**WeHo hesitates to match L.A. minimum wage**

**Rates will increase to $12 per hour next year**

**BY GREGORY CORNFIELD**

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti appeared at a West Hollywood City Council meeting on Monday to help make sense of the dollars paid to the county’s lowest earners.

But despite his advice to raise the minimum wage, West Hollywood City Council members ended up balking at a chance to join its neighboring city in raising the rate to $15 per hour by 2020. The current minimum wage in West Hollywood is $10 per hour and has been since the state raised it on January 1. Councilman John D’Amico called the plan “too aggressive” for West Hollywood.

D’Amico and Mayor Pro Tem Lauren Meister proposed a substitute motion to direct the city to draft an ordinance raising the minimum wage to $12 an hour by July 2017 for businesses that have more than 25 employees. For businesses with 25 employees or fewer – which make up approximately 70 percent of businesses in the city – the increase will take effect in July 2018. Moving forward, the city will update minimum wage rates based on changes to the consumer price index. The motion passed 3-2.

“We’re going to do this, but we’re going to do it slowly,” D’Amico said.

D’Amico’s alternative allows West Hollywood to wait and see what happens in the November elections when three ballot measures could supersede their decision. The Fair Wage Act 2016 would increase the state’s minimum wage by $1 each year, beginning Jan. 1, 2017, until it reaches $15 in 2021. The Raise California’s Wage and Paid Sick Days Act of 2016 would increase the minimum wage for employers with 26 or more employees until it hits $20 per hour in July 2020. The initiatives are in the process of trying to get on the ballot.

**L.A. to Sacramento: Invest more in after school programs**

**BY GREGORY CORNFIELD**

Members of the Los Angeles City Council joined after school program supporters at City Hall on Friday to send a message to Gov. Jerry Brown and the California Legislature: Increase funding for afterschool programs and “keep our doors open.”

Dozens of supporters including after school providers, families, students, school board members and community leaders rallied at the front steps of city hall to support state legislation that would increase funding for California’s After School Education and Safety (ASES) programs for low-income children.

Education committee chairwoman and Councilman David Ryu, 4th District, authored the resolution, which the city council unanimously approved earlier in the day, to raise

**Authorities try to identify skull found in Griffith Park**

**BY EDWIN FOLVEN**

The Los Angeles County Coroner’s Office is investigating a human skull that hikers found Saturday in Griffith Park.

Coroner’s spokesman Ed Winter said the skull was found near a trail in Brush Canyon, located between the Griffith Observatory and the Hollywood Sign. The hikers reported the skull to authorities shortly before 1 p.m. and police and coroner’s office investigators were called to the scene. Winter said authorities searched the surrounding area but no additional human remains were found.

“It looks like it had been there for a period of time. It appears maybe an animal dug it up somewhere and brought it up there,” Winter said. “We don’t have a sex or age. We are going to try to get it identified.”

Winter said a forensic anthropologist will examine the skull. Investigators are also checking missing persons records in an attempt to identify a possible victim. He added that there are no visible signs of trauma to the skull and no indications the individual was the victim of foul play.

Winter said finding bones in natural areas is not uncommon. “Every now and then we get them,” he added. “We collect the remains and examine the bones to try to determine what happened.”

**City Council approves Palladium Residences**

**BY GREGORY CORNFIELD**

The Los Angeles City Council on Tuesday approved plans for the Palladium Residences project, which will construct two 30-story towers on parking lots around the famous music venue on Sunset Boulevard.

The two mixed-use structures will rise to approximately 350 feet with 731 market-rate residential units and 24,000 square feet of retail space. Five percent of the units will be set aside for “workforce housing,” for residents who earn 50-120 percent of the area’s median income. The developers estimate that rent for those units will be between $400-$1,000 per month.

Developers hope to begin construction in early 2017. The Palladium concert venue will remain open and operational while construction is completed around it.

The city council also denied appeals from the Palladium’s neighbors, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, which challenged the project’s zoning and height changes and needed General Plan amendments to be approved. AHF and opponents of the project claim it will increase congestion and worsen the city’s housing crisis.

“We are planning to file suit to block the Palladium Residences project from going forward,” said Michael Weinstein, president of AHF. “This is yet another flagrant example of the ‘pay to play’ culture infecting Los Angeles involving developers, the city council, the Planning Department and city hall.”

Aaron Green, a spokeswoman for the project, said the developers...
Design Lecture
A 3D Museum is hosting a discussion titled “Come In! DTLA” on Thursday, March 24, at 4:30 p.m. Innovative downtown designers from different disciplines including architecture, fashion, graphics and more will participate. General admission is $15. 900 E. Fourth St. (213)346-9734, www.a3d.com.

Evidence, A Dance Company
Aristotle, director Ronald K. Brown celebrated his Evidence, A Dance Company in performances on Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Eli and Edythe Broad Stage in Santa Monica. The performance explores the human experience in the African Diaspora through dance and storytelling and makes connections to history and tradition through music, movement and spoken word. Tickets start at $40. 1310 11th St., Santa Monica. (310)454-3200, www.thebroadstage.com.

26 Women’s Film
The Downtown Independent Theater is holding a film festival celebrating Women’s History Month on Saturday, March 26 from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Downtown Independent Theater. The festival’s theme is “invest in caring not killing,” and five films will be shown including “My Work and No Pay,” “Caring: Survival & Justice vs. the Tyranny of the Market,” “Civil Brand,” “The Invisible War” and “Broken Rainbow.” 251 S. Main St. www.downtownindependent.com.

Women’s Dance
Women Manifest is hosting an evening of dance performances on Saturday, March 26 at 7 p.m. at Fiesta Hall at Plummer Park. Performers include Rebecca Lemme/Acts of Matter, Project 21, BrockusRed, Amilia Butts, Versa-Style, Sophia Stoller, Alex Little’s Escape Artists, Infinte Flor, A Wheelchair Dance Company, Kinos Dance Company and Toogiesaurus. Admission is free. 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. www.ticketweb.com.

Pennington Dance Group
Internationally acclaimed Pennington Dance Group celebrates its 15th anniversary with two concerts on Saturday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 27 at 2 p.m. at the State Playhouse on the campus of Cal State Los Angeles. The program features new choreography, including three premieres, as well as the recreation of Bella Lewitzky’s “On the Brink of Time” (1969) with music by Morton Subotnick (the first synthesized music to be commissioned and recorded for a record label). General admission is $22. 5151 State College Blvd. (213)204-0531, www.penningtondancegroup.org.

‘Red Velvet’
The Junction theater will present the West Coast premiere of the critically acclaimed play “Red Velvet,” written by Lolita Chakrabarti, running Saturday, March 26 through April 30 at the Asawa Theatre Playhouse. The play, direct- ed and produced by Benjamin Pohlmeier, stars Paul Outlaw in the central role of Ira Aldridge/Othello. “A Tony Award-winner, he’s played Shakespeare, [and] has a belly full of poetry ... and he does the hell out of it.” TimeOut LA Review. Showtimes are 8 p.m., Thursday through Saturday; 5 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are $25, 3519 Casitas Ave., #100, thejunctiontheatre.org.

23 LGBT Tea Party
Where does the line between fact and fiction really lie?” Showtime on March 27 is 2 p.m.; see schedule for additional dates. Tickets start at $44. Boardwalk Blvd. RSVP to (323)645-0985, or email lbgttea@outlook.com.

LGBT Theatre Night
The Pasadena Playhouse and Gay Men’s Chorus of Los Angeles host the “LGBT Spotlight Night” at the Playhouse, Saturday, March 26 at 8 p.m. A performance of Harvey Fierstein’s “Caesar and Cleopatra.” The play, directed and produced by Benjnim Pohlmeier, stars Paul Outlaw in the central role of Ira Aldridge/Othello. Showtimes are 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 5 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are $25, 3519 Casitas Ave., #100, thejunctiontheatre.org.

‘Six Characters in Search of an Author’
A staged reading of Luigi Pirandello’s “Six Characters in Search of an Author” runs Tuesday, March 29 through Wednesday, March 30 at 7 p.m. at the Pasadena State Playhouse. Admission is free. 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. (310)746-4000, www.thewallis.org.

30 PAWS/LA Auction
The annual charity auction for Pets Are Wonderful Support Los Angeles (PAWS/LA) is on Wednesday, March 16 at 7 p.m. at The London West Hollywood. Works from internationally celebrated artists such as David Hockney, John Huston, Ed Ruscha and others are available. Proceeds benefit PAWS/LA, which is dedicated to preserving the bond between people and their companion animals. 1020 N. San Vicente Blvd. www.paws-la.org.

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The Los Angeles City Council on Tuesday took another step toward allowing developers to complete the unfinished Target project at Sunset Boulevard and Western Avenue. It approved a motion by Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, to examine ways to satisfy requirements that a childcare facility be provided for store employees.

Last November, the city’s Planning Commission recommended amendments to the Vermont-Western Transit Oriented District Specific Plan/Station Neighborhood Area Plan (SNAP) to enable construction to resume on the project. If approved, the zoning for the project would be changed to allow a 74-foot-4-inch building. The change would only pertain to the Target site. Current regulations allow for a 35-foot-tall building. The unfinished Target store is 74 feet tall.

The previously approved Target project was halted in August 2014 after a Los Angeles Superior Court judge sided with community groups in lawsuits seeking to stop the development on grounds that it exceeded a 35-foot height limit for buildings in the area. One of the sticking points with changing the zoning and getting the project back on track is a SNAP provision requiring businesses with more than 100,000 square feet of space to provide childcare for employees. Target has proposed paying a $458,000 fee in-lieu of having childcare on site, according to O’Farrell’s office. SNAP provisions allow for a fee to be paid to satisfy the requirements for childcare, but does not provide specific guidelines on how such a fee should be calculated, O’Farrell’s communications director Tony Arranaga said.

