Beverly Hills extends emergency rent controls

BY GREGORY CORNFIELD

The Beverly Hills City Council on Feb. 22 unanimously updated and extended stricter rent controls, including required relocation fees for no-cause evictions of tenants.

Councilwoman Kathy Reims said the ordinances approved this week “answer the questions that we need right now, even on a temporary basis.”

The council extended the conditions of an urgency ordinance that was set to expire on Feb. 25 to reduce allowable rent increases from 10 percent to 3 percent. This week, they included a provision that stipulates if the consumer price index (CPI) exceeds 3 percent, then rent prices can be adjusted accordingly.

The council first established the 3-percent cap after midnight on Jan. 24, after a five-hour meeting that started on Jan. 24. That ordinance, the pace with which it wasSee Beverly Hills page 21

WeHo conflicted over business with Trump

BY GREGORY CORNFIELD

Members of the West Hollywood City Council have been adamant that they oppose many of the actions and the rhetoric of President Donald Trump, personally and as elected representatives. Since the election in November, and in response to the president’s actions, the council has been taking steps to reaffirm the city’s “core values” of respect and inclusion for all people, “especially those who have faced hatred, discrimination and marginalization.”

According to the proposal, Trump continues to take actions that “reverse course on progressive policies.”

But on Tuesday, most of the council did not support a proposal by Mayor Lauren Meister for the city to consider prohibiting “financial or public benefit” to anyone holding the office of President of the United States, including Donald Trump.

See WeHo page 22

Show-and-tell campaign finances for LAUSD

BY LUKE HAROLD

Even with plenty of education-related issues facing Los Angeles schools, the board of education’s District 4 race has perhaps been most notable for the exorbitant amount of money it has drawn.

Residents will vote on board of education seats in Districts 2, 4 and 6 of the Los Angeles Unified School District in March 7 election. Board members Monica Garcia and Steve Zimmer of Districts 2 and 4, respectively, are running to hold their seats.

Six candidates are running in District 6 to replace Monica Ratliff, who is running for the city council District 7 seat.

No candidate in any of the three school board races has taken in more contributions than District 4 candidate Nick Melvoin, who is vying to replace Zimmer.

He’s accumulated $296,948 as of Jan. 21, the most among the three races. Neither of the other two races has surpassed $200,000.

Despite his considerable financial advantage, Melvoin readily admits that “campaign finance is beyond the pale,” especially considering there were “no height limits” for the site. But the city alleges there are height limits, and that the city failed to do what would be necessary to lift the limits. Additionally, the group said the planning department misled the public and city leaders by not disclosing the covenant, established with the development of the existing strip mall.

Lawsuit filed against 8150 Sunset project

■ Group alleges city’s covenant from 1986 was withheld by planners

BY GREGORY CORNFIELD

In October, Los Angeles city leaders commended a compromise that allowed the 8150 Sunset proposal to advance after developers agreed to reduce the height of the tallest structure from 234 feet to 178 feet. However, according to a lawsuit filed last week and a covenant made in 1986, that still might be 133 feet too high.

Fix the City – a public advocacy group – filed a lawsuit last week alleging that the city failed to disclose a covenant that limits height at the site to 45 feet, among other claims against the project.

The tallest structure for the 8150 Sunset project is set to be 178 feet. A nonprofit group said a covenant restricts height to 45 feet at the site.

Partners should be commended for making changes to the project, especially considering there were “no height limits” for the site.

See 8150 Sunset page 22
James Cagney
Classic film fans are invited to an Alex Film Society presentation of “White Heat” (1949) Thursday, Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Alex Theatre in Glendale. The film stars James Cagney as a psychopathic criminal and is considered to have set a precedent for heist films of the early 1950s. Producer and film historian Steven C. Smith and author Tom Johnson will discuss the movie. The screening begins with the animated short “Big House Buganza” (1950). For general admission, $16. 216 N. Brand Blvd. (818)343-2539, alextheatre.org.

Inflatable Trio
Inflatable Trio will premiere a new piece during an installation of the Skibbal Cultural Center’s “Performance Lab” series running from Thursday, Feb. 23 through Saturday, Feb. 25 at 8 p.m. Using an inflatable plastic living room set, Inflatable Trio looks at the ways people attempt to orient themselves in ever-changing domestic, social and environmental situations. Audience members can join a discussion of the show’s themes after each performance. For more information, call Sepulveda Ve. (310)440-4500, skibbal.org

Art of László Moholy-Nagy
Tour the face-claiming retrospective of work by László Moholy-Nagy (1895-1946) in the United States in nearly 50 years on Friday, Feb. 24 at 2 p.m. at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The presentation reveals a utopian artist who typically derived from an obvious sexual ambiguity. The tour meets near the ticket office in the Hammer Building. It is free with paid admission. 5905 Wilshire Blvd. (323)857-6000, lacma.org.

Debussy’s Letters
In observance of Black History Month, W plano Reads will host “We Rise! We Write! We Arrive!”, a panel discussion with women discussing their writing of fiction and the stories that have inspired and influenced them on Friday, Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the Los Angeles City Council Chambers. The panel will be moderated by Lisa Trasley, and panelists include authors Natasha Deen, Tanwanne D’Ann, Rachel M. Harper and Attica Locke. 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. (323)848-6377, bit.ly/RedwoodFeb3.

Gene Autry Double Feature
Fans of western films are invited to a double-feature screening of “Sons of Jesse Siv” (1946) and “Robin Hood of Texas” (1947) on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 2 p.m. at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). The discussion coincides with the ongoing exhibit “The Inner Eye: Vision and Transcendence in African Arts” and focuses on the inner Eye (Ojo-Bi), which refers to insight, a special kind of understanding of a person, thing or situation not usually derived from an obvious source. Admission is free. LACMA’s Bing Theatre, 5905 Wilshire Blvd. (323)857-4900, lacma.org.

Baroque Variations
Los Angeles Philharmonic’s “Baroque Variations” series continues with an appearance by the Venice Baroque Orchestra on Saturday, Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. The program is highlighted by a performance of Vivaldi’s “The Four Seasons,” featuring the Scottish violinist Nicola Benedetti. The concert also includes performances of concertos from Galuppi, Avision and Geminiani. Tickets start at $20. 111 S. Grand Ave. (213)972-9001, lacopa.org.

27 Women In Film
West Hollywood’s “Women In Film Speakers Series” features filmmakers and industry leaders offering professional insights into the art and craft of film, television and media-making on Monday, Feb. 27 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the West Hollywood City Council Chambers. Women In Film is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting equal opportunities for women in media. Admission is $10. 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. womensinfo.org/speakers-series.

Sci-Fi Writing
Aspiring writers are invited to “Science Fiction and Fantasy: Writing the Future and Alternate Realities,” a workshop held by the Independent Writers of Southern California on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building in Culver City. Award-winning authors Romina Russell (novel) and others will discuss science fiction and fantasy writing. General admission is $15. 4117 Overland Ave. iwosc.org.

March

Sweeping the West Hollywood City Council in the March primary election is the top candidate, former Sen. Samantha Goldin, who is running unopposed.

Sunday, Feb. 26
American Legion Post 43 presents a performance by the jazz and rockabilly band Cat Swing during “Sweeping Night at Post 43” on Thursday, March 2 at 8:30 p.m. The group includes a five-piece horn section and jump/jump rhythm section. A dance lesson begins at 8:30 p.m. Admission is $10. 2035 N. Highland Ave. facebook.com/events/1632691561718487.

Ferris Bueller’s Day Off
Return to the ’80s at a screening of “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off” (1986) on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. at the Petersen Automotive Museum. The film chronicles a day in the life of a high school senior (Matthew Broderick) who gives in to an overwhelming urge to cut school and head for downtown Chicago with his girl and his best friend. Admission is free for museum members; $5 per couple for non-members. 6060 Wilshire Blvd. (323)857-6000, peter.org.

Tennis
The Roxy Theatre presents a performance by Ronnie Milsap on Saturday, Feb. 25. The Denver-based duo features Alaina Moore and Patrick Rieley, who began writing music together, as a way to document their time living at sea on a small 40-year-old boat. The result was their first release, “Cape Dory,” which was followed by “Young and Old.” Hoopis, a Bloomington, Indiana-based four-piece group opens the show. Doors open at 7 p.m.; show starts at 8:30 p.m. 9900 W Sunset Blvd. (323)878-9457, throry.com.

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**Beverly Hills candidates discuss 2016 Measure HH**

BY EDWIN FULVEN

Beverly Hills City Council candi-
dates shared how they voted on
Measure HH, a controversial initia-
tive that was defeated in the
November election, during a Feb. 15
forum at city hall hosted by the
Southwest Beverly Hills Homeowners Association.

The race for three seats on the
city council in the March 7 election fea-
tures two incumbents – Mayor John Mirisch and Vice Mayor Nancy
Krause, both of whom said they opposed the measure.

"One of the things that makes [Beverly Hills] unique is that it’s
low-rise, human-scaled and livable," Mirisch said. "The ‘lifeblood of
the city,’ I originally voted in favor of the [Waldorf Astoria that was part of the
2008 plan] and I opposed the condo-
ominums, because it was a conver-
sion of commercial property to resi-
dential," he said.

The measure was the first in the
city’s history to put a residential
development approval in front of
voters.

"I don’t think that should have been
decided on the ballot," said Wunderlich, a business consultant
and director of the Metropolitan
Water District representing Beverly
Hills. "When something goes direct-
lly to ballot there’s no opportunity to
modify the project. It’s just a yes or a
no and a battle of sound bites."

