Local officials discuss homelessness in WeHo

BY LUKE HAROLD

The West Hollywood City Council hosted a study session on the county’s growing homelessness epidemic during its Feb. 5 meeting, continuing the city’s discussion of how best to coordinate law enforcement and social service resources.

Leaders throughout the county are coordinating efforts to alleviate homelessness after voters during the last two elections approved funding to improve safety has been in dispute. Bike lanes are favored by cyclists but sometimes criticized by motorists who say they’re easy to overlook, and that they give cyclists a false sense of security. A 2017 peer-reviewed study from the American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

BHUSD to keep K-8 model for 2018-19

BY LUKE HAROLD

The Beverly Hills Unified School District will maintain its current configuration in the 2018-19 school year as school board members and administrators continue to weigh their options.

During the past two weeks, district officials, parents and students have deliberated reconfigurations for reasons including cost-savings of the district’s four K-8 schools and improving programming. On Feb. 6, the conversation expanded to a study session on Feb. 6 to create a tip line for people to report illegal gun possession.

One of the possibilities considered by the Board of Education was to convert Hawthorne School into a K-5 campus as a temporary configuration. Construction in the district is ongoing with funds from Measure E, approved by Beverly Hills voters in 2008 to grant the district $334 million in general obligation bonds. Korbutov added that if the bond measure on the ballot, potentially in June, the new construction, one in dire need of full construction like Hawthorne, one about to be finished and one that’s finished,” she said. “I just think this was a bad time to even start this. Now, as a board member I understand how difficult it can be to address illegal gun possession. Local law enforcement authorities said the tip line will be a useful tool. "Identifying and taking legal action is important to address illegal guns.”

Like riding a bike in Beverly Hills

BY LUKE HAROLD

Construction on Santa Monica Boulevard will include the first bike lanes in Beverly Hills. "Identifying and taking legal action is important to address illegal guns.”

L.A. sticking to its guns

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles City Council unanimously approved a motion on Feb. 6 to create a tip line for people to report illegal gun possession.

The council considered the motion by Councilman Paul Krekorian, 2nd District, after he joined Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer and California Attorney General Xavier Becerra at a press conference earlier that morning to announce a North Hollywood man had been arrested for illegally possessing 25 firearms. Krekorian, Feuer and Becerra said the revelation illustrates how difficult it can be to address illegal gun possession. Authorities displayed numerous firearms confiscated from a defendant prohibited from possessing them to illustrate how difficult it can be to address illegal guns.

Like riding a bike in Beverly Hills

BY LUKE HAROLD

Bike lanes will soon appear on Santa Monica Boulevard in Beverly Hills as construction along the street continues. During a study session on Feb. 6, City Council members listened to a staff presentation detailing plans to stripe the road with bike lanes. Once completed, the stretch of North Santa Monica Boulevard between Wilshire Boulevard and Doheny Drive will have two east-bound lanes, two westbound lanes, a center turn lane and bike lanes on each side. The plan showed that the bike lanes would be separated from traffic lanes with a white line, with green markings at intersections for added safety, for an estimated cost of $35,000. But Mayor Lib Rosse, along with council members Robert Wunderlich and John Mirisch, directed staff to paint the lanes green, which will triple the cost, according to staff, adding approximately $70,000 to the project. It will also require more maintenance. "It makes no sense to me not to make the entire lane green," Rosse said. The degree to which bike lanes improve safety has been in dispute. Bike lanes are favored by cyclists but sometimes criticized by motorists who say they’re easy to overlook, and that they give cyclists a false sense of security. A 2017 peer-reviewed study from the American Journal of Preventive Medicine.
Two Fisted Love

Range of Light presents the world premiere of David Scouras’ Jack comedy “Two Fisted Love” running from Saturday, Feb. 10 through Sunday, March 4 at the Odyssey Theatre. It’s 2008 and Hollywood A-lister Caroline Commins (played by Serena Scott Thomas) is recently been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Commins befriends her descent into an uncertain future while attempting to navigate her relationships with an ultra-conservative husband and an increasingly political, correct husband, and her defiant and idealistic daughter. Showtimes are 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; 2 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are $34. 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd. (310)811-4111, odysseytheatre.com.

Priscilla Queen of the Desert, The Musical

Celebration Theatre and the Welto Arts program are hosting a production of “Priscilla Queen of the Desert, The Musical” running from Saturday, Feb. 10 through Sunday, March 4. The play is set at the Celebration Theatre @ The Les. Based on the Oscar-winning film, the story follows three drag queens as they drive across the Australian Outback in a rundown bus searching for love and ultimately discovering what true friendship means. Preview performances begin on Feb. 10. Gala opening performance and cocktail reception with the cast is on Feb. 17 at 8 p.m. Regular showtimes are 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; 2 p.m., Sunday. Preview tickets start at $20; tickets for the gala opening start at $75; regular performances start at $25. 6800 Lexington Avenue. For tickets and more information, go to odysseytheatre.com/priscilla.