The councilman’s motion called for the City Administrative Officer to review how much the in-lieu fee should be, and authorizes the city to collect another $25,000 fee from Target to hire a consultant to study the matter. The motion also calls for further city review once the information is compiled. The timeline for when the study will be complete is unclear.

The Los Angeles City Council is considering steps that could allow the Target project at Sunset Boulevard and Western Avenue to resume.

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The city council’s Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee also reviewed the potential zoning changes to the project Tuesday and sent the plan to the Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office for review. The information will come back to the PLUM Committee for further examination.

Target spokeswoman Erika Winkels said the latest development is encouraging. She declined to comment further on the childcare facility or the in-lieu fee.

“This decision is a key step to resume construction for this important project, which would bring L.A. City takes another step to allow Target project to resume

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Feuer secures injunction against alleged gang and narcotics den

Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer's office has filed a narcotics and gang-related nuisance abatement lawsuit against the owners of a South Los Angeles apartment complex. The buildings allegedly had become a heavily-fortified gang stronghold for crack cocaine production and sales.

"It’s completely unacceptable that just down the street from a middle school, this allegedly gang-controlled apartment complex is a source of crack cocaine production and sales," Feuer said.

The city attorney’s lawsuit names Pedro Castillo and Teresa Salazar, the owners of an eight-unit apartment complex located at 1847-1849 1/2 Florence Ave. The apartment is located less than 400 feet from Florence High School and is within a half-mile of an elementary school.

The property is allegedly controlled by factions of the Eight Tray Gangsters Crips and Neighborhood and Melrose Avenues, the detectives said. The suspected vehicle was a car traveling east on Melrose Avenue, and that vehicle collided with two other cars. Two of the suspects fled the scene on foot, while the third was trapped in the car.

Firefighters and paramedics responded and extricated the suspect from the vehicle. He was hospitalized with major injuries and injuries to the head, neck, and extremities.

Officers set up a perimeter around the crash scene and deployed a K-9 unit. One of the suspects was found hiding nearby and was arrested between 2:30 and 3 a.m., while the other was taken into custody at approximately 5 a.m., Preciado said.

The detectives did not initiate a pursuit, but radioed for help and followed the Toyota. When he arrived at Melrose and Florence avenues, the detective saw the suspects had been involved in a collision. Preciado said the suspects vehicle struck a car traveling east on Melrose Avenue, and that vehicle collided with two other cars. Two of the suspects fled the scene on foot, while the third was trapped in the car.

Firefighters and paramedics responded and extricated the suspect from the vehicle. He was hospitalized with major injuries and injuries to the head, neck, and extremities.

Defendant sentenced for cell phone fraud scheme

The owner of a Glendale-based ride-sharing business was sentenced on March 21 in federal court to more than eight years in prison in two separate fraud cases, including one involving the sale of more than $30,000 Apple iPhones fraudulently obtained from Verizon Wireless at substantially discounted prices.

Karen "Kevin" Galstian, 38, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Barry Ted Moskowitz to 100 months in federal prison for defraud- ing and exploiting the trust and confidence of Verizon Wireless. The fraud generated illegal profits of more than $13,000,000. Galstian was also sentenced to 78 months in prison for defrauding Bank of America out of nearly $790,000. The sentences are to run concurrently.

Moskowitz also ordered Galstian to pay $17 million in restitution to Verizon and more than $20,000 in restitution to Bank of America.

The defendant pleaded guilty in November to one count of wire fraud, admitting that he committed the offense while on pre-trial release in the case involving Bank of America. In that case, Galstian made false representations to Bank of America in order to obtain loans and credit with a total face amount of nearly $700,000. The defendant has already paid back nearly $400,000 of the stolen funds.

Assemblyman Mike Gatto (D-Los Angeles) has introduced legislation to require that law enforcement ‘sufficient local funding to support every $10 in criminal fines, and take criminals off the street.’

"Eight months ago I would have eight [bargiliars] a week, but we are averaging two to four right now," Alves said. "We are trying to get extra resources up there. We’ve had a 50 percent reduction."

Resurrection Vintage does not have surveillance cameras, which would have been a valuable tool in solving the crime if the suspect hadn’t been caught nearby, Alves said. He advised business owners to implement security cameras to prevent break-ins.

"I highly recommend video surveil- lance," Alves said. "It can make the difference in solving these crimes."
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WeHo rides along with Fairfax Avenue bike lanes

**Routes will run between Willoughby and Fountain**

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

New bike lanes will open on Fairfax Avenue after the West Hollywood City Council approved their installation Monday.

The lanes will run between Willoughby and Fountain Avenues and will be located on both sides of the street. They will connect with existing bike lanes on Fairfax Avenue from Fountain Avenue to Hollywood Boulevard.

West Hollywood Mayor Lindsey Horvath said the new bike lanes are part of an overall effort to encourage alternative forms of transit.

“It’s something that has been in the works for a while,” Horvath said. “We are creating consistent bike lanes. It’s very exciting. We want to encourage bicycling not only for recreation but as a valuable mode of transportation.”

Bianca Siegl, long range and mobility planner for West Hollywood, said Fairfax Avenue is ideal for bike lanes because it has three lanes and is wider than many other streets in the city. Six-foot-wide curbside bike lanes will be installed along with a 4-foot buffer zone between cyclists and traffic, she added.

“We have a lot of programs encouraging cycling and walking and building out bike lanes throughout the city is part of that,” Siegl said.

The West Hollywood City Council has approved plans for new bike lanes on Fairfax Avenue between Willoughby and Fountain Avenues.

She added that West Hollywood is working with Los Angeles transportation authorities to possibly extend the bike lanes south of Willoughby Avenue. The new bike lanes are expected to be installed by July. The project will cost approximately $195,000. The bike lanes will be approximately 48 miles long.

West Hollywood currently has approximately three miles of bike lanes, and another 1.75 miles of sharrows, which are streets with markers painted on the pavement designating them as bicycle routes.

**Horvath: Trump’s rhetoric is ‘wrong at every level’**

At the West Hollywood City Council meeting on Monday, Mayor Lindsey Horvath said she was compelled to express how “deeply disturbed” she is by the Donald Trump presidential campaign.

Horvath also released a letter she sent to Trump and his staff explaining her views.

“Your reckless rhetoric is wrong at every level,” she told Trump in the letter. She also wrote a letter to elected officials in other cities around the county, calling on them to do the same.

“(The campaign) has gone beyond the right to express a political point of view or policy differences, which we all have to greater or lesser degree,” Horvath said. “The hate speech and implicit calls to violence coming from Trump and his campaign are beyond the pale and have no place in any community in our county.”

She said as elected officials, she and her colleagues should lead by example.

“We must always make room for free speech and reason, but we cannot allow the kind of violent rhetoric and hate speech that has become commonplace in the Trump campaign.”

California’s primary will be held June 7, when residents will get a chance to vote for Trump or the other candidates before each party’s convention.

Horvath said his “campaign of violence and intimidation” is not welcome in West Hollywood.

“We can all express political differences of opinion without endangering the safety and well being of the members of our community. … Together, we must denounce Trump’s violent rhetoric and let him know his brand of politics has no place in our county,” she said.

The Purple Line Extension is currently installing piles at La Brea Avenue on Wilshire Boulevard near the future La Brea Station. This process includes pushing 95-foot steel beams into the ground. Following the pile installation, concrete decking will be placed, creating the temporary street surface while construction continues below. This process is expected to begin in June and continue over 22 weekends. Work for the Fairfax Station will begin this summer, and will include the same piling and decking procedures.

For additional information please visit the project website at metro.net/purplelineext.
Angel Food
From page 3
made the milestone possible. But she also said it was a somber moment, reflecting on what society needs.

“People in our city who are hungry is a social justice issue,” Williamson said. “People in our city who are poor and alone is a social justice issue. People who don’t have proper medical care is a social injustice. Project Angel Food addresses this problem through simple acts of kindness.”

Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District – who was a volunteer at Project Angel Food in the 1990s – returned to celebrate and help staff prepare and deliver the landmark meal to Alfredo Rodriguez-Perera in East Hollywood, who is recovering from a stroke.

To commemorate the event, the Los Angeles City Council proclaimed March 18, 2016 “Project Angel Food’s 10 Millionth Meal Day,” and O’Farrell read an execrable resolution.

“For more than 26 years, Project Angel Food has provided a vital lifeline of hope and nutrition to people living with HIV/AIDS, cancer, renal disease and heart failure,” the resolution stated. “The staff and volunteers of Project Angel Food’s volunteers – and I’m blessed to have been one of them two years ago – are a shining example of how voluntarism, compassion and hard work can turn a simple idea into a powerful and positive tool for helping those unable to help themselves.”

O’Farrell also helped secure a 4,000-square-foot urban garden in Hollywood for the organization to provide organic fruits and vegetables for their 2,000 clients.

Global wings artist Colette Miller also unveiled her latest wing mural on the side of Project Angel Food’s building at 922 Vine St.

“What a remarkable achievement for Project Angel Food,” O’Farrell said. “I applaud you for decades of providing nutritious meals to those in need. Thank you for making your home in the 13th District and continuing your mission of giving on two fronts – to the community and the opportunity to be of service in our communities.”

New senior center dedicated in Echo Park
Los Angeles city, county and school district officials last week broke ground on a new facility that provides health education, nutritious meals, social services, activities and transportation to seniors in the city.