He also said it was "out of charac-
ter for the city."

Bilak, a retired domestic relations
attorney and Beverly Hills recreation
and parks commissioner, said she
supported Measure HH because the
garden would have added to the
city’s green space. She also said the
city council could have taken action in anticipation of the ballot
measure.

"Between 2008 and 2016 ... city
council had ample opportunity to
require a permissive requirement for that area," Bilak said.

Take that specific plan and put a
height requirement and a density
requirement for that entire area," Bilak said.

Bilak added that her concerns
about building heights in Beverly
Hills extend to a new structure being
built near El Rodeo School. A sniper
could perch on top of it and shoot at
school children, she said.

Markowitz, who co-owned a
small medical practice in Beverly
Hills for 30 years with her husband,
said she supported the measure
because of the location.

"It’s the only spot where I would have
put it," she said. "There isn’t another
spot in the city where I would have
tought it was viable."

According to the Los Angeles
County Clerk, 56 percent of voters in
Beverly Hills rejected the measure,
compared to 44 percent who sup-
pported it. Marie Garvey, a spokes-
woman for the proponents, said they
were "tremendously grateful of the
support of thousands of residents" and "proud of our efforts following
the defeat."

Mirisch praised Measure HH’s
downturn as a “rebuke to developers
that want to circumvent our process
in a deceptive manner.”

Jim Wayne, owner of Jim Wayne
Salon, will also appear on the ballot
as a candidate for city council, but he
has suspended his campaign.

Howard S. Fisher will be the only
candidate on the ballot to replace
Finkel as city treasurer.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8
p.m. on March 7.
DNA match helps police crack cold case

Defendant allegedly kidnapped and sexually assaulted 14-year-old boy

BY EDWIN POLYVEN

Detectives arrested a suspect in Hollywood on Feb. 14 for allegedly kidnapping and sexually assaulting a 14-year-old boy in 2001 after a DNA sample taken in an unrelated case matched the defendant.

Merek Paul Voyt, 54, was arrested at an undisclosed location in Hollywood, said Det. Carla Zuniga, with the Los Angeles Police Department’s Robbery-Homicide Division, Special Assault Section. Police continued to investigate the case over the years with the hope new evidence would surface that would lead them to a suspect, she said.

Voyt faces two felony counts, including kidnapping to commit oral copulation and sodomy by force or fear, and forcible oral copulation. He is also accused of the special allegations of using a handgun during the commission of a crime of kidnaping and tying or binding a victim.

The crime occurred June 22, 2001, as the 14-year-old victim was walking with a friend near Vanalden Avenue and Chase Street in Northridge. Voyt allegedly approached the boys, pointed a gun and forced the victim into his vehicle.

The other boy escaped, Zuniga said. Voyt allegedly lived in the area at the time.

Voyt faces four other counts, including the allegations of using a firearm in an attempt to commit kidnapping and for violation of parole.

Zuniga confirmed Voyt lived in Hollywood and worked for a grocery store chain, but she declined to identify which store. The grand theft case stems from a theft in late 2016 from the store.

Police surmise there may be other victims and released Voyt’s photograph to identify anyone else who was targeted. Anyone with information is urged to call investigators at (213)486-6910.

Voyt pleaded not guilty to the charges on Feb. 16 and bail was set at more than $1 million. He is scheduled to return to court on Feb. 28. If convicted, the defendant faces 35 years to life in state prison.

WeHo altercation involving Justin Bieber investigated

Deputies with the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station investigated an incident on Feb. 11 at a Sunset Boulevard restaurant involving pop star Justin Bieber, who was allegedly involved in an altercation at the location.

The incident was reported at approximately 2 a.m. at Serfina, a restaurant in the $700 block of Sunset Boulevard. Deputies responded to a battery report and were told by an unidentified witness that he saw Bieber involved in a separate altercation with two bartenders, according to Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department public information officer Trina Schrader.

The witness said he broke up the fights and asked Bieber to leave, but Bieber refused and remained at the restaurant.

The witness told deputies that a few minutes after the initial altercation, he saw Bieber headbutting at 11 a.m. at a Sunset Boulevard restaurant involved in a battery report. Deputies responded to a battery report and were told by an unidentified witness that he saw Bieber involved in a separate altercation with two bartenders, according to Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department public information officer Trina Schrader.

The witness said he broke up the fights and asked Bieber to leave, but Bieber refused and remained at the restaurant.

The witness told deputies that a few minutes after the initial altercation, he saw Bieber headbutting a patron. Bieber’s friends allegedly pulled him away from the victim, and Bieber left the restaurant.

Deputies interviewed the victim, who refused medical attention and stated he did not want to file a police report. Deputies did not see any visible marks on the victim, according to Schrader. The bartenders involved in the initial altercation with Bieber had also left the location prior to deputies’ arrival and did not want to file a police report.

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station detectives are investigating the incident to gather information and evidence in case the victims change their minds about filing charges at a later date. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact Det. Michael Berbari with the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station at (310)358-4011.

Defendant pleads no contest to vandalizing Trump star

A 53-year-old Los Angeles man entered a no contest plea on Feb. 21 for vandalizing Donald Trump’s star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame prior to the presidential election, the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office announced.

District Attorney Sandra Peña said defendant James Lambert Otis entered the plea to one felony count of vandalism. Otis was immediately sentenced to 20 days of Caltrans work, and ordered to pay $3,700 to the Hollywood Historic Trust and $700 to the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, which oversee the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The defendant damaged the star on Oct. 26, with a pickax and sledgehammer. Otis also removed a brass medallion from the middle of the star, the prosecutor said.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department’s Hollywood Division.

WeHo altercation involving Justin Bieber investigated

Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer has announced that his office is suing an individual and multiple companies allegedly involved in a predatory lending scheme targeting California pensioners, including senior citizens and disabled veterans.

“Predatory lending practices can exploit the very real financial struggles of California’s most vulnerable residents, including seniors and veterans,” Feuer said. “In this case, we’re fighting to put an end to the pension lending and investment scheme our complaint alleges.”

The lawsuit targets Scott Kohn, the owner and manager of a complex group of companies including Cash Flow Investment Partners, LLC, Future Income Payments, LLC and London Square Specialty Services, LLC, Kohn and the companies allegedly marketed and issued predatory loans to individuals in need of money to pay for unexpected expenses, securing the loans with the individuals’ pensions. Kohn allegedly charged interest rates as high as 96 percent, far above California’s 10 percent limit, and falsely threatened borrowers that defaulting on the loans could subject them to criminal liability.

According to the lawsuit, Kohn also subjects pensioners in default to illegal and harassing debt collection practices, such as repeated telephone calls starting as early as 5:30 a.m. Additionally, the lawsuit alleges that Kohn falsely assures investors that pension loans comply with all applicable laws. As a result, investors unknowingly bear the risk of loss on loans that are legally challenged or deemed void.

The City Attorney’s Office is seeking injunctive prohibiting Kohn from collecting on the predatory loans issued to California pensioners, as well as selling unlawful and fraudulent loans to investors. Additionally, Feuer seeks restitution for pensioners as well as civil penalties.
Mayoral candidates converse at forums, minus the mayor

BY LUKE HAROLD

Nine mayoral challengers who will all appear on the March 7 ballot during a Feb. 15 forum at American Legion Post 43 in Hollywood that city hall needs a shakeup.

The incumbent, Eric Garcetti, to whom much of the night’s ire was directed, declined an invitation to defend his record.

“There’s such a distrust of the process, such a distrust of politicians,” said Mitchell Schwartz, who has worked in various levels of politics and government. “I want to bring that trust back.”

She will be running for the seat of Illinois Governor Bill Clinton’s 1992 New Hampshire campaign, and the 2008 California campaign for former President Barack Obama, who was then a U.S. senator from Illinois.

Like the other candidates, Schwartz said he wants to address the city’s housing crisis. He does not support Measure S, which would impose a ban up to two years for construction that increases development density, and prohibit amendments to the city’s general plan to accommodate specific projects. Schwartz’s housing plan calls for the city’s general plan and community plans to be updated within four years as more housing is added to meet the current demand. Seven other candidates support Measure S.

Distrust of Garcetti’s current administration and the housing crisis reverberated throughout the hour-long forum.

“Somehow Los Angeles has checked out of the political process, and I think that’s because the trust has been broken,” said Paul E. Amori. “We have to figure out how to make the people care again.”

Amori, who supports Measure S, also wants to implement a housing plan capable of keeping up with demand.

Eric Preven, a writer and producer, has been a frequent presence at city council and county board of supervisors’ meetings over the past several years. He said “there’s a lack of an ally for Angelenos down at city hall.”

Over the years, with strategic public records requests and observations at city council and county board of supervisors’ meetings, Schwartz has worked in various levels of politics and government. “I want to bring that trust back.”

Schwartz said “there’s a lack of an ally for Angelenos down at city hall.”

Another of Draiman’s platforms is a job-creation plan that prioritizes renewable and fossil fuel sources.

Garcetti, whose campaign has raised approximately $3.1 million in monetary contributions, holds a clear fundraising advantage over all the challengers. After Schwartz, who has raised $569,634, no other campaign has collected more than $76,000 in monetary contributions. Five candidates – Harman, Salzburg, Pierre, Draiman and Richter – do not have any contributions. But some of the lesser-funded candidates agreed that money in local politics has been a corrupting force for issues such as development.

