDS and motor vehicle accidents.

Answers From Page 16

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 13. Be sure to set your clocks forward one hour.
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