“I am thrilled to finally open the Echo Park Senior Center,” said Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District. “Our seniors deserve a safe, high quality facility where they can gather for social interaction and a healthy meal. I am proud to dedicate this new center in their honor, and I am certain it will be put to good use.”

Mayor Eric Garcetti said the Echo Park Senior Center will provide services that seniors need to help them to live their lives to the fullest. County Supervisor Hilda Solis said the idea was ten years in the making and is now fully realized.

“The Echo Park Senior Center is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. For information on services at the new center, call (213) 413-0508.

Actor and former SAG-AFTRA president Ken Howard mourned
Many people in the community are mourning the death of Kenneth Joseph “Ken” Howard, Jr., a Tony and Emmy Award-winning actor who was president of the SAG-AFTRA performers union. Howard died Wednesday at his home near Los Angeles. He was 71.


Howard was perhaps best known for his role as Coach Ken Reeves on the groundbreaking television series “The White Shadow.” Based on his own experiences as the only Caucasian player on his high school basketball team, the show starred Howard as the coach of a diverse basketball team at an inner-city high school. For three seasons, “The White Shadow” served as a proving ground for some of television’s most prominent producers and directors including Bruce Paltrow, Tim Van Patten and others.

Howard later became the first president of the 160,000-member SAG-AFTRA performers union. Elected president of Screen Actors Guild in 2009, he was reelected in 2011 on a pledge to unite the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists. The merger effort was overwhelmingly approved by members in 2012. As the last president of the
NCJW calls for vetting Supreme Court nominee

In response to U.S. Senate Republican leadership’s stated refusal to consider President Obama’s Supreme Court nominee Judge Merrick Garland, 21 women from California’s Jewish Women Los Angeles (NCJW/LA) recently participated in a Supreme Court vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court as quickly as possible. NCJW advocates and affiliates throughout the country will engage with their state and local communities to raise visibility and public focus on the urgency of filling the U.S. Supreme Court vacancy as soon as possible.

“NCJW activists and leaders here in California and across the U.S. understand that the Supreme Court must be fully functional. We are asking Congress and the Senate to stop dragging their feet when it comes to filling the court vacancy,” said Hillary Selvin, executive director of NCJW/LA. “We thank California’s U.S. senators for their leadership in calling on senators to hold hearings and vote on the nominee.”

Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer for promising to support a hearing and urge Senators from other states to do the same. “NCJW’s national campaign is calling on senators to hold hearings on the Supreme Court nominee and fill the vacancy as soon as possible. “This is an important moment in our nation’s history that will expose the core values of our elected senators, namely whether partisanship overrides public service,” said NCJW CEO Nancy Kaufman. “Every aspect of our lives and the character of our democracy is impacted by judicial vacancies; none more so than the current vacancy on the Supreme Court. The ability to access contraceptive care and abortion, voting rights, equal opportunity in education and the workplace, and religious freedom are some of the issues on the table before this Supreme Court where one seat stands vacant.”

Los Angeles County Assessor Jeffrey Prang has announced the launch of a new public online source to improve public access to property data in Los Angeles County. Anyone with Internet access can find detailed information about Los Angeles’ nearly 2.4 million real property parcels in an easy to access and read format. The Assessor Portal provides comprehensive property information and 32 years’ assessment history in a modern, intuitive and searchable website.

“This on-line update will make accessing and interpreting assessment data much easier and faster for the public,” Prang said. “It will contribute significantly to my efforts to make transparency and accountability synonymous with my administration. By making information easier to find on-line, both assessor staff and members of the public will save time and resources that previously relied on phone calls and manual research. This is an important component of our transformative technology initiative that will reduce costs and promote innovation.”

Rigorous security has been built into the new Assessor Portal to safeguard confidentiality and legal restrictions. The release of 32 years of assessment data represents a nationwide record for the largest online release of assessment data by a public agency. For information visit www.portal.assessor.lacounty.gov.

Kuehl honors LGBT and women’s rights activist

The Los Angeles County Commission for Women and Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl recently honored activist Irvina Bottini as Woman of the Year for the 3rd District. Bottini (center, left) was joined by Kuehl at a ceremony at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Bottini founded the first chapter of the National Organization for Women in 1966 and was one of the earliest voices in the fight against HIV/AIDS. She is well known in the feminist and LGBT movements and was a founder of the Los Angeles Lesbian/Gay Police Advisory Board. She is also a painter, artist and stand-up comedienne and, at age 90, is still active in the community, Kuehl added.

Assessor offers online access to property data

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World Water Day calls attention to drought

The White House celebrated World Water Day and hosted the Water Summit on Tuesday. Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. said that as the state’s drought stretches on, Californians are reminded that no matter where you live, access to water is not guaranteed.

The White House Water Summit focused on water challenges throughout the country, including California’s drought, and ways to build a more resilient water future.

Ahead of the summit, the Obama Administration released a Presidential Memorandum and Federal Action Plan aimed at bolstering drought resilience by setting policy goals, directing specific activities to be completed by the end of the year and permanently establishing the National Drought Resilience Partnership as an interagency task force.

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Easter Dining
by Jill Weinlein

Special menu at Taste on Melrose
On Thursday, March 24, guests can bask in the moonlight in Taste on Melrose’s courtyard or sit under the skylight in the new atrium and indulge in Fanny Bay oysters with a champagne shallot mignonette, and enjoy pepper-crusted filet mignon with charred fingerling potatoes, roasted asparagus, truffle compound butter and cabernet sauce. Finish with caramel chocolate mousse cake with strawberry sauce. Visit Taste on Melrose on Easter and enjoy a $33 brunch prix fixe menu and an adult Easter egg hunt. Prizes include candy, free cocktail tickets and dinner for two.

The menu features savory Brussels sprout hash and eggs with a sunny side up egg, jalapeño citronette, and a special Easter Brunch menu.

Easter Dining page 12

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City leaders applaud Sen. Barbara Boxer

The Los Angeles City Council honored Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) Wednesday during a ceremony at city hall. Boxer, who has announced she is retiring from the U.S. Senate, was recognized for years of service to the city of Los Angeles.

She has served in the Senate since 1993, following 10 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. The city council presented Boxer with a proclamation and lauded her work in women’s rights, environmental protection, improving transportation, expanding healthcare and preserving communities.

Boxer is pictured with Los Angeles City Controller Ron Galperin (left), Councilman Paul Koretz, City Attorney Mike Feuer and Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Letters to the Editor

Projects should be vetted for impacts on neighborhoods

RE: “ palladium project clears hurdle,” March 17 issue

Like so many mega-apartment projects, it’s certain to happen because our “leaders” see it as the way to relieve the growing “housing crisis,” as we are told. I have heard the claim that we have only 3 percent vacancy. Judging from the unit new apartment building windows I see in the evening, I have some doubt.

There is an old saying about “one hand clapping does not make a sound.” We ought not focus on the so-called housing crisis without also considering the traffic congestion, accompanied as it is by more car accidents and injuries, loss of productivity and more irritability as we spend more time in gridlock. It also results in more environmental pollution.

And then, as a direct consequence, there is the growing parking space crisis. The way our city is so spread out, does anyone really believe we can solve this problem with more MTA public transportation investments and expenditures? Likewise, our local infrastructure is already over-extended. High-rise apartment developments must add to the problem. It will make it necessary that the city’s taxpayers provide billions of dollars in new funds to upgrade and expand the piping and other parts of our infrastructural system.

What is the best solution? How many people must travel distances to work? We all know about rush hour traffic. Wouldn’t it make more sense if people could work in their own neighborhoods?

Considering all the issues, wouldn’t it be wise to encourage more jobs in outlying, less-congested areas rather than more high-rise apartment buildings that, in the final analysis, can only exacerbate the problem? Consider all the issues, not just one without the other.

George Epstein
Detroit Street

Homeowners should have say in Craftsman homes survey

RE: “WeHo council blocks demolition of Craftsman homes,” March 10 issue

What has been lacking in the conversation about a proposed city of West Hollywood ordinance to protect Craftsman homes is how do the owners of the homes that would be affected feel about it?

Maybe they’re all in favor of it, maybe they’re all against it or perhaps somewhere in between. If an ordinance is passed it will, in effect, be taking away a prop- erty owner’s right to do with the property as they wish. I would hope that before city council considers any such ordinance, that they do a targeted outreach to each and every property owner who would be affected and that their responses would be included in the public record of any such decision.

In full disclosure, I own a Craftsman home that could be included in this ordinance in that I have meticulously restored over the last 15 years with a lot of hard work and a lot of check writing.

Rab Bergstein
Geneva Avenue

Schiff honors inspiring women from the 28th District

Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank) on March 18 honored a group of inspiring women from communities in his 28th Congressional District. Schiff is pictured with wife Lori Pack. The city council presented Boxer the Woman of the Year honors (standing from left) Helen Leung, Jamie Keyser, Thomas, Kelly Erickson, Kimberly Holland, Pauley Perrette, Abbe Land, and Dr. Frieda Jordan, as well as (seated from left) Patricia A. Anderson, Karen Barnett, Dolores Diaz-Carrey, Janet Diel, Cheryl Revzin and Linda S. Pura.

“I met with nine women with varying backgrounds and interests, who have all worked tirelessly to make our communities a better place to call home. It was an honor to rec- cognize their outstanding work in the 28th District,” Schiff said. “Each of these women has worked to support a myriad of charitable, business and local causes. They are all pillars in our communities and I thank them for their indispensable service.”

Land was recognized as Woman of the Year from West Hollywood. A dedicated public servant, Land served 23 years on The Hollywood City Council, including five terms as mayor. She helped create the city’s Women’s Advisory Board and domestic violence prevention program for same-sex couples, and influenced policy at the local, state and federal levels. Land is currently the executive director and CEO of the Trevor Project, a nationally rec- ognized nonprofit providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention for LGBTQ youth.