“Some of the lesser-funded candidates agreed that money in local politics has been a corrupting force for issues such as development.”

There’s no Malibu addiction clinic for pay-to-play development,” said Salzburg, who excoriated Garcetti as “Mr. Do-nothing. Absentee Mayor who’s too good to be here.”

Pierce broke the monotony of grievances about the status quo in Los Angeles by proposing that all of the city’s residents receive a universal basic income as a way to reduce poverty. The idea has slowly gained traction worldwide, including in Canada, where Ontario plans to launch a universal basic income pilot program next month.

Harman, who is running her campaign on her retirement funds and her husband’s disability check from social security, said she wants Los Angeles to be “great again.” Part of her plan is to allow free public transportation for each city resident who has a job.

The forum was hosted by the Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council. The candidates attended another forum in Northridge, hosted by the Northridge East Neighborhood Council, later that night.

A spokesman for Garcetti did not return a request for comment about the mayor’s absence from both forums. Yuval Kremer, a math educator and activist, was the only other candidate who didn’t participate. He said the forums conflicted with other campaign-related events, and he had concerns about the fairness of the questioning.
To smoke in Beverly Hills, keep it moving

BY GREGORY CORNFIELD

The city of Beverly Hills this week balked at prohibiting smoking in public, but the city council strengthened its restrictions on smoking in public rights of way and near open-air dining. Four of the five city council members voted to approve an ordinance that stipulates smokers must be at least 20 feet from another destination to smoke on public rights of way, and that smoking will be prohibited within 30 feet of all open-air dining areas – extended from 5 feet. Vice Mayor Nancy Krasne, who represents the city’s second district, abstained.

“I won’t tell you when or where to smoke,” Krasne said.

At the Dec. 6 study session, the city council discussed a potential citywide ban on smoking, but it did not have support to pass this week. Krasne said she would prefer to see how the community and businesses in Beverly Hills handle smoking “without us making another law, another regulation.”

Councilwoman Kathy Reim, whose mother died of lung cancer likely due to a life around second-hand smoke, said she had concerns about how the regulations will be enforced, and said it would be “a disaster and a flashto” to ask the Beverly Hills Police Department to enforce an outright ban on public smoking. She said a proposal to ban smoking is a “non-starter,” and she believes societal pressures will be more effective at curbing the habit than ticketing people who light up in public.

Councilman Dr. Julian Gold said six million people die every year from smoking-related illnesses.

“As a nation, we need to be embarrassed that we are the largest exporter of tobacco on the planet,” he said. “If you ask me what I really want, I want a planet without tobacco products. Because no one ever has given a positive reason to have tobacco products. It only causes suffering.”

But he stopped short of supporting the full ban.

“It’s a lofty goal for our city. I think we have to get there,” he said.

He said he also was concerned about enforcement, and said the goal is not to give people tickets.

“Quite to the contrary, I would rather our ambassadors hand them a pamphlet on the health risks of smoking,” he said. “But over time, I think we’ll get there. I just have no interest in giving people tickets for smoking.”

He suggested it would be more practical for the city to set a goal that after a certain number of years, the city, “will be smoke free.”

“If we want to leave a mark, a legacy, that’s it,” he said. “At the end of the day, we’re all going to be healthier for it.”

Through outreach with the business community, feedback was resistant to expanding the regulations, and stricter rules could lead to a loss of business, especially with the foreign tourists, according to the staff report. Staff also received input from other restaurants that mentioned expanding regulations would not affect business. Hotel owners also expressed concern about strengthening regulations by removing designated smoking areas around pools and outside adjoining areas. They said smoking patrons, especially those from foreign countries, could find the regulations too restrictive, causing them to stay elsewhere.

Mayor John Mirisch, who spent a significant amount of his life in Sweden where smoking is less common, countered and said some foreigners from countries with different habits could also be dissuaded by second-hand smoke. He added that the longer patrons live, the longer they continue to come back and spend money.

According to the staff report, 8 percent of residents in Beverly Hills smoke, compared to 14 percent in all of Los Angeles County and 17 percent nationwide.

Each year, the American Lung Association issues a State of Tobacco Control report, which designates a letter grade to cities on overall tobacco regulations. Currently, Beverly Hills has a “C” grade for not having smoking regulations in multi-unit housing. City staff anticipate that the American Lung Association would give the city an “A” once a policy regulating smoking in multi-unit housing is adopted, as it is not currently a regulated area. The issue was initially raised in August, when the city council directed city hall to begin the process of crafting policy for smoking regulations for multi-unit housing. Staff anticipates that recommendations and a proposed ordinance will be considered by the city council in April.

For information about the Clean Streets program, visit cleanstreets-la.com.
Motion approved to help fight for Westwood seniors

By LUKE HAROLD

A representative of Watermark Retirement Communities said the company has offered a deal to senior citizens in a Westwood apartment building that would allow them to remain in the building during scheduled renovations.

The company had originally given the tenants one-year eviction notices on Dec. 1 stating that their tenancies would be terminated because the renovations would render the building unlivable.

The ensuing backlash was galvanized by City Councilman Paul Koretz, 5th District, who introduced a motion during a council meeting earlier this month seeking a residential hotel designation for the property, which could offer protections for the residents, as part of his continued effort to make sure the seniors wouldn’t be evicted.

While the two sides now agree the residents will remain, they’re now at odds over the residents’ long-term ability to remain in their units, but that he was not privy to the specific terms under discussion. The Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department will now determine whether the residential hotel designation could be a viable option to help the seniors.

Koretz, who is vice chair of the housing committee, has been an outspoken critic of Ellis Act abuses, calling the law “far, far afield” from the usage for which it was intended. He has also said the act should be thoroughly revised.

Koretz introduced a motion in November instructing the city attorney to draft an ordinance that would require landlords to disclose to tenants their rights before subjecting them to voluntary buyout offers.

The city council unanimously approved the ordinance in December, and the resulting tenant buyout notification program went into effect on Jan. 25.

Koretz has said that approximately 150 senior citizens living at the property received eviction notices in December issued by Watermark, which had acquired the property. A spokeswoman for the company, Laura Mecoy, said there are 65 seniors at the building, and that there were never as many as Koretz has claimed.

Watermark stated that planned renovations would render the building unlivable, but a letter issued to residents of the building on Feb. 17 said the building was in a "t New York Times" Inc. 2017

Metro warns about Wilshire Boulevard subway work

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is advising residents and motorists about Purple Line Extension project construction occurring through Monday, Feb. 27.

The work includes median removal and repaving near Wilshire Boulevard and Manhattan Place, as well as geotechnical instrumentation and decking preparation near Wilshire Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue, and geotechnical instrumentation and pre-construction work near Wilshire and La Cienega Boulevards. Excavation and utility work will also continue near Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue.

Westbound Wilshire Boulevard may be intermittently reduced to one lane per day through Friday, Feb. 24, between Mansfield and La Brea Avenues, Orange Drive and Sycamore Avenue south of Wilshire Boulevard, between San Vicente Boulevard and Clifton Avenue. The lane closures are expected to begin after 10 a.m. and last until 4 p.m. on weekdays.

Nger Fairfax Avenue, tar and gas sampling is occurring along Wilshire Boulevard from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Westbound Wilshire Boulevard will be intermittently reduced to two lanes between Fairfax Avenue and Crescent Heights Boulevard. Eastbound Wilshire Boulevard may be intermittently reduced to two lanes between Crescent Heights Boulevard and Orange Grove Avenue. Additionally, Wilshire Boulevard will be closed on weekends near Fairfax Avenue for decking construction.

Work continues within a closed area near Wilshire and La Cienega Boulevards. On Wilshire Boulevard, one westbound lane will remain open between San Vicente Boulevard and Le Doux Road. La Cienega will also be reduced to two lanes north of Wilshire Boulevard to Clifton Way, with a partial sidewalk closure adjacent to the La Cienega staking yard. The sidewalk on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard between La Cienega Boulevard and Le Doux Road will be closed from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

For information, visit metro.net. The public can also call the 24-hour phone hotline at (213)922-6934, and email the project team at purplelineext@metro.net.
**Councilman celebrates new parking in Hollywood**

Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, recently worked with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) and Hollywood residents to add nearly 20 spaces of street parking on El Centro Avenue between Lexington and La Mirada Avenues. Decades ago, the Los Angeles Police Department directed LADOT staff to enforce a no parking zone on the street to deter crime. Public safety in the neighborhood has improved significantly and the no parking zone was lifted earlier this month, O’Farrell said. The councilman (center) is pictured with El Centro Avenue resident Steve Yandrich and LADOT transportation engineer Jeanie Shen.

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**Plan to expand Runyon Canyon Park moves closer to completion**

A plan to expand Runyon Canyon Park moved forward last week when the city council approved a $1.5 million loan to the Trust for Public Land, which is leading a group in the process of purchasing property to add to the park.

The Trust for Public Land is seeking to buy 4.75-acres of private property located northwest of the park at 2450 Solar Dr. A plan to include 10 acres of nearly unincorporated space in the Hollywood Hills is also being considered. The cost of the land is estimated to be approximately $8.5 million, half of which will be funded by the city and the other half funded by state grants and private donations. The loan to the Trust for Public Land was necessary because a purchase may occur soon and the trust may not receive promised grant funding in time, said Estevan Montemayor, communications director for Councilman David Ryu, 4th District. The loan was a step in the process and more news about the land acquisition may be announced in March, Montemayor added.

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**Senators call for information on Trump connections with Russia**

All nine Democrats serving on the United States Senate Judiciary Committee called on the White House, the Justice Department and the FBI to preserve all documents related to communication between Russia and Trump Administration officials and associates, as well as all documents related to Russian interference in the 2016 election.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), the ranking member of the committee, wrote a letter to White House Counsel Donald McGahn outlining the request. “We are writing to ask that you confirm that the White House, its staff and its employees have been instructed to preserve and are preserving all materials related to communications or contacts between the Trump Organization, Trump campaign, Trump transition team, Trump administration or others acting on their behalf, and Russian government officials or associates, including all materials related to Russia’s efforts to interfere with the 2016 election, communications or contacts with Russian officials or associates since the election, and any investigations into these matters,” Feinstein wrote in the letter. “As you are aware, the executive branch and Congress have been investigating Russia’s efforts to interfere with the 2016 election. As part of and related to these investigations, there have been ongoing inquiries into communications or contacts between the Trump campaign or Trump transition team and associates or officials of the Russian government, including communications involving Lt. General Michael Flynn.”

Feinstein called for the government to release all orders, notices or guidance provided to the Trump Administration to Congress. The letter was signed by Sens. Patrick Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Al Franken, Christopher A. Coons, Richard Blumenthal and Mazie Hirono.

For information, visit feinstein.senate.gov.

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**Greystone Mansion temporarily closes for road repair**

The city of Beverly Hills will temporarily close Greystone Mansion & Gardens from Monday, Feb. 27 through Friday, March 3 for roadway and upper parking lot resurfacing. The property at 905 Loma Vista Drive, which is also known as the Doheny Estate, will reopen on Saturday, March 4. For information, visit beverlyhills.org/greystone.
Legislation will stop delays with building housing

Assemblyman Miguel Santiago (D-Los Angeles) has introduced Assembly Bill 943 to increase the vote threshold for approval of local initiatives intended to curb, delay or deter growth and development throughout California. The measure is sponsored by the California Apartment Association and supported by a coalition including the California Building Industry Association, the California Council on Affordable Housing, the California Building and Construction Trades Council, the Central City Association, the Downtown Women's Center, the Valley Industry & Commerce Association and others.

“By all accounts, the state is in the middle of a housing crisis. In many areas, our firefighters, police officers and teachers cannot afford to live in the cities in which they work,” Santiago said. “I fought hard throughout my first term to emphasize and further the development of housing in California. To make matters worse, the local legislative body or by constituent groups, Santiago added.

Furthermore, in many cities, vacancy rates have dropped dramatically due to the lack of new construction, making it difficult for individuals, students, seniors and families to find a place to live close to schools or jobs.

“Laws that curtail the development of housing threaten efforts to solve our housing crisis. Such moves carry heavy consequences for all Californians and warrant a higher approval threshold from voters,” said Debra Carlton, senior vice president of public affairs for the California Apartment Association.

While many local governments are devoting energy and attention to the issue of increasing housing production, others have been unable to do so due to either a lack of will by the local legislative body or by constituent groups, Santiago added.

In some areas, attempts have even been made to block future housing developments. Examples include 2015’s Measure A in Buena Park and Measure I in San Francisco, Santa Monica’s Measure LV in 2016, and Measure S, which is slated for the Los Angeles City ballot in March of 2017, Santiago added. All 943 will likely be heard in an Assembly committee late February or early March.

New leader appointed to council overseeing L.A. River conservation

Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon has appointed city of Bell Mayor Ali Saleh to the board of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. Saleh was appointed to the AB 530 Working Group, which is tasked with creating a Lower L.A. River Master Plan.

“Mayor Saleh is one of the most dynamic leaders in the Southeast,” Rendon said. “He will provide a strong voice on the conservancy, particularly in the effort to revital- ize the L.A. River and make it the resource that it can be.” Saleh was appointed to the AB 530 Working Group, which is tasked with creating a Lower L.A. River Master Plan.

Globetrotters player shares smiles with Cedars patients

Harlem Globetrotters player “El Gato” Melendez recently visited patients at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center’s pediatric and cardiac care units in observance of Valentine’s Day. Melendez gave patients valen- tines and demonstrated some of the team’s legendary techniques. He is pictured with 14-year-old patient Ella Johannes.

“El Gato” Melendez was the only Latino player on the team, so it’s an opportunity for me to show kids that you can really make your dreams come true,” said Melendez, who also celebrated a birthday on Feb. 14. The Harlem Globetrotters were in Los Angeles as part of the team’s 2017 tour.

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Greetings from the Harlem Globetrotters

store closing SALE!
75 years of Custom Framing Art on Sale
• Fine Art & Objects d’Art
• 75 Years of Custom Framing
• Moulding, Fine Art Materials, Flat Art Files, Mirrors,
• Wood Working Tools
• 1,000 of Art Posters
• Pre-Made Frames

TED GIBSON
Framing
4271 W. 3rd St. • Los Angeles
213.362.9195
www.tdgibsonframes.net
Donation helps Fairfax High track team start the season on the right foot

BY EDWIN POLYVEN

The Fairfax High School track and field team could run circles around their competitors with a donation of new running shoes by Sportie LA and the Hoka One One shoe company.

The approximately 50-student team attended a fitting session and pizza party on Feb. 16 at Sportie LA, a sneaker store located at 7753 Melrose Ave., across the street from the high school. Sportie LA co-owner Isack Fadlon, a 1983 Fairfax High graduate, coordinated the donation with Hoka One One and Greenway Arts Alliance co-founder and executive director Pierson Blaetz. The Greenway Arts Alliance is a nonprofit that supports programs at Fairfax High School.

Fadlon and Blaetz serve on the board of directors for the Melrose Business Improvement District (Melrose BID). Fadlon was looking for a community partner that could benefit from his connection with Hoka One One, and when Blaetz learned about it, he jumped at the opportunity.

“It’s a good example of how the Melrose BID can benefit everyone among the businesses in the Fairfax District and on Melrose Avenue are supporting the school.”

Fadlon said he was glad to help, and is looking for other ways to continue the partnership. The 9th through 12th grade students on the team paid $1 for each pair of new shoes, which are known as “spikes.” The students had to buy the shoes to remove associated legal liabilities for the shoe store and company, but Fadlon donated all the money back to the track and field team.

“I have an affinity for Fairfax High. I grew up right off Melrose,” said Fadlon, who has operated Sportie LA with his sister since 1985. “This is something where a board and a retailer reached out and gave back to the community. This is not a one-time thing. It’s the beginning.”

The shoes regularly cost $100 to $150 a pair, which can be a burden for families of many students at Fairfax High School, said coach Shane Cox, who oversees the track and field program. He hopes the donation will make a difference in the team reaching the state championships in May.

“It’s just awesome all the way around,” Cox said. “A lot of kids just can’t afford them. For a lot of the kids, their regular workout shoes aren’t very good. In a perfect world, we want them to have a better shoe. It’s putting all the kids at Fairfax on par with the private schools. The kids were super excited.”

Checkoffs must be renewed every seven years to remain on tax returns.

“Cancer research funds are among the most popular tax checkoffs and deserve to be continued,” Hertzberg said. “These donations pay for rigorous scientific research that helps advance our understanding of cancer, how it works and how we can defeat it.”

Each of the funds receives approximately $400,000 a year from the tax checkoffs. The University of California Office of the President oversees the funds and how they distribute grants, using the money for high-impact research.

The California Breast Cancer Research Fund (CBCRF) supports new approaches to diagnose, treat and prevent breast cancer. The California Cancer Research Fund (CCRF) supports research relating to the causes, detection and prevention of cancer.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in California and the United States after heart disease.

Sen. Bob Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys) has introduced legislation to extend tax checkoffs for cancer research through 2024. The legislation will ensure Californians can continue to donate money through tax checkoffs to support cancer research.

The California Breast Cancer Research Fund and the California Cancer Research Fund are two of the 19 tax checkoff funds that presently appear on tax returns, but they will be discontinued after 2017 without legislative action.

The team competes in distance races, sprint races, relays and throwing and jumping. The competitions include everything from 800-meter and longer races to races that are 400 meters and under. They also compete in shot put and javelin throwing, as well as pole vaulting, long jumping and other events.

Fadlon hopes the donation will inspire other local businesses to partner with the community. Other Melrose BID community programs on the horizon include the “Melrose Mile,” a one-mile run along Melrose Avenue planned in September, he said.

“The joy is seeing the looks on the kids’ faces,” Fadlon added. “Coach Cox and Pierson said it best, ‘it’s about the kids and the community.’

Bill will keep cancer research donation on tax returns

Sen. Bob Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys) has introduced legislation to extend tax checkoffs for cancer research through 2024. The legislation will ensure Californians can mark boxes on their state tax returns to help fund the search for a cure to cancer.

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Letters to the Editor

Something doesn’t add up with firing of WeHo employee

RE “Former city hall employee sues West Hollywood,” Feb. 16 issue

Seems a bit odd that a small, supposedly progressive city such as West Hollywood would need a “temporary” Director of Employee Litigation. It is even stranger given that Ms. Bock (administrative services director), who left under a cloud arising from the Ian Owens scandal, would even be back at city hall. It seems like the city manager has circled the wagons and only wants trusted members of his entourage at city hall.