Perrette was honored as the repre- sentative of Hollywood. Perhaps best known for her role as Abby Sciuto on the CBS Television Series “NCIS,” the actress is an accom- plished artist, writer, photographer and civil rights activist who works with over 30 charities including Project Angel Food, AIDS Project L.A., The Trevor Project, the Los Angeles LGBT Center.

For information on the other hon- orees, visit www.schiff.house.gov.

Leaders call for fingerprinting for Uber and Lyft drivers

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, Council President Herb Wesson and City Councilman Paul Krekorian have submitted a joint letter to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) ask- ing it to allow Los Angeles to implement a pilot program that would fingerprint drivers for Uber, Lyft and other transportation comp- anies.

The regulations would be simi- lar to requirements for taxi drivers in L.A. They would apply to all charter-party carrier (TCP) and transportation network company (TNC) drivers who drive limousines, vans and shuttle services. For decades, Los Angeles has required taxi drivers to undergo a background check under a franchise agreement with the city, which requires finger- prints to crosscheck potential dri- vers with the state’s Department of Justice (DOJ) database. It provides an essential safeguard for riders preventing people who have vio- lated criminal histories from driving passengers in Los Angeles.

“A fingerprinting pilot program makes sense in L.A. and will help the Public Utilities Commission gather valuable information as it contemplates implementing a more thorough background check program statewide,” said Krekorian. The leaders’ letter to the council’s Budget and Finance Committee. “Keeping the riding public safe is something we should strive to do and requiring full and fair fingerprint background checks across the board will push us in that direction.”

The letter proposes a three-part fingerprinting pilot program in Los Angeles. It would require drivers to be fingerprinted and back- ground checked under the California DOJ fingerprinting process.

Transportation companies would be required to report on the number of drivers whose back- ground checks were found to be incomplete or inconsistent with the results of the fingerprint screening process.

The companies would also be compelled to provide information on how and why they deny drivers employment, what the appeals processes are and how fingerprinting requirements affect the number of drivers they accept or reject.

Braces aren’t just for a pretty smile

What if we told you that a pretty smile is often the side effect of braces and not really the intended goal. That is a little of a stretch, but braces serve to help correct many issues, just as you said too. Joe Di Maggio is usually only associated to the pretty smile result.

There are many issues that come into play when the teeth are not aligned properly. First off, it makes it much harder to clean your teeth. When you can’t clean your teeth very well you greatly in- crease your odds of getting cavi- ties and periodontal disease in those areas. This could lead to more dental needs, more cost more pain and everything else you hate about the dentist. Add that with our diet with more sugar than ever and one can understand why there is a new generation of kids with more cavities than ever.

Another major reason for braces is to improve the harmony of function between the upper and lower teeth. Poor alignment can lead to increased clenching and grinding. This in turn can lead to teeth wearing quicker than nor- mals, quicker breakdown of dental restorations and increase risk of breakdown due to gum disease.

So while the pretty smile is the end result, there is so much more to gain with braces.

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www.scientalhealth.com
Easter at Cavatina

Sunset Marquis


From page 10

Easter ultimate bloody Mary bar

Tony’s in Westwood is serving brunch on Easter from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Enjoy classic brunch dishes such as a pescatarian bloody Mary made with clam juice and a caesar-style bloody Mary made with beef stock. Garnishes include crisp smoked bacon, cured meats, shrimp, chive pickles, fresh herbs, hot sauce and fresh peppers. Spirit choices include New Amsterdam vodka, Evan Williams bourbon and Camarena 100 percent agave tequila or your own. The drink is made with Goose vodka or Corzo Reposado tequila. The Easter bunny will hop from table to table while guests enjoy brunch fare including broilchocolate French toast, crispy chicken and New Orleans style boudin balls, bacon, andouille, and cornmeal blackened corn. The brunch is $75 per person; $45 for children 12 and under. The brunch runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy the chef’s sea-salt chocolate mousse and pie pops. 8454 Wilshire Blvd., (310)272-8084.

Montage Beverly Hills Easter

Treat the entire family to brunch at Scarpetta on Easter from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The brunch is brimming with traditional Easter dishes coupled with Scarpetta’s signature Italian fare. The restaurant offers beautiful views of the city. Guests can sit outside and order à la carte or by the table for an additional charge. Join the Easter bunny for activities as part of the popular Paintbox program at Montage Beverly Hills. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., children can enjoy complimentary face painting and hat decorating, balloon twisters and an old fashioned Easter egg hunt in the adjacent Beverly Cool Gardens. Golden Easter Egg Hunts for adults will be at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Eggs are loaded with surprises such as Montage hotel stays, Rooftop Grill gift certificates, The Signature Montage Moments and classic sweet treats. Brunch is $105 for adults; $35 for children 5 to 12 years old. 865 N. Canyon Dr., (310)860-7970. Call the Rooftop Grill at (310)860-7990.

Easter Brunch at Bel Air

Enjoy a decadent Easter brunch buffet prepared by executive chef Travis Strickland from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The buffet features housemade pastries including banana bread, croissants and fruit tarts. An assortment of heavenly smoked steelhead fish, fish station features fresh oysters, shrimp, scallop ceviche and king crab legs, stone crab claws and smoked salmon platters, grilled short ribs, diver scallops, roasted lemon zest. The crab omelet is $75 per person; $45 for children 12 and under. The brunch runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Highlights include smoked salmon or caviar. Eggs Benedict is served with prosciutto and smoked salmon or caviar, or smoked salmon and caviar. Try the restaurant’s classic shrimp and grits with Calabrian chile infused soju with ginger and aloe vera. Hanjip is open daily from 11 a.m. to midnight. 3829 St. Culver City, (310)523-8046.

Easter at Bel Air Bar + Grill

Celebrate Easter at Bel Air Bar + Grill with a spring brunch on Sunday, March 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Executive chef Chris Emerling uses asparagus, artichokes, shrimp, deviled eggs and local produce to create delicious ways in his asparagus soup with black garlic crème fraîche and smoked salmon. The calamari & shrimp is made with paprika beer batter, jalapeno and red chili peppers. The restaurant’s “Easter Egg” baby lettuce, carrot ribbons, grilled asparagus, harissa, apricot and basil is a sheep’s paras. The buffet is $75 per person; $35 for children. 2151 Avenue of the Stars, (310)824-6536.

Easter at Catalina Island

Take a one-hour Catalina Express boat ride to Avalon for Easter Brunch at the Avalon Grille. A complimentary egg hunt for children ages 5 and under will start at noon. Children 6 to 12 can also hunt for eggs at 1 p.m. The Easter bunny will be available for photos, and face painting and hat decorating will be offered. Catherine’s Terrace at the Descanso Beach Club is serving a special Easter菜单 from table to table while guests enjoy music with Christian Artiga on piano. Guests can choose from herb-scented prime rib, a three-piece side of potatoes, a salad and desserts for $39 per person; $29 for children 3 and under and are $19. The Avalon Grill is also offering a three-course dinner with California seafood and a lamb chop. Brunch is $59 per person; $39 for children. Easter Brunch can be purchased by calling (310)510-7401. To make reservations at the Avalon Grill, call (310)510-7494.

Easter specials at Gracias Madre

Gracias Madre’s brunch is taking place at the Gracias Madre with additional entrée and cocktail specials. Guest can enjoy Meyer lemon French toast with mixed berries, lemon curd, coconut cream and rosemary syrup. Another sweet dish is strawberry rhubarb shortcake with brown sugar biscuits, cashew whipped cream, orange pecan dust for strawberry sauce. Beven by director Jason Eisner creates special cocktails. Brunch runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 805 Melrose Ave., (310)397-2178.

True Food Kitchen

Bring the family to True Food Kitchen on Easter for a healthy selection of vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options. The menu at True Food Kitchen offers something for everyone, including seafood. A spicy shrimp crêpe, a creamy fettuccine topped with asparagus, artichoke, green pea, watermelon radish, sesame and goat cheese; and sustainable sea bass served with grilled vegetables and whole grains. 956 Santa Monica Plaza, Ste. 172, (310)993-8300.

Bel Air Bar + Grill

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Sipping Rose at Herringbone

Chef Brian Malarkey’s chic Water House in La Jolla has debuted bottoms glasses of rosé for $25 on Easter weekend. Starting Saturday, March 26, guests can enjoy a rotating selection of rosés curated by the restaurant’s in-house sommelier. Brunch dishes such as farmers’ market scrambled eggs paired with a bob of hollandaise and eggs benedict for $25 per person; $20 for children age 6 to 12. The rosé selection will be available every Saturday and Sunday through September. The restaurant’s future mid-day bloody Mary and brunch specials include a $16 scrambled eggs benedict served with homemade hollandaise. Lemonade are also available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 1755 Ocean Ave., (310)971-4460.

Hey 19 Public House Easter brunch

Families looking for a more casual brunch option can opt for chef Vasili Tamakou’s strawberry waffle shortcake, and avocado toast with poached egg, smoked salmon and capers. The Niman Ranch beef and pork meatloaf sliders on brioche buns are served with bourbon barbecue coleslaw. Space up brunch with owner and mixologist Demi Stone. Chef Vasili Tamakou’s featuring savory twists on the classic cocktail with garnishes such as a fried pickled egg. The special Easter dining runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 4525 Calle Loma Rd., (310)358-3759.