“Stole” a city parking permit? Seems like a bad choice for discipline rather than termination. My sources inside city hall indicate that management has become increasingly intolerant of any departure from the party line, no departure from the party line, no matter how sensitive, which has resulted in an increasing disconnect between city hall and the people it is supposed to serve. A thorough house cleaning is in order.

Steve Martin
West Hollywood

Interesting that the Los Angeles Times did not print the latest W.H. scandal.

Roslyn Littrell
West Hollywood

BHUSD can thank itself for money issues

RE “Beverly Hills school board considers possible expenditure cut,” Feb. 16 issue

Didn’t Beverly Hills spend $6 million a few years back fighting a useless and unnecessary lawsuit against Metro’s Purple line extension? Huh.

Chris Loos

BHUSD spent over $3 million just last year on legal fees regarding the Purple Line. Hope voters and the press hold these public servants accountable for this waste of taxpayer funds on this quixotic mission.

Russell Schmidt

Who cares? They wasted $6 million fighting the subway. They deserve the hardship. They brought it on themselves.

John Kennaum

Beverly Hills was happy to waste $6 million dollars on trying to fight the Purple Line train. Many people felt this fight against Metro was due to xenophobia and economic elitism. Now the kids will end up feeling the effect. Nobody feels sorry for you now.

Bill Makadoo

The proposed Ordinance would adopt the 2016 California Fire Code Incorporating the Los Angeles County amendments to said code and amend Title 14 of the West Hollywood Municipal Code.

PERMIT(S):
Ordinance, and any other required permits.

APPLICANT:
City of West Hollywood

TIME/PLACE OF MEETING:
Monday, March 6, 2017
at 6:30 p.m.
West Hollywood Park
Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers
625 N. San Vicente Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA, 90069

ZONES:
Citywide

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:
N/A

The staff report will be available on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, the W.H. Library, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, and on-line at www.who.org

IF YOU CHALLENGE this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in any written correspondence directed to the West Hollywood City Council, via the Community Development Department at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

To comply with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, Assistive Listening Devices (ALD) will be available for checkout at the meeting. If you require special assistance to participate in this meeting (e.g., a signer for the hearing impaired), you must call, or submit your request in writing to the Office of the City Clerk at (323) 848-6400 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. The City TDD line for the hearing impaired is (323) 848-6496.

Special meeting related accommodations (e.g., transportation) may be provided upon written request to the Office of the City Clerk at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. For information on public transportation, call 1-323-GO-METRO (323/466-3876) or go to www.metro.net

All interested persons are invited to attend said Public Hearing to express their opinion in this matter.

For further information contact Cynthia Zabala, Acting Building Official, in the Community Development Department at (323) 848-6475; or via email at: cza-
ba@who.org

Yvonne Quarker
City Clerk

Мы сообщаем вам об обсуждении проекта. Для дополнительной информации на русском языке звоните: 323-848-6826.
National Chili Day

Celebrate National Chili Day on Thursday, Feb. 23 at Clifton’s Republic, formerly Clifton’s Cafeteria. Walt Disney often dined at Clifton’s and had a reserved booth in the corner on the third floor where he enjoyed one of his favorite dishes - Clifton’s signature short rib chili. Reopened in 2015, the owner brought back Disney’s favorite chili, made with house-made barbecue sauce, short ribs, brisket, diced rib-eye roast, onions, red bell peppers, San Marzano tomatoes, beans and seasonings.

Chili Day at Boneyard Bistro

Boneyard Bistro is celebrating National Chili Day with melts-in-your-mouth sweet and savory Kobe beef chili with cheddar cheese, mustard, onions and pickles in a doughnut. They also serve a signature brisket-tri tip chili with cheddar cheese, diced onions, tomatoes and sour cream. Another favorite is Great Maple’s hearty beef chili and cheese made with slow cooked ground beef, kidney beans, brown beans, spices and grilled baguette cheese points drizzled with honey. 13539 Ventura Blvd., (818)906-7427.

Pitchoun! Bakery wine and cheese

Taste three cheeses paired with three French wines on Thursday, Feb. 23 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Pitchoun! Bakery. Listen to lounge music performed during happy hour and order from a special menu with dry meats, formage with honey. 13539 Ventura Blvd., (818)906-7427.

Little Dom’s Mardi Gras menu

From Saturday, Feb. 25 through Tuesday, Feb. 28, chef Brandon Boudet, a native of New Orleans, brings the flavors of Mardi Gras to his Los Feliz restaurant Little Dom’s. Enjoy a Fat Tuesday feast with boudin balls, red beans and rice, pork belly cracklins, soft crab andouille and chicken gumbo. Finish with a slice of King cake. 2128 Hillhurst Ave., (323)661-0055.

Four Seasons dinner and a movie

Enjoy a three-course, prix-fixe dinner at Culina on Thursday, Feb. 23 at 6:30 p.m. before a showing of the Oscar-nominated movie “Hidden Figures” at 8 p.m. in a private screening room. The dinner and a movie fundraiser benefits the Make a Film Foundation. The cost is $69. Culina at the Four Seasons Hotel, 300 S. Doheny Drive, (310)860-4000.

See Restaurant News next page

12 February 23, 2017 Park Labrea News/Beverly Press

National Chili Day

Chili Day at Boneyard Bistro

Pitchoun! Bakery

Little Dom’s Mardi Gras menu

Four Seasons dinner and a movie
Thin Mint Shake

To celebrate Girl Scout Cookie season, Hopdoddy is offering thin mint shakes through Tuesday, Feb. 28. The shakes are made with crushed thin mint Girl Scout Cookies blended with their house-made vanilla ice cream and topped with whipped cream and more thin mint cookie pieces.

12746 W. Jefferson Blvd. #1120, (310)410-2337; 850 S. Sepulveda Blvd., (310)414-2337.

Cimarusti Cooking Classes

On Thursday, March 2 from 7 to 9 p.m., chef and owner Michael Cimarusti of Providence, Connie and Ted’s and Cape Seafood will host an intimate cooking class with culinary director Brandon Gray at Cape Seafood and Provisions. Seafood enthusiasts of all skill levels can learn the essentials of fish cookery. The classes are small with a maximum of 10 guests and cost $100 per person. Dinner with Cimarusti and Gray is held after the class. An additional class will be held on Thursday, March 30. 801 N. Fairfax Ave., (323)355-2525.

PPLA Food Festival

Enjoy more than 150 fine dishes and libations on Thursday, March 2 at the Baker Hangar while supporting Planned Parenthood Los Angeles’ health services and education programs. The PPLA Food Fare Festival features two sessions, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Experience dishes by Southern California’s best chefs, restaurants and caterers. Over 35 vendors will pour wine, cocktails, beer, spirits, coffee and tea. Shop for art, jewelry, handbags, pajama sets, home décor, cashmere throws and children’s apparel. A wine and spirit auction will be held. Advance tickets are $150 for the early session and $250 for the evening session. 3021 Airport Ave, Santa Monica. pplafoodfare.com.

Wolfgang Puck Prepares for The Oscars’ Governors Ball

The 89th Oscars Governors Ball will be held after the Academy Awards ceremony on Sunday, Feb. 26 and features a menu by Wolfgang Puck and his team, including the new Wolfgang Puck Catering executive chef Eric Klein and pastry chefs Kamel Guechida, Monica Ng and Jason Lemomie. The red, silver and gold-themed party offers more than 50 whimsical dishes, starting with hors d’oeuvres and small-plate entrees. This year, Puck is featuring Moroccan spiced wagyu short rib topped with a parmesan funnel cake; taro root tacos with shrimp, mango, avocado and chipotle aioli; gnocchetti with braised mushrooms and cashew cream; lobster corn dogs; and a made-to-order sushi, poke and shellfish station. His signature smoked salmon Oscars will be served as well as the ultimate dessert buffet featuring Puck’s 24-karat gold chocolate Oscars. The Governors Ball is the official after-party for the Academy Awards and is not open to the public. It is held in the Ray Dolby Ballroom on the top level of the Hollywood and Highland Center, 6801 Hollywood Blvd. For people seeking menu ideas for Oscar parties at home, visit oscargos.com.

Komodo Introduces New Burritos

The chefs at Komodo’s Venice location are serving breakfast burritos made with eggs, red bell pepper, jalapeño, button mushrooms, mozzarella cheese, sour cream, tater tots, cilantro and sliced green onion. The burritos are available through Friday, March 31 on Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Also through March 31, all Komodo locations will offer spicy pork bulgogi burritos rolled with sweet and spicy marinated pork, pickled crunchy cabbage slaw, sriracha aioli and chopped cilantro. 235 Main St., Venice, (310)255-5742; 8809 W. Pico Blvd., (310)246-5153.
An unknown male suspect committed a burglary in the 9800 block of Santa Monica at 7:40 p.m. An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of Santa Monica at 4:30 p.m. An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Schrader and Hollywood at 6:30 p.m. At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of The Grove. An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 800 block of S. Lucerne at 8:30 p.m. At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft near the corner of Hollywood and Highland. An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 9400 block of Wilcox at 3:45 p.m.

At 7:10 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of N. La Brea. An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Schrader and Hollywood at 6:30 p.m. An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of Santa Monica at 4:30 p.m. An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of Fall. An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Schrader and Hollywood at 6:30 p.m. At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of The Grove. An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 800 block of S. Lucerne at 8:30 p.m. At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of The Grove. An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 800 block of S. Lucerne at 8:30 p.m. At 3 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of The Grove. An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1100 block of N. Cahuenga.