Bottomless Easter brunch at Sausal

E. Sepulvedo’s “nuevo ranchero” dining hotspot Sausal features $16 bottomless mimosas and See Easter Dining page 13
**Easter Dining**

**by Jill Weinlein**

Michelada on Easter. Dine in the restaurant’s beautiful indoor dining room or on the patio. Favorites include: roasted beef barbacoa hash with poached eggs, and roasted poblano chili omlet. Dine alfresco and order stirring shrimp salad, potato raças tacos and pork chile verde with sweet corn elite. Easter dining runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 219 Main St., (310)322-2721.

**Easter brunch at Ocean Prime**

Usually only open for dinner on weekends, Ocean Prime will offer a special Easter Sunday brunch menu on March 27. The à la carte menu includes dishes like crème brûlée, poached eggs and jumbo lump crab cakes on toasted English muffins with poached eggs and hollandaise sauce. The three-cheese quiche and blackened salmon salad are also available. The special brunch includes meals with blood orange mimosa and wine from the extensive beverage menu. The special brunch runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 5995 Wilshire Blvd., (310)859-4818.

**Mastro’s Malibu Easter brunch**

Dine beachside from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 26 and 27 and enjoy beautiful views and an Easter brunch. Entrées include Maine lobster Benedict, fluffy Belgian waffles and savory tuna tartare. Enjoy elegantly crafted signature cocktails such as bubbly peach bellinis or Mastro’s mosaic. Start with fresh fruit and liquid served in a tall glass with a splash of refreshing club soda. 18412 Pacific Coast Highway, (310)844-4357.

**WP24 by Wolfgang Puck**

WP24 by Wolfgang Puck is offering a special Easter brunch buffet for families with pork belly eggs Benedict with sriracha hollandaise sauce; Belgian waffles with fresh market berries and maple whipped cream; and house-smoked salmon with chives, onion and crème fraiche. Special stations with Far East-inspired dishes include dim sum, toasted Peking duckling and a breakfast pastry bar. All package includes Parker house rolls with sesame and nori and sesame scallion steamed buns. Desserts include macaroons, mini cupcakes and fresh baked cookies. Brunch is $75 per person. 900 W. Olympic Blvd. (213)745-9911.

**Catch Restaurant Easter brunch**

The beautiful beachfront Catch Restaurant in Hotel Casa del Mar features a three-course, prix fixe menu on Easter from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for $65. Dishes include grilled and roasted vegetable terrine with eggplant, zucchini, yellow squash, artichokes and roasted mushrooms. Fish lovers will enjoy red snapper with grilled carrots and corn served with vegetables in a curry broth. Enjoy the chocolate and salted caramel bar with feuilletine crust and chantilly cream. 1910 Ocean Way, (310)584-5533.

**Kendall’s Brasserie and Bar**

Kendall’s Brasserie and Bar, located steps away from the downtown music venue, is celebrating Easter with a three-course, prix fixe menu featuring classic and contemporary French favorites from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Executive chef Jean Pierre Bosco will prepare some of his favorite dishes from France’s Rhone Valley, including soupe à l’oignon gratinée with provolone cheese and croutons; grilled chicken paillard with wild mushrooms, potato purée and sautéed spinach and omelette Basaioise with tomato confit, piquillo pepper, onion, chorizo, petis Basque cheese and toasted fingerling potatoes. The cost is $44 for adults; $19 for children 10 and under. Guests can also enjoy special cocktails, including endless mimosa. 135 N. Grand Ave. (213)972-7322.

**Santa Monica’s Huckleberry Bakery & Café**

Huckleberry Bakery & Café is offering sweet goodies for Easter including Easter egg shortbread cookies with strawberry or passion fruit glaze, and bunny-shaped ginger cookies with royal icing. House-made Buns & Café serves Easter brunch and dinner and has a catering menu. Catering orders can be placed daily until 3 p.m. through Sunday, March 27. Most items are available with 24-48 hours notice and include quiche with prosciutto di Parma, market vegetables and gyurenc; rustic carrot cake with cream cheese frosting and candied carrots; spiced honey glazed spiral ham and Zacchermaire’s Fruitti champagne with herbed lemon dijon sauce. 1014 W. 5th St., (310)451-2311.

**Flemings Easter brunch**

A three-course Easter Brunch is available on Sunday, March 27 from noon to 3 p.m. Menu includes signature cocktails such as the Bitter Truth Pimento Dram and Single Barrel select, fresh lime, bitters. 544 S. Grand Ave., (310)277-2800.

**International Whiskey Day**

International Whiskey Day is observed on March 27 celebrating spirits of all types. Some of the best whiskey cocktails in Los Angeles are served at the Water Grill’s two locations. The bar serves its own barrel of Buffalo Trace whiskey. Beverage director Kevin Felker concocts The Lion’s Tail cocktail with Buffalo Trace Single Barrel select, fresh lime, house’s notice and lavender bitters. 544 S. Grand Ave., (213)891-0900; 1401 Ocean Ave., (310)384-5669.

Spring is in the air cocktail bar

Ten Westin Bonaventure’s “Cooking on the Edge with Andreas Nieto” series is offering a cooking series on Saturday, April 2 from 1-3 p.m. Executive chef Joseph Mills and executive sous chef Raymond Nicolas will present a class in which students prepare a three-course menu with rocket arugula salad, cinnamon crusted New Zealand rack of lamb, fresh carrot and ricotta ravioli, brown butter, mole and pomegranate sauce. Finish with warm apricot and almond tarts with ginger ice cream and spring flower atop water petal. Courses will be paired with wine. The class starts at 1 p.m.; seating is limited to 30 students. Participants must be 21 or older. The cost is $95 per person. 404 S. Figueroa St. RSVP to Claudia.Lambert@westin.

**Parkway Grill celebrates 25 years of growing organic produce**

The Parkway Grill in Pasadena, a Smith Brothers restaurant, has been growing organic herbs and vegetables for 25 years in its organic “Gourmet Garden” located behind the restaurant. They will be hosting special events and promotions marking this achievement.

While a growing number of restaurants are interested in local and organ-ic produce, and some are receiving accolades for planter-box herbs, Parkway Grill was a pioneer on in-site organic gardening. Bob and Gregg Smith, owners of the Parkway Grill and three other Pasadena restaurants, saw the potential for the piece of land attached to the restaurant property and transformed it into a garden.

Since breaking ground on the garden in 1990, the Smiths have shown a commitment to farm-fresh vegetables and growing pesticide-free produce. The year-round harvest includes heirloom tomatoes, rare squash varietals, beans, berries, lettuces, exotic herbs and seasonal crops.

The garden has been organic from the beginning. The Smiths foresaw the value of using alternative gardening methods and addressing concerns about pesticides and other potentially harmful chemicals used in traditional gardening.

The owners prepared the garden to yield the highest quality produce for Parkway’s kitchen. Throughout the years, the restaurant’s chefs have showcased fresh herbs and vegetables from the garden in the fine dining restaurant’s regional American cuisine. The emphasis placed on fresh, locally-sourced and farmers’ market product is represented in the Smiths’ dedication to the onsite garden.

As a result, the restaurant is considered one of the best farm-to-table din- ing experiences in Pasadena and Los Angeles.

The Parkway Grill is located at 510 S. Arroyo Parkway in Pasadena. For information, call (626)795-1001, or visit www.theparkwaygrill.com.
POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between March 14 and March 21, and were compiled from Westcrimemapping.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)455-8500.

March 14

At 12:01 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1800 block of Hillcrest.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 900 block of S. La Brea at 2:15 a.m.

At 4:50 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary near the corner of Edinburg and Melrose.

An unknown suspect committed a theft in the 300 block of Santa Andrews at 5 a.m.

At 5:10 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7600 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Fountain and La Brea at 6 a.m.

At 9:45 a.m., an unknown suspect assassinated a victim in the 6300 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 1200 block of Vine at noon.

At 1 p.m., a theft was reported in the 6000 block of Olive.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8700 block of Olive at 2:15 p.m.

A suspect was arrested in a working laboratory where they found numerous pill presses and large amounts of colored powders. The suspects were identified as Schrader and Simpson, 25. The criminal complaint charges the defendant with conspiracy to distribute narcotics, possession of fentanyl and methamphetamine with the intent to distribute, conspiracy to launder money and on a laundry-related charge.

In addition to the arrests on March 17, authorities in January seized acetyl-fentanyl, which Wells Fargo Bank employees had just purchased the drugs from the DEA to put it on a list of the most dangerous drugs. Fentanyl and its analogues pose a serious public health risk. Even small doses absorbed through the skin or accidentally inhaled can be fatal, said DEA-acting special agent in charge David Douglas. “The defendants are scheduled to be arraigned on April 4. Each defendant faces a statute of maximum sentence of life in federal prison if convicted. The lead defendant in a bank fraud case who oversaw a scheme in which Wells Fargo Bank employees stole identify information and used fake IDs to impersonate customers and steal money from their accounts pleaded guilty recently to federal fraud charges. Ronald Charles Reed, 69, pleaded guilty to 32 counts of bank fraud and aggravated identity theft. Reed was one of eight defendants who were charged as two indictments returned by a federal grand jury last year. Two of the defendants charged in the indictment have not yet been identified. Authorities are seeking the remaining two defendants and apprehending the wanted individual.

Reed pleaded guilty before United States District Judge Fernando M. Olguin, who is scheduled to sentence the defendant on July 15. He faces a statutory maximum sentence of 25 years in federal prison.

Reed admitted that he worked with nearly 100 Wells Fargo employees and the three unknown individuals in a scheme that caused Wells Fargo losses of nearly $600,000 in fraudulent transactions. The defendants were identified by the Justice Department as fraud victims and then purchased personal identity numbers belonging to bank customers, including dates of birth, account numbers, driver’s license numbers and social security numbers. With the information, the currently unidentified “runners” used fake IDs to impersonate bank customers and made substantial cash withdrawals from the customers’ accounts. In some cases, the runners also used the customer’s account number to issue a debit card to the customer and withdraw a cashless check and receive cash back. The fraudulent transactions were made at Wells Fargo branches throughout Southern California, Minnesota and Nevada.

Reed also admitted that in 2014, he purchased personal information about bank customers at $1.50 per account. The information was for an undercover account and was supplied by a con man who was working with law enforcement. Three former Wells Fargo employees involved in the scheme also previously pleaded guilty and are awaiting trial.

March 15

At 4:35 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 5105 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7550 block of W. Sunset at 7 p.m.

At 7:15 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 7800 block of W. Sunset.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of N. Vermont at 7:30 a.m.

At 8 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8500 block of Holloway.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7400 block of Santa Monica at 7:30 a.m.

March 17

At 8:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of S. Norton.

An attempted burglary was reported in the 1300 block of N. Doheny.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of Harper at 8 a.m.

At 8:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7000 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 6500 block of N. Highland at 9:30 a.m.

An unknown suspect stole a bicycle in the 600 block of S. Oxford at 8:20 p.m.

March 18

At 1:05 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 400 block of S. Sunset.

At 2:10 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of N. Los Angeles.

A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 8200 block of De Longpre at 8 p.m.

At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Melrose and La Brea.

At 8:00 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 600 block of S. Detroit.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7400 block of Santa Monica at 7:30 a.m.

At 11 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 600 block of S. Detroit.

A suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Beverly and Gardner.

At 9:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8700 block of Olive.

Special agents with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration have arrested four men on federal narcotics and money laundering charges in connection with an operation in which they allegedly imported a powerful synthetic opiate from China and produced their own pills that were distributed in bulk. In addition to the arrests, DEA agents seized a working laboratory where they found numerous pill presses and large amounts of colored powders that will be tested to determine their chemical composition.

The defendants are scheduled to be arraigned on April 4. Each defendant faces a statute of maximum sentence of life in federal prison if convicted. The lead defendant in a bank fraud case who oversaw a scheme in which Wells Fargo Bank employees stole identify information and used fake IDs to impersonate customers and steal money from their accounts pleaded guilty recently to federal fraud charges. Ronald Charles Reed, 69, pleaded guilty to 32 counts of bank fraud and aggravated identity theft. Reed was one of eight defendants who were charged as two indictments returned by a federal grand jury last year. Two of the defendants charged in the indictment have not yet been identified. Authorities are seeking the remaining two defendants and apprehending the wanted individual.

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L.A. LGBT Center promises a ‘Simply diVine’ evening

The Library Foundation of Los Angeles and the Art Deco Society of Los Angeles present Josh Kun discussing and signing his book “To Live and Dine in L.A.: Menus and the Making of the Modern City” on Saturday, March 26 at 2 p.m. at American Cinematheque.

Kun’s illustrated presentation focuses on Los Angeles Art Deco era restaurant menus from the Los Angeles Public Library’s collection Kun – a professor at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism – will discuss the history of food and restaurants in Los Angeles, with a particular focus on women and the Art Deco era.

The discussion will be followed by a screening of “Mildred Pierce” (1945), starring Joan Crawford as James M. Cain’s ultimate maternal martyr.

General admission is $11; $7 for American Cinematheque members.

American Cinematheque is located at 6712 Hollywood Blvd. For information, call (323)466-3456, or visit www.americancinemathequecalendar.com

Easter bunny hosts ‘Spring fling’ at L.A. Zoo

The Los Angeles Zoo will celebrate the Easter season and host The Big Bunny’s Spring Fling on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The schedule is filled with activities for children that includes opportunities to hang out with a The Big Bunny, there will be an “EGG-ucation Adventure” search with clues and a bunny’s sense of smell, how to use your hands like a bunny’s paws and how to identify a bunny’s emotions by the movement of its ears.

All events except for photos are free with paid Zoo admission.

The discussion will include the “Big Bunny’s EGG-cellent Adventure” search with clues and a special treat provided by 99 Cents Only Stores at each stop. Finally, there will be an “EGG-ocation Station” with scent containers to give kids a chance to see what it’s like to have a bunny’s sense of smell, how to use your hands like a bunny’s paws and how to identify a bunny’s emotions by the movement of its ears.

The celebrate as the oldest active couple at 101, and Ellis Gusky, who turned 100. Lindseybaum and Gusky are Pittsburgh natives who attended the same school but never met until they went on a blind date decades later. They have been dating for 11 years. Gusky, a retired musician, was 90 when he met twice-widowed Lindseybaum, who was 89.

“J.J. was a great enthusiast for life,” Lindseybaum said. “It’s good to find a person who is interested in other people, especially keeping up with family and friends and those I love, is important to me.”

Belmont Village offers assisted living facilities in Hollywood, Westwood, Encino Burbank and Palos Verdes.

For information, visit www.belmontvillage.com.
Autism Speaks hosts its largest national walk in Los Angeles

On April 2, also known as World Autism Awareness Day, Autism Speaks will host its largest walk, Autism Speaks Walk Los Angeles 2016 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. Over 55,000 families are expected to walk and raise funds to support research, programs and services to change the future of those impacted by autism.

"While thousands of buildings, skyscrapers, schools and businesses will ‘Light It Up Blue’ around the globe, over 55,000 people here in Los Angeles County will come together to support one another and all who struggle with autism spectrum disorder," said Suzette Martinez, executive director of Southern California Autism Speaks. "This walk will help fund vital services and innovative ideas that improve the quality of life for people in our community."

-Suzette Martinez, executive director of Southern California Autism Speaks

KCCLA explores cultural identity through art

The Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles (KCCLA) presents "Cultural Identity," an exhibit running Friday, March 25 through April 7. The show includes works by artists Theresa Hwang, Mark Hyun, Young Shin Kim, MeeJung Lee, La Somnie and Janet Yoo.

"As an immigrant, it is difficult to continue being an artist. Therefore the works of these artists have been chosen to share their perception of the United States and France through Korean eyes and their continuous yearning to share their art with everyone," said Nak Jung Kim, director of KCCLA.

The exhibition is open to the public and an opening reception will be held on Friday, March 25 at 7 p.m. in KCCLA’s second floor art gallery. KCCLA is located at 5505 Wilshire Blvd. For information, call (323) 936-7141, or visit autismspeaks.org/liub.

Beverly Hills honors Shakespeare

Shakespearean scholars and actors will accept a proclamation declaring Shakespeare 400 Day in Beverly Hills.

Beverly Hills will open at 8 a.m., the walk will open at 9 a.m. The 5K race and 1.5-mile walk will kick off at 9 a.m. and the closing ceremony will be at noon. For information or to register, visit autismspeakswalk.org/losangeles.
No need to stay ‘Allegiant’ to ‘Divergent’ series

The problem with the entire “Divergent” series is simple: every supporting character is more interesting than Tris (Shailene Woodley) and Four (Theo James). But that seems to be an ongoing problem across most young adult fiction, starting with “Twilight.”

After characters fall in love, every bit of tension and drama changes. Sexually charged moments mutate into tedious brooding. Once Tris and Four ran for their lives together and that was handled poorly enough — now they must determine if hope exists outside Chicago.

It should be a story of discovery, but everything, down to the arguments between our tattooed divergent lovers, is so formulaic. Not a good sign for a film that should be testing than Tris (Shailene Woodley) the importance of 10 and 20-somethings is denied by new and everyone should be able to find new hope beyond the wall.

Let’s ignore all that though and get back to the brooding. Isn’t that what high school is about, according to oh-so-many teen dramas? Friends are bit players, disposable in the story. That’s all part of becoming adults, but a film like “Allegiant” isolates kids, vilifies adults and forces under-developed minds to change the world. Apparently nobody over 30 has a clue how to do anything right.

This is all fine if the film does it well. Disney cartoons bathe in the blood of protagonists’ parents so we can enjoy a coming-of-age story. But the third “Divergent” film is amateurish, so any forgiveness offered to other equally narcissistic films that blart the importance of teens and 20-somethings is denied here. And based on the opening weekend’s performance, we all prefer re-watching “Zootopia” over diving back into mediocrity.

If you’re bored on a Saturday afternoon this is a fine film to watch. What’s TBS for otherwise? But after his monumental betrayal? Will he ever trust him again? Will Tris ever trust him again after his monumental betrayal? Does it matter as long as Four and Tris stay together?

And then there’s Miles Teller, as Peter, the sometimes good, mostly bad guy. He is easily one of the best actors here, but one-dimensional writing can’t save a character. We get it, he’s annoying and should not be trusted. Haven’t seen that one before. It’s easy to see that some new characters, like Matthew (Bill Skarsgård) and Nita (Nadia Hilker) from the facility where Tris and her friends end up, likely had bigger roles in print. That’s especially true for Uriah (Keiynan Lonsdale, Wally West from The CW’s “The Flash”) who receives a film credit but never utters a line of dialogue. He just broods. It’s OK, he’s in good company doing that.

It’s not uncommon for a film series to ruin once promising material, but it’s starting to feel like Veronica Roth’s “Divergent” book series might be as forgettable as these films. From clichéd deaths to the predictable learn-how-to-fly-a-craft-in-the-midst-of-the-escape scene, “Allegiant” would be laughable if weren’t trying so hard. But hey, brooding faces don’t want you to look too hard. They just want you to be emo.

Park La Brea News/Beverly Press

17 March 24, 2016
**SUMMER SCHOOL & CAMPS**

What’s Happening at Our Local Schools & Camps This Summer

**Registration • Dates • Activities**

Parents have new options to keep their children busy and productive this summer at Marlborough School, which is offering numerous programs for kindergarten through 9th grade students.