February 13
An unknown male suspect committed a petty theft in the 900 block of S. Faifair at 10 a.m. At 10:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1500 block of N. Highland. An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Larchmont and Beverly at 11 a.m. At 1:52 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 100 block of Robertson. An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 900 block of N. Cahuenga.

February 14
At 1:30 a.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of La Brea and Oakwood. An unknown suspect burglarized a burglary in the 100 block of S. Andrews at 1:30 a.m. At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of N. Wilton Place. An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 100 block of S. Mansfield at 7:30 a.m. At 8:55 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of N. Almendares. An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 5300 block of Monroe at 9:15 a.m. At 9:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of N. Highland. An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of S. St. Andrews at 11 a.m. An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of N. Almendares.

February 15
An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of S. Genesse at 7:15 p.m. At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6400 block of Sunset. An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 100 block of N. Western at 10:15 p.m. At 10:45 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 3900 block of Wilshire.

February 16
At 9:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5600 block of Santa Monica. An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5600 block of Wilshire at 10 a.m. At 1 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7200 block of Warner. An unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Edinburgh and First at 4 p.m. At 1:40 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of N. Cahuenga.

February 17
At 10:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8500 block of Beverly at 5:30 p.m. At 6 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 200 block of S. Orange. An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 200 block of N. Doheny Road at 9 a.m. At 9:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6400 block of Selma. An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 6900 block of Romaine at 11:35 a.m. At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7700 block of Romaine. An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5500 block of Hollywood at 4:30 p.m.

February 18
At 9:11 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 900 block of N. Laurel at 8 p.m. An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of Dorrington.

February 19
At 12:30 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

Los Angeles Police Department

February 8
An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of The Grove. An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8400 block of W. Third. An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 900 block of S. Wilton Place at 5 a.m. An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of Wilcox.

February 9
An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1100 block of N. La Cienega. An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1100 block of N. La Cienega.

February 10
At 10:40 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6400 block of Selma. An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 6900 block of Romaine at 11:35 a.m. At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7700 block of Romaine. An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5500 block of Hollywood at 4:30 p.m.

February 11
A burglary was reported near North Rodeo Drive and Park Drive. The loss was estimated at $3,620.

February 12
An unknown female suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 300 block of N. Canon Drive. The suspect was approximately 5-feet-4-inches tall and 110 pounds. An identity theft was reported in the 9200 block of Burton Way. The suspect was approximately 5-feet-8-inches tall and 160 pounds. The loss was estimated at $10,000.

February 8
An identity theft was reported in the 100 block of Spalding Drive. An identity theft was reported in the 300 block of N. Maple Drive.

February 9
An unknown female suspect assaulted a victim in the 300 block of N. Oakhurst Drive. The loss was estimated at $1,020.

February 6
An unknown male suspect committed a burglary in the 9600 block of Wilshire. The suspect was approximately 36 years old, 5-feet-6-inches tall and 160 pounds. A grand theft was reported in the 9400 block of Wilshire. An unknown male suspect committed a burglary in the 9600 block of South Santa Monica. The suspect was approximately 5-feet-9-inches tall and 150 pounds. Two unknown male suspects committed a grand theft in the 9600 block of Wilshire. The suspect was approximately 36 years old, 5-feet-6-inches tall and 160 pounds.

February 7
An unknown female suspect assaulted a victim in the 400 block of N. Rumph Drive. The suspect was approximately 29 years old, 5-feet-9-inches tall and 160 pounds. The loss was estimated at $20,600.

February 10
At 5:36 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of S. Cahuenga. The suspect was approximately 36 years old, 5-feet-6-inches tall and 160 pounds. At 5 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of S. La Peer Drive. The loss was estimated at $20,600.

February 11
A burglary was reported in the 400 block of S. La Peer Drive. The loss was estimated at $4,510.

February 12
An unknown female suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 300 block of N. Oakhurst Drive. An unknown suspect committed an identity theft in the 400 block of S. Rodeo Drive. The loss was estimated at $50. A burglary was reported in the 400 block of S. Rodeo Drive. The loss was estimated at $20,600.

February 13
At 5:21 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1200 block of Ogden. An unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Fourants and Olive at 5:40 p.m. At 7:10 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of N. La Brea. An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of Santa Monica at 7:40 p.m. At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8700 block of Sunset. An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9000 block of S. Wilton Place at 5 a.m. An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of Wilcox.
Excited to see “Zoot Suit” at the Mark Taper Forum last week. I made a reservation at Kendall’s Brasserie at the Music Center, in order to park just once, dinner and walk to the theater. Recently, the Patina Group renovated the classic French brasserie adding a few contemporary elements. Gone are the white linen table cloths – now the wood tables offer a clean and more casual look. The impressive, circular bar remains, as do the traditional Parisian tile floor and wood paneling throughout the dining rooms. Recessed lighting and modern oiled bronze fixtures in geometric designs with small Edison bulbs create a warm ambiance. A private dining room seats up to 20 guests for intimate dinner parties or special meetings. I recognized our server, Jesus, and asked how long has he worked at Kendall’s Brasserie. “I’ve worked with the Patina Group for almost every restaurant for 22 years,” he said.

Glancing at the menu attached to a wooden clipboard, Jesus recommended we start with the calamari. “It’s sautéed, not fried, with a pleasant smoky flavor,” he said. He also mentioned the onion tart and Jidori chicken liver pâté.

The wine list included four types of champagne and sparkling wines by the glass. My husband thought an Italian Abbazia, Trentino Alto Adige Pinot Grigio would pair well with the onion tart. It was an excellent choice offering a pale yellow color with a crisp and slightly fruity profile of peach and honeydew melon and tangy acidity on the finish. Imagining a classic French onion tart, we were surprised when it arrived as a circular, flat-bread pizza cut into eight slices. On top what looked like olives were actually fermented cherries along with crumbled, Applewood-smoked bacon, caramelized onions and comte cheese. This French cheese offers aromatic flavors of brown butter and roasted nut with a slightly sweet finish. As my starter, I selected an endive salad with a glass of dry, easy-to-drink Moulin De La Rouge. Vin de Bandol rosé. The salad had chopped watercress and endive, sliced Fuji apples and crumbled fourme d’ambert cheese. It’s one of France’s oldest cheeses, dating back to Roman times made from raw cow’s milk and offering distinct blue veins with pleasing notes of cream. Executive Chef Jean-Pierre Bosse walked out of the kitchen to mingle with his guests. When he approached our table he told us that he has been the chef at Kendall’s Brasserie for almost five years. Before he owned the authentic French bistro Mimosa and Café des Artistes in Los Angeles. Asking us how we like the new look, I complimented his choice of new serving dishes and told him that I enjoyed his new onion tart. He recommended we start with the calamari. The show was outrageous! He added a few contemporary elements to Kendall’s Brasserie. $$ 135 N. Grand Ave. (213)972-7322.

Celebrate Mardi Gras at the Farmers Market

The Original Farmers Market, corner of Third and Fairfax, presents its 26th annual Mardi Gras celebration on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 25 and 26, and Fat Tuesday, Feb. 28.

Enjoy New Orleans traditions including bead tossing, begonnions, Dixie beer, face painting, music and more at the famous French Quarter style parade band the Bear Brass Band. The bear brass band will stroll the Market. Enjoy the down home music of Eddie Raytay & The Nervous Bows on Feb. 25 from 2 to 4 p.m. on the West Patio and on Tuesday, Feb. 28 from 6 to 9 p.m. The Zydeco Mudbugs will perform on Feb. 25 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on the Market Plaza, and the California Feetwarmers perform from 5 to 7 p.m. On Sunday, Feb. 26, the Madison Brass Band will stroll the Market from noon to 3 p.m., followed by Grammy-nominated Lisa Haley & The Zydecats performing from 2 to 5 on the West Patio stage.

The Original Farmers Market is located at 3633 W. Third St. For information, call (323)933-9211, or visit farmersmarketla.com.

Next time you see a show at The Music Center or crave authentic French cuisine, experience the revitalized Kendall’s Brasserie. $5 135 N. Grand Ave. (213)972-7322.

The traditional coq au vin arrives in a Le Creuset cast iron pot, brimming with succulent chicken, mushrooms and wine.

By Jill Weinlein

For information, call (323)933-9211, or visit farmersmarketla.com.

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Compass

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Enjoy the Latin jazz sounds of Dr. Bobby Rodriguez at The Ebell

Live in the Lounge presents “A Night of Latin Jazz with Dr. Bobby Rodriguez” on Friday, Feb. 21 at The Ebell of Los Angeles.

Born and raised in East Los Angeles, Rodriguez is known as a jazz Latin music legend. He is a Grammy-nominated trumpeter, entertainer and composer/arranger who has one gold and three platinum records. Rodriguez has performed with Quincy Jones, Wynton Marsalis, Herbie Hancock and Tina Turner, among other famous artists. He is also an author and an award-winning professor of music at UCLA, UC Irvine and Pasadena City College.

Doors open at 7:15; concert is at 8 p.m. Tickets are $40 and include hors doeuvres. A cash bar will be available. The Ebell of Los Angeles is located at 473 S. Lucerne Blvd.

Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

Across
1. “90 Minutes” network  
4. Decline  
6. Airport posting, aibre  
10. Chance occurrences  
12. “C’est la vie!”  
14. Amisses  
15. Leaning  
17. Half man, half goat  
18. Awfully long tongue  
19. Cream companions  
22. Couch  
23. the human soul  
27. Coast Guard officer, for short  
28. Call, as a game  
30. Vacation locale, with “the”  
31. Lord’s Prayer start  
35. Chamber group, maybe  
37. Blood-typing letters  
39. would contraction  
40. “How’s it going?”  
41. Laundry accessory  
42. Spoons  
44. Call at first  
46. “The Twilight Zone” character  
48. 2000s sitcom  
49. Heading for the hospital  
50. Bedded down, in Britain  
52. Spain and Portugal  
53. Pitcher  
55. When repeated, like some  
56. Lodges  
57. Would contraction

Down
1. Gliding dance step  
3. Strip to hold something firm  
4. Call at first  
5. Movie purse  
9. Chucklehead  
11. Bed support  
14. “No problem”  
16. Annoying fellow  
20. Page  
21. Biblical twin  
23. Kind of skirt  
24. Corn castoffs  
25. Word used before now  
29. Warning signs, when red  
32. Fruity dessert  
33. Blood-typing letters  
34. Kind of pie  
37. Laundry accessory  
43. Automaton  
45. Affairs  
47. Communications authority  
48. Would contraction  
49. Kind of nut  
51. Ponz scheme, e.g.  
54. Drift  
58. Would contraction  
60. Deserted  
61. Pool division  
62. Game fish  
63. Kind of truck  
64. End  
66. Balderdash

See Answers page 22

Italian Film Festival recognizes cinematic achievement

Actors Mel Gibson (center) and Sylvester Stallone were honored on Feb. 19 at the opening ceremony of the 12th annual “LA-Italia Film, Fashion & Art Festival” at the TCL Chinese 6 Theatres in Hollywood. Also pictured is festival founder and producer Pascal Vicedomini.

Gibson received the festival’s Director of the Year Award, while Stallone received the Jack Valenti Award. Sunny Pawar, the 8-year-old star of best picture Oscar nominee “Lion,” received the festival’s Child Performer of the Year Award.

The festival runs through Feb. 25 with numerous film screenings at the TCL Chinese 6 Theatres. The TCL Chinese 6 Theatres is located at 6295 Hollywood Blvd. For information, schedule and tickets, visit losangelesitaliafilmfestival.com.

Beverly Hills Farmers’ Market to feature Community Services Showcase offerings

The city of Beverly Hills will highlight classes, programs and events at its fifth annual Community Services Showcase at the Farmers’ Market on Sunday, Feb. 26, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The showcase is open to all community members and is a free, family-focused event that will transform the Farmers’ Market into the biggest playground in Beverly Hills.

Residents, who will have an opportunity to register on-site for classes and camps at a discounted rate, will experience some of the most popular programs featured during the spring and summer sessions by the Community Services Department. A petting zoo and pony rides will be available for a nominal fee, and the full line-up of Farmers’ Market vendors will be selling fresh produce, artisan goods and prepared foods.

Activities featured at the showcase include a series of high-energy demonstrations, stage performances by Cankills Performing Arts, animals from Animal Encounter Summer Camp, magic tricks performed by Houdini Magic Summer Camp, puppet theater from Beverly Hills Public Library and information booths featuring various camps, classes and library services.

The new 2017 Community Services Spring brochure includes a full lineup of unique and popular classes, including storytelling by librarians, youth and adult classes, dance, aquatics, soccer and more. It also offers more than 25 different camps and classes, including new offerings of Animal Encounters Summer Camp, Houdini Magic Summer Camp, Super Stars Dance Academy and Superior Baseball Camp.

The Farmers’ Market is located on the 9300 block of Civic Center Drive. For information, visit beverlyhills.org/BHRegOnline.

WHAT IS A REVOCABLE TRUST?

This week’s column will begin a two-part series on the use of Revocable Trusts (Living Trusts). A revocable trust (sometimes referred to as a “living trust”) is a written agreement between the person creating the trust and the person creating the trust and the person named to manage the assets of the trust (typically yourself during your lifetime). The revocable trust will also name the person and/or financial institution who will handle the assets of the trust in the event of your death.

A revocable trust may amend or revoked by you at any time during your life, as long as you are competent. The terms of your trust become irrevocable (not subject to change) after your death.

Because a revocable trust contains provisions which direct the distribution of your assets on your death, the trust acts as a “will substitute”.

In so acting as a “will substitute”, the use of a revocable trust can, if implemented properly, eliminate the need for the probate of your assets held in the name of your trust, thus avoiding additional legal and probate fees and perhaps, unnecessary delays in the administration and distribution of your estate.

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LAUSD helps train students in energy management

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Facilities Services Division’s Sustainability Initiatives Unit has launched a program to prepare students for jobs in the energy management field. Fifteen students from schools throughout the district are currently participating in the program.

The Student Energy Auditor Training (SEAT) program was created to train students to become energy auditors, provide them with work experience and create a pathway to earning a livable wage after high school. It was developed and implemented as a result of the passage of the California Clean Energy Jobs Act, also known as Proposition 39.

“This program is another example of our mission to ensure that all youth achieve and are college and career ready,” said LAUSD Board of Education president Steve Zimmer. “We are proud of our ability to continually develop programs that meet the educational needs of our communities, while providing opportunities for students to have gainful employment, learn needed job skills and in some cases provide financial assistance to their families.”

The SEAT program was developed in partnership with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps. LAUSD’s Work Experience Education Office oversees the program.

The participating students – 11 seniors and four juniors – undergo 18 weeks of training. Half the training is held in a classroom with an LAUSD teacher and half is conducted in the field under the direction of the CCC or Los Angeles Conservation Corps and a SEAT program associate.

During the classroom training, the student trainees learn about energy and its usage, conservation measures, equipment safety and the use of hand tools. Additionally, the students learn job skills, resume and cover letter writing and goal-setting while developing enhanced critical thinking skills. Students gain hands-on experience in the field auditing pre-selected schools.

Upon completion of the program, students will receive a certificate from the California Conservation Corps and certification from nationally recognized energy-related associations.

“We know the students will benefit from this program,” said Mark Hovatter, chief facilitator executive for the LAUSD. “These skills will be valuable to them, not only in school but in life, enabling them to increase their earning potential, improve their quality life and make valuable contributions to their communities.”

For information, visitlausd.net.

Pilgrim School’s new head of school

Pilgrim School has appointed Paul I. Barsky as the new head of school following an extensive nationwide search. Barsky will join the school on July 1.

Since 2010, Barsky has been head of upper school at Francis Parker School in San Diego. Barsky has previously taught in the United States, Western Europe and Asia. Prior to his tenure at Francis Parker School, Barsky was head of upper school at The Hewitt School in New York City, and head of the history department at The Spence School in New York City.

Barsky’s administrative and teaching experience have prepared him to implement Pilgrim’s mission of educating the whole child by enhancing the mind, nurturing the spirit and encouraging thoughtful moral choices. Barsky also supports Pilgrim’s School’s vision of creating a unique educational and developmental path for each child.

Barsky and his wife Rima will relocate to Los Angeles from San Diego. Pilgrim School is located at 540 S. Commonwealth Ave. For information, call (213)385-7351, or visit pilgrim-school.org.

Students encouraged to apply for Dream Act college funds

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) are urging all eligible students to apply for the California Dream Act program, which allows undocumented students to receive state financial aid and is not shared with any other government agency. Regardless of what happens at the federal level, state financial aid for Dreamers will remain legal in California, Torlakson said. Students do not need to be DACA-certified to be eligible for state financial aid. Losing DACA status will not affect state financial aid eligibility.

For information, call the California Student Aid Commission at (916)323-6598. Information is also available by visiting csac.ca.gov.
Anesthesia: The Art of Oblivion” will open for a one-weekend-only showing with a VIP reception on Friday, Feb. 24 from 7 to 11 p.m. and a public reception on Saturday, Feb. 25 from noon to 9 p.m. The exhibit will be held at the former Tower Records storefront on the Sunset Strip, which is currently owned by guitar manufacturer Gibson Brands Inc. The exhibit will feature 36 works from internationally acclaimed artists Billy Morrison and Plastic Jesus (12 new works by Morrison, 12 by Plastic Jesus, and an additional 12 pieces created between the pair), ranging from paintings to large-scale installation pieces. Co-sponsor Aston Martin will be showing off its cars. VIPs can meet the artists in the VIP lounge, located in a tour bus parked out back. Morrison is best known as a guitarist for Billy Idol. Plastic Jesus creates artwork based on world news, society, the urban environment, culture and politics. Gibson Brands Sunset is located at 8801 Sunset Blvd. For information, visit plasticjesus.net/anesthesia.

‘Anesthesia’ prepares for one-weekend-only display

The Hammer Museum announced on Feb. 13 that the Los Angeles biennial “Made in L.A. 2018” will be co-curated by Hammer senior curator Anne Ellegood and Erin Christovale, an independent curator based in Los Angeles. Made in L.A. 2018 will be the fourth in the ongoing series of exhibitions focused on artwork created in the Los Angeles region, with an emphasis on emerging and under-recognized artists and will be on view June through September 2018. The artist list will be announced in early 2018. “Anne Ellegood and Erin Christovale are both fierce champions for artists, and we are excited to see the fresh perspectives and discoveries these two will bring forward in Made in L.A. 2018,” said Hammer Director Ann Philbin. “Our biennial changes with each iteration, and the combined talents of Anne and Erin promise to reveal new dimensions of both Made in L.A. and Los Angeles.”