Marlborough, an all-girls school located in Hancock Park, opens the campus each summer for co-ed programs. The summer school offerings follow the theme of “Art, Smart and Heart,” which addresses arts education, academics and healthy lifestyles, said Julie Napoleon, director of summer school for Marlborough.

“The art is our creative classes, the heart is the physical activities and the smart is intellectual and academic classes,” Napoleon said. “It’s a nice introduction to the school.”

Summer school runs from June 27 through July 29. The earliest programs begin at 8:15 a.m., and after school care runs until 5 p.m.

In addition to summer school, Marlborough is holding its summer Leadership Workshop for girls entering the 6th through 8th grades. Napoleon said the program was so popular last year that this year there are two sessions, one from June 13-17 and another from June 20-24 to accommodate up to 40 students. Participants will develop their public speaking skills and perform community service. They will also participate in activities such as wood shop carpentry and rock climbing that challenges them to perform in ways they might not otherwise, Napoleon said.

“We [want] the girls [to] develop confidence and leadership skills,” she added. “We want them to go outside their comfort zone by working with tools in a workshop setting. They will also do an art project that encourages self-reflection. As with all our girls, we want to empower them to have confidence in themselves and go on to become strong leaders.”

A new summer program this year is Pathways to Medicine for 5th to 8th grade students. Participants will learn about careers in emergency medicine and nursing. Activities include learning how to draw blood and connecting an IV tube.

Napoleon also said Marlborough is expanding its Camp Mustang program for kindergarteners and 1st graders to include an afternoon session. The camp includes fun activities that help early learners develop strong minds and bodies. Activities include science and art projects, chess, karate and a new “cuddly animals” component in which students learn about different creatures through interaction in the classroom.

Napoleon said students can enroll in numerous other summer programs. Academic offerings include science, geology, marine biology, physics, mathematics, and more.

**Have fun with animals at spcaLA summer camps**

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (spcaLA) is holding its Friends for Life Summer Camp in week-long sessions from June 20 through Sept. 2.

The camp for 8-13 year olds teaches basic care and responsibility for pets, respect for animals and the fundamentals of dog training. Children 8-10 will participate in animal-related games, activities and crafts. They will also learn the basics of animal handling. Older campers, ages 11-13, will also participate in animal-related crafts and activities and observe dog training demonstrations, learning about obedience and agility training with shelter dogs.

Former campers ages 14-17 who have attended Friends for Life Camp in the past may apply to become a camp counselor in training (CIT).

Registration for the camps begins April 4. The week-long camps are held Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The camps are held at the P.D. Pitchford Companion Animal Village and Education Center in Long Beach. The cost is $350 for campers; $175 for CITs. A limited number of need-based scholarships are available for qualifying, first-time campers.

For information, call (562) 570-4909, or email humaneeducation@spcaLA.com.

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- Logic Puzzles
- Mac Movie-Making
- Math Review
- Panda Sports
- Robotics
- Steak Atchafalaya
- Summer Book Club
- Yoga — and more!

**Summer School Program — June 13th to July 8th**

For Students Entering Grades 4th – 8th

**5515 Franklin Avenue • Los Angeles, CA 90028 • (323) 461-3651 • www.immaculateheart.org**
The Wallis offers summer performing arts training

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts (The Wallis) in Beverly Hills has forged a partnership with the Broadway Dreams Foundation to present “GENERATION: The 2016 Summer Intensive Tour” for aspiring musical theater artists running from June 19 through 26.

The annual weekdaylong summer series at The Wallis invites future stars of the stage to embark on a rigorous week of Broadway-caliber training, learning from industry professionals. The intensive culminates in a public concert that brings together students and their mentors on the stage of the Bream Goldsmith Theater.

“We relish the opportunity to celebrate the musical theater art form,” said Mark Slivkin, director of education at The Wallis. “This partnership with Broadway Dreams will help cultivate the next generation of musical theater talent. Our focus will be on outreach to underserved communities, where talented youth may not have had access to this level of training.”

The Wallis presents professional musical theater productions and has offered a course for teens to create original musicals, but has yet to offer performance training in musical theater. In addition to the summer intensive, The Wallis and the Broadway Dreams Foundation plan to collaborate on additional musical theater classes and workshops throughout the year, including a master class with legendary artist Patti LuPone on March 31.

“We were thrilled to offer our summer intensive at The Wallis in 2015 and are excited to develop this ongoing partnership,” said Annette Tanner, executive director of the Broadway Dreams Foundation.

“GENERATION: The 2016 Summer Intensive Tour” features week-long sessions of classes in acting, dance and vocal performances taught by Broadway performers, directors and casting directors. The classes are open to Los Angeles-area students of all ages. More than 100 summer intensive students have gone on to perform in productions such as “Book of Mormon,” “Bring It On: The Musical,” “Evita,” “Memphis,” “Spring Awakening,” “The Addams Family” and more. Registration and applications for scholarships are available. Entry into the Broadway Dreams Foundation is $50. Auditions will be held on Friday, April 1 from 4 to 7 p.m. at The Wallis. For information, visit mybroadwaydreams.com.
AZA grants accreditation to California Science Center

The Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) this week announced that the California Science Center was granted accreditation by AZA's independent Accreditation Commission.

“The only zoo and aquariums that meet the highest standards are accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums,” said AZA interim president and CEO Kris Vetter. “As a proven leader in the care and conservation of wildlife and education outreach, the California Science Center is ranked among the best zoos and aquariums in the world.”

To be accredited, the California Science Center underwent a thorough review to ensure it has and will continue to meet ever-rising standards, which include animal care, veterinary programs, conservation, education and safety. AZA requires zoos and aquariums to successfully complete this rigorous accreditation process every five years in order to be members of the association.

The accreditation process requires a detailed application and a meticulous on-site inspection by a team of trained zoo and aquarium professionals. Finally, top officials are interviewed at a formal hearing of AZA’s independent Accreditation Commission.

Founded in 1924, AZA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of zoos and aquariums in the areas of conservation, animal welfare, education, science and recreation. AZA is the accrediting body for the top zoos and aquariums in the United States and seven other countries. Visitors should look for the AZA accreditation logo whenever visiting a zoo or aquarium as assurance that the facility is dedicated to providing excellent care for animals. For more information, visit azoa.org.

The California Science Center is located at 700 Exposition Park Dr. For information, call (323)724-5623 or visit californiasciencescen-ter.org.

Loyola speech and debate coach receives national honor

Loyola High School speech and debate coach Michael S. Overing, Esq., has been recognized as a Diamond Coach by the National Speech & Debate Association’s Honor Society.

The recognition reflects the Loyola team’s outstanding participation at the national level. Overing mentors a team that competes at tournaments throughout the country. He will be recognized with an award on June 16 at the 2016 National Speech & Debate Tournament in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Loyola High School is the oldest continuously run educational institution in Southern California. The campus is located at 1901 Venice Blvd. For information, call (213)381-5121, or visit www.loyolahs.edu.

Family-friendly activities held at city recreation centers

Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, and the city’s Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) have announced that numerous city-owned recreation centers are offering family-friendly spring activities.

Each year, RAP hosts family-friendly activities, arts and crafts, games, face painting and more. “These annual events are a great opportunity for families in the 13th District to come together while getting better acquainted with some of the city’s world-class parks facilities,” O’Farrell said. “I want to thank the entire RAP staff for hosting these events and providing this city service year after year.”

Most of the events are free and all are open to the public. “We are delighted to be offering a variety of fun-filled spring activities at recreation and community centers,” said Michael A. Shull, general manager for the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. “We encourage all community members to come out with their entire family and enjoy spring in the park.”

The Hollywood Recreation Center, 1122 Cote Ave., and the Yucca Community Center, 6671 Yucca St., host activities in Hollywood. For information call (323)957-6339 or (323)467-6847. Additional information is available by visiting www.laparks.org.

Camper’s explore the world of theatre arts

The Santa Monica Playhouse will offer its Spring Break Theatre Camp Monday, March 28 through Friday, April 1. The class meets Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The camp offers activities for dramatic, artsy and energetic young people. Participants experience the thrill of theatre arts as they create a musical with costumes, make-up, lighting, sound, props and set design.

The Spring Break Theatre Camp is an opportunity for young people who are curious about the theatre arts experience, as well as a program for experienced young actors. Playhouse youth programs are based on a process created by actor, director and educator Chris DeCarlo and Emmy-nominated former child star Evelyn Rudie. Their unique, hands-on method is structured so each child can be successful. It ignites students’ passion for arts appreciation and self-expression.

For information, call (310)394-9799 ext.3, or email education@san-monicaplayhouse.com.

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Easter at Immanuel Presbyterian Church

Maundy Thursday, March 24
6:30 pm Agape Dinner & Service
Footwashing • Holy Communion

Good Friday, March 25
6:30 pm Evening Multi-lingual and Multicultural Service

Easter Sunday, March 27
Sunrise Service
6:30 am on the Patio Followed by meditation time at 8:00 am
Breakfast served at 9:00 am at the Parlor
Easter Festival and Message, 10:30 am in the Sanctuary
“Promises Full of Emptiness and Emptiness Full of Promises”

Res: Raafat Cirio,
Irinomiya Pastor/Head of Staff
Res: Matthias Petersen-Brandt,
Interim Associate Pastor

Sunday School 9:00 am,
Worship in Spanish 10:30 am,
Worship in English 10:30 am
Joint Multi-lingual and Multicultural Worship and Celebration 11:30 am
All Services Bilingual
www.immanuelpres.org

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The Park Labrea News & Beverly Press have been publishing for 70 years in the Miracle Mile, Hancock Park, Hollywood and West Hollywood areas. The newspapers are delivered every Thursday with the Los Angeles Times to 13,000 paid subscribers.
LAUSD turns up the heat

School Advocacy Alliance, state funding for after school programs like LA's Best and related staff which has resulted in reduced staffing hours, reduced professional development, the increased wages and other cost drivers said Councilman Bob Blumenfield, 3rd District.