Hammer announces ‘Made in L.A. 2018’ curators

Three Academy Award-nominated films that have generated thousands of jobs for the resurgent California production industry were recognized Feb. 17 at the 2017 Made In Hollywood Honors (MIHH) at the Heart of Hollywood Terrace, 1600 Vine St. The 6th Annual MIHH, hosted by Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, and actress Jazmyn Simon, celebrated “La La Land,” “Moana” and “Zootopia” for their award-winning artistry and significant contributions in returning production and film-related jobs. The MIHH were presented by the Los Angeles City Council and six major entertainment organizations that partner in the recognition of Oscar nominees that support production in Hollywood and throughout California.

Three films honored at ‘Made In Hollywood’
‘LEGO Batman’ is more human than last year’s artificial attempt

Batman returns in his best work since “The Dark Knight.” Unlike last year’s embarrassing battle between Bat and The Man of Steel, or even the lackluster finale to Chris Nolan’s “Dark Knight” trilogy, “The LEGO Batman Movie” is a caped-crusader we need right now: an epic adventure that draws upon decades of comics and transmedia material.

A spoof of “The LEGO Movie,” we find the World’s Greatest Detective back in Gotham City, fighting all the familiar supervillains. Batman (voiced by Will Arnett) loves playing the hero, the lone vigilante. But that won’t fly with the new Commissioner Gordon, Jim’s daughter Barbara (Rosario Dawson), who wants Bat to work with the police department. He also faces more trouble among the villain crowd. His nemesis the Joker (Zach Galifianakis) takes things rather personally when Batman says he doesn’t care about the Clown Prince of Crime enough to even say, “I hate you.” That won’t do for comics history’s best hero-villain bromance, so Joker develops a truly maniacal plan, one that threatens the safety of everyone in town.

Meanwhile, Batman’s home life becomes more personal. His new Commissioner Barbara Gordon (Rosario Dawson) wants the police to work with Batman (Will Arnett) in “The LEGO Batman Movie.” The rest of the voice cast is a sight to behold as well: Billy Dee Williams repurposes his role as Two-Face through singing a metal theme song he drops. Commissioner Barbara Gordon (Rosario Dawson) wants the police to work with Batman (Will Arnett) in “The LEGO Batman Movie.”

The LEGO universe is two-for-two with a third installment on the way this fall – “The LEGO Ninjago Movie.” Shared universes are the new normal on the big screen. Certainly that can lead to some shameless cash grabs, but for now LEGO is a name with some weight behind it. It’s the humor. Unlike some rather juvenile entries by DreamWorks Animation and even a few Pixar ones of late, the jokes here are best received by seasoned moviegoers familiar with the characters on screen. Yes, kids will have plenty to experience between the high-octane action and verbose gags, but others can locate the joys hiding in a richly detailed story.

Arnett, the comedic genius behind “Arrested Development’s” G.O.B., doesn’t look like Batman. But that voice is spot on. Now, if you’re after the best vocal talents for the character, look no further than Kevin Conroy, the voice of Batman on countless animated projects and video games dating back to the 1992 TV series. He’s the pitch-perfect voice of the character, while Arnett is the splendid, over-the-top iteration.

The LEGO universe is two-for-two with a third installment on the way this fall – “The LEGO Ninjago Movie.” Shared universes are the new normal on the big screen. Certainly that can lead to some shameless cash grabs, but for now LEGO is a name with some weight behind it. It’s the humor. Unlike some rather juvenile entries by DreamWorks...
LAUSD campaigns find an 'obscene reality'

From page 3

with any candidate's campaign, dwarf the two other races. More than $1.2 million has been spent in support of three of District 4's candidates compared to more than $1.4 million in opposition.

Melvoin has faced $85,368 of independent expenditures against his campaign after the fact, far more than the $32,389 in independent expenditures supporting his campaign, by far the least supported of the board candidates. He's also had $1.3 million spent in opposition to his campaign.

All of the independent expenditures against Zimmer have come from the Encino-based L.A. Students' Choice, which has distributed eight mailers and aired two television ads against his candidacy.

Zimmer, who spent 17 years as a teacher and counselor in the district before his 2009 election to the school board, called thefollowing element of the race "an obscene reality."

"There are a lot of things we can do to help kids," he said with the amount of money, he said, "What we should focus on is how to improve public education in Los Angeles to serve every child."

Candidate Allison Holdorff, who has $78,766 in contributions, in individual contributions from out of state, expressed a similar sentiment.

"I wish all of these monies could go right into the classroom and help our kids," said Polhill, whose resume includes time spent as a member of the board of trustees at Palisades Charter High School in Los Angeles.

The $62.225 raised by Gregory Martayan, a Pepperdine University graduate who runs a communications and public relations firm, is the least among District 4 candidates. But his haul was the second-highest in the District 2 or 6 races.

Martayan, originally from Hancock Park, said he is proud of his campaign for not taking out-of-state money, and hopes voters will appreciate his Los Angeles roots.

"I'm the only candidate who was born, raised, educated, married, worked and served to protect the people of the city without ever abandoning the city," he said.

Beverly Hills to set permanent controls

From page 3

approved, and the length of city council meetings have been scrutinized to ensure the city council candidates forums over the past month for the March 7 election. Likewise this week, the city council finally approved the updated ordinance after 12 a.m. Wednesday, after hours of consideration.

Earlier in the meeting, the council members acknowledged that a final ordinance—which they hope to finalize and approve this year to set more permanent reforms and more strictly regulate the industry—is no longer necessary. They adopted two current ordinances as "place holders" to take care of the concerns over the informality of the current state research and formulate a more permanent system that will work best for Beverly Hills.

"We don’t know what the permanent ordinance is going to be yet," said Councilman Julian Gold. "What’s on the table today is likely not going to be on the table in a council meeting of the future.

City Attorney Larry Wiener explained that the city is required to adopt an emergency ordinance to move forward as a landlord to appeal if they desire to income records for 2016 to deter-
8150 Sunset challenged
From page 1

either sloppy or intentional. Either way, it is unacceptable,” said Jim O’Sullivan, vice president of Fix the City and president of the Miracle Mile Residential Association.

According to the text of the covenant, provided by Fix the City, the restrictions are binding upon “subsequent owners” until a new project is filed with the city, and the Planning Commission or city council determine that such new or different project is consistent with the General Plan, including the Hollywood Community plan, and the intent of both without such conditions.”

“The covenant and agreement […] shall continue in effect until the Planning Department of the city of Los Angeles approves its termination,” the document reads.

Due to the pending litigation, planning department staff did not comment on the lawsuit. Yeghig Keshejian, a spokesman for the department, and Jaces Barrera, a senior planner with major projects on Tuesday were able to discuss some of the information for the covenant from 1986. They explained the restrictions are no longer valid because the new project application was submitted, reviewed and approved by the city, thus superseding the covenant.

The covenant established in 1986 stipulates measures that the city can take to alleviate restrictions. But Fix the City contends the city did not complete those measures, and said regardless, the covenant was not included in the project’s EIR.

Fix the City also alleges that the planning department kept the information from Councilman David Ryu, 4th District, who coordinated the compromise with the PLUM committee.

Estevan Montemayor, communications director for Ryu, said on Monday that since there is pending litigation, his office is limited in terms of commenting for this story. But he said Ryu’s office was “never once” informed about the covenant.

“We were told time and time again by the planning department that there was no height limit and that there was nothing the city could do to limit the height,” Montemayor said.

He said Ryu and his office are reviewing the documents and the lawsuit this week.

According to a release from Fix the City, it is not known when developer Terrascape Partners was aware of the covenant. A spokesman for the firm declined to comment for this story.

In addition to the height restriction, the covenant also stipulates that “new development shall not exceed 30,000 square-feet for a total of 80,000 square feet of development on this site.” Other conditions include restrictions on rooftop signs, delivery times, garbage collection times and more. It also restricts usage of the site. For example, “no auto-repair, automobile related uses, game and video arcades and adult-oriented establishments shall be permitted on the site.”

Fix the City also challenges the project’s approval, citing concerns about fire response times, whether the site qualified for the 278 units it applied for, and if it qualified for the floor area ratio that was approved. Fix the City argues that the project’s floor area ratio is three times greater than the zoning allows.

The lawsuit states that the 8150 Sunset project is located in the Hollywood Fault Zone. In October, Ibarra said city staff confirmed with the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety that the project is not located on the Hollywood fault. On Tuesday, he said none of that has changed. She also said it’s not out of the ordinary for the city to consider a 3:1 floor area ratio.

Fix the City and the Los Angeles Conservancy also filed lawsuits in December after the project was approved, alleging that the city failed to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act.

“Staff from the Los Angeles Department of City Planning acted as spin doctors for the applicant by concealing information from decision makers and the public,” Fix the City said in the December lawsuit.

Ibarra denied those claims in October.

WeHo city hall group monitors Administration
From page 1

West Hollywood also opposes other actions by Trump, including an order to institute a “global gag rule” prohibiting international nongovernmental organizations that provide or talk about abortion services from receiving federal funding; the travel ban on seven predominantly Muslim countries; directing the review of Dodd-Frank financial regulations; and plans to construct a border wall and cut funds from sanctuary cities.

Calls to the White House for comment were not answered.

Answers From Page 16

Above, a model made before developers agreed to downsize the tallest structure shows the 8150 Sunset project.
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