Blumenfield explained the program’s reason for the help their students do not have the flexi-

ity to pass the cost to someone

because they do not have the flexi-

ity to pass the cost to someone

other cost drivers said Councilman Bob Blumenfield, 3rd

District.

LAUSD board member George McKenna explained why the issue

is so critical. When children have three basic environments – home, neighborhood and school – it’s

important not to limit the one where they

will have the most supervision while their parents are busy at

work, he said.

Gurna said “at LA's Best, we consider the

current funding situation to be an existence-thriving effort.”

Gurna said “despite cuts and raising as much private funds as possible, we are

facing a deficit of more than $1 million this school year, and with

out a state increase three times that

year ago. It’s simply unsustainable.”

LAUSD programs work to close the achieve-

ment gap by providing low-income students up to 115 additional days of learning time. ASES programs also help working parents who rely on after school activities to keep their children safe, so that they can work longer hours to support their

families and the community too, and really

ready for life

Gurna explained how he personally

benefited from after school pro-

grams when he was growing up.

“i witnessed firsthand how important it was for my mom and dad raising our fami-

ly,” he said.

“i was a babysitter and it’s not

day care,” she said.

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day care,” she said.

Skylar Wonnacott, communica-

tions director for Assemblyman Jim Cooper who authored AB 2663, said they are confident because Governor Brown has made educa-

tion a priority.

“it’s also more frequently has been vetoing bills with fiscal impacts on the

state. The bill will be considered by the education commission on April 6, and then will go to the appropria-

tions committee.”

LAUSD funds new youth programs

The Los Angeles Center of Photography (LACP) announced that its 2nd Annual Gala and Print Auction fundraising event will be held Tuesday in Santa Monica. The evening will include music, food, cocktails and the opportunity to purchase photography and support LACP’s nonprofit work within the photography community. As part of its mission, LACP offers focused programming for emerging and professional photographers. This past year, Julia Dean, the executive director of LACP, introduced new photography classes for adults.

“This past year has been great

involved in the conversation as cam-

puses across the country strive to

serve healthy, great-tasting school food that their classmates would enjoy too.”

Teams of two or three culinary stu-

dents from the district’s culinary program followed a rigorous recipe development process with a limited list of ingredients to create dishes that are low in calories, fat, sugar and sodium. The district’s nutrition serv-

ices dietitians carefully checked each recipe to meet nutritional requirements.

In addition, the winning team’s menu will be

offered throughout the summer at LAUSD schools.

For tickets, visit lacphoto.org.

For information, email info@lacphoto.org or call (323) 946-0099.
Legislature declares Brain Injury Awareness Month

In response to last week’s announcement that SeaWorld will end its orca breeding program and phase out its orca theatrical shows at all theme parks across the country, Assemblymember Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) joined SeaWorld San Diego Park President, John Reilly, to announce that he has re-introduced the Orca Protection and Safety Act that will adopt many of the company’s new commitments.

“I believe that we have resolved a fundamental marine mammal and animal welfare issue. For these reasons, I can now applaud SeaWorld’s forward-looking, humane and market-competitive leadership,” Bloom said. “Consistent with SeaWorld’s announcement, I will also be reintroducing the Orca Protection and Safety Act that will make the company’s new commitments into state law.”

The documentary, “Blackfish,” the moral justification for keeping orcas in captivity. However, after the tragic death of a SeaWorld trainer in Florida and another trainer at a theme park in Spain highlighted in the documentary, “Blackfish,” the public has increasingly questioned orcas in captivity. In response, Bloom introduced legislation in 2014 to end captive breeding and performance-based shows and prohibit the import or export of orcas. While the legislation did not pass, it demonstrated the public’s support for ending orca captivity.

Bloom introduces landmark Orca protection bill

“Smaller cities are cautious that with West Hollywood’s current real estate market, it would be best to put ourselves on the back and think that it is,” he said. “This is actually a return to something that was there.”

But West Hollywood’s city council members were not persuaded. Bloom and City Councilman John Duran explained that they did not want to make the decision based on what Los Angeles did because their economy and communities are very different and will be affected differently.

In 2014, West Hollywood businesses 26,641 workers. Food service workers make up 26 percent of the city’s total employment, with retail and health care services each making up about 15 percent of total employment. By comparison, food service workers make up 9 percent of all employees in Los Angeles.

Chamber: Don’t rush raises

From wage page 1

to qualify for the November 2016 ballot.
President and CEO of the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, Genevieve Morrill, said she is not opposing to raising the wage but is cautious the city council to slow down and consider businesses that compete with national chains that can afford a higher cost of labor. She also explained that most West Hollywood businesses already pay above minimum wage, and that 80 percent of people who work in West Hollywood do not live in the city.

“Supporters of Raise the Wage, with no consideration of the West Hollywood businesses, state that we want to deny the workers of West Hollywood a wage that allows that to adequately provide for their families,” Morrill said. “They give no consideration that these West Hollywood businesses are just trying to feed their families, trying to keep their doors open and their employees employed.”

Heilman explained that the city isn’t rushing forward. The city first employees employed.”

“Not this is not a brave new jump forward, but it’s a step back. We need to put ourselves on the back and think that it is,” he said. “This is actually a return to something that was there.”

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Beyond other demographic differences, Duran explained that everyone in West Hollywood on average lives 500 feet from a business. He said the city has very few fast food restaurants, and non-chain restaurants in West Hollywood don’t see the employee turnover rates that they see in Los Angeles. “We have a community that’s very unique,” Duran said. “Raising the wage would need to be considered in other places.”

Duran echoed D’Amico that West Hollywood might need to take a step back. He explained smaller municipalities may feel frustrated by the federal government’s lack of action, as the country’s minimum wage is still $7.25, set in 2009. But he said West Hollywood should be very careful.

“Smaller cities are cautious that they make a mistake and are not able to recover from it,” he said. Part of what made the decision difficult was the complex nature involved with tipped workers. West Hollywood businesses asked the city to consider incorporating a “subminimum wage” or a total compensation provision into any wage increases. The subminimum wage is a two-tiered system that permits an employer to pay the minimum wage to tipped employees who regularly receive at least $30 per month in tips. Currently, the federal subminimum wage is $2.13 per hour and the maximum tip credit that an employer can claim is $5.12 per hour. Forty-three states and the District of Columbia allow subminimum wage; California does not.

Total compensation creates a system in which employers can now claim medical benefits, bonuses, pensions, meals, sick days or other benefits that could be equated with wages.

After the vote, Horvath said she was embarrassed that the city “failed to act as leaders,” and they reconsider making a commitment on the ballot.

“By doing less we’re basically saying the status quo is acceptable,” she said.

City staff will reach out to the business community to assess how wages feel it would be best to move forward.

Answers From Page 16

Palladium

From page 1

Crescent Heights, are pleased with the employment because it will provide more housing in Hollywood during the housing crisis.

“Hollywood needs housing that regular people can afford,” Green said. “That’s what Palladium Residences likely to do.”

He said any litigation against the project is frivolous and without merit. He criticized AHP for spending money on litigation that it could spend on treatment and prevention of HIV. He said it is an abuse of power to use AHP as a “political weapon.”

“AHP [Weinstein is] opposing it because it will block 12 percent his view from his executive office on the 21st story of a luxury office building,” Green said. “Any litigation by AHP [and attorney] Robert Silverstein only leaves the taxpayers on the hook.

AHP is also the leader in a larger citywide fight over appropriate city council appointments. The city is in the midst of the Coalition to Preserve L.A. vote, which will start gathering signatures.

In 2017 ballot that would put a moratorium on projects like the Palladium Residences, which require General Plan amendments.

Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, and AHF also initiated the process to nominate the Palladium as a historic-cultural monument. The city will consider the two nominations as one effort to preserve the music venue on May 19.


declares Brain Injury Awareness Month

The California Senate last week approved a resolution authored by Senator Tony Mendoza (D-Artesia) on a unanimous bipartisan vote. The resolution was approved by the March of 2016 and each year after as Brain Injury Awareness Treatment and Prevention Month.

It is part of an effort to promote public awareness on the extent, causes, consequences, treatment and prevention of traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Each year, 1.7 million Americans, including 250,000 in California, sustain a traumatic brain injury. They occur when there is sudden trauma to the brain caused by a violent blow to the head or when an object pierces the skull and enters brain tissue. Symptoms of a TBI can be mild, moderate, or severe, depending on the extent of the damage to the brain.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, TBI is a contributing factor in roughly one-third of all injury-related deaths in the United States. The leading causes are falls, motor vehicle accidents, assaults, sporting-related injuries and occupational injuries. More than 1.5 million people in the U.S. suffer a TBI each year, with more than 70,000 people sustain a TBI as well. The annual direct and indirect medical costs of TBI in the United States are an estimated $75 billion.

TBI has been the signature injury of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and presented new challenges for members of the military and their families.

“Raising awareness about this issue will hopefully spur more research and bring more support for those individuals and the families who have a loved one with a traumatic brain injury,” Mendoza added.

The Federal Traumatic Brain Injury Reauthorization Act of 2014 provided new authority for the CDC to review brain injury management in children and to identify ongoing and potential opportunities for research.

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