CASA 0101

CASA 0101 Theater will debut “Brown & Out IV,” a festival of 10 short plays exploring the LGBTQ and Latinx experience, running from Friday, Feb. 9 through Sunday, March 4. CASA 0101 theater directors Claudia Duran, Rigo Tejeda and Cordy Dominguez (produced) will picture the plays along with Abe Alvarado, Josiah Lumsden, Marta Mayorguín, Raymond Arturo Perez, Matthew Benjamin Ramos, Gilbert Salazar, Richard Villegas Jr. and Patricia Zamorano. Producer, actor, writer and LGBTQ activist Dan Guerrero will be honored on opening night. Showtimes are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 5 p.m. Sunday. General admission is $20. 2102 E. First St. (323)263-7848, casa0101.org.

Goapele

UCLA’s Center for the Art of Performance presents soul and rhythm and blues singer-songwriter Goapele on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 8 p.m. at The Theatre at Ace Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. Goapele will perform her latest release “Dreamseeker.” Tickets start at $29.50. 929 S. Broadway. (888)929-7849, cap.ucla.edu.

Couples Therapy

The sketch comedy show “Couples Therapy” returns on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 8:30 p.m. at the Ruby Theater at The Complex. The Los Angeles sketch comedy and improv group Pantis on a Budget leads the performance centered on a couples-theme. First dates, longtime married couples performance centered on a couples-theme. First dates, longtime married couples and old friends are some of the topics to be explored in the show combining sketch comedy, theater and audience interaction. Tickets are $10. 6476 Santa Monica Blvd. info@pantis.com or event/3224907.

Advocacy Workshop

The National Council of Jewish Women/Los Angeles, and the city of West Hollywood Women’s Advisory Board and Women’s Leadership Conference & Network, are hosting “Getting Appointed to a Board or Commission,” a workshop on Sunday, Feb. 11 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the NCJW/LA Council House in the Fairfax District. The workshop is part of NCJW/LA’s Advocacy Training Project and will cover how to become appointed, why boards and commissions are important and how being an appointed official can make a difference. Admission is $20. 543 N. Fairfax Ave. To register, call Mazza Paley at (323)852-8536, email mazza@ncjwla.org or visit ncjwla.org.

Astronomy Forum

Join Dr. Elizabeth Tasker, an astrophysicist for the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, for a discussion on Tuesday, Feb. 13 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Griffith Observatory. The forum is part of Friends of the Observatory’s “Cosmic Musings” series. Tasker will also sign her book “Dangerous Worlds.” General admission is $25. 2800 E. Observatory Road. friends@theobservatory.org.

Festival of Writings

Join author and cultural critic Roxane Gay for a discussion on Monday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hammer Museum. Gay’s books include “Bad Feminist,” “An Untamed State,” and the short story collections “Difficult Women” and “Ayiti.” The reading, which is part of the museum’s “Some of Our Favorite Writers” series, are followed by discussion with author and UCLA professor Mona Simpson. Admission is free. 10899 Wilshire Ave. (310)443-7000, hammer.ucla.edu.

Good Samaritan Auxiliary Meeting

The Good Samaritan Hospital Auxiliary is hosting its Winter Program on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 11 a.m. at the Wilshire Country Club. The special guest will be a UCLA medical history professor Yuez Vold O’Neill, who will discuss “The Role of the Surgeon: Some Historical Reflections.” Cost is $55. 301 N. Grand Ave. RSVP required by calling Christine Bourdon at (213)977-2414.

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Beethoven Concert


Morton Subotnick

REDCAT, CalArts’ downtown center for contemporary arts, welcomes electronic music pioneer Morton Subotnick for performances on Tuesday, Feb. 13 and Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 8:30 p.m. The show celebrates the 50th anniversary of Subotnick’s recording “Silver Apples of the Moon,” as well as new work “Crowds and Power” with Joan Draper, Damo Suzuki, and Llervian. General admission is $30. 631 W. Second St. (213)237-2800, redcat.org.

Senior Citizens’ Valentine’s Day Dance

West Hollywood presents the 22nd annual Senior Valentine’s Day & Tea Dance on Wednesdays, Feb. 14 from 3 to 5 p.m. at Plummer Park’s Fiesta Hall. The event features music by the Great American Swing Band. Tickets are $2 per person, with a two-ticket maximum; priority is given to West Hollywood residents. 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. For a ticket order form, call (323)348-6820 or email cookie@weho.org. Art Discussion

Jack Rutberg Fine Arts is holding a con- versation with Ariel Zanaga on Thursday, Feb. 15. The event coincides with the ongoing exhibit “Francisco Zuniga: Sculpture & Drawings.” A reception begins at 6:30 p.m.; discussion at 7 p.m. 537 N. La Brea Ave. (323)938-5222, jackrut- bergfinearts.com.
Landmark KFC location damaged by fire

The store, designed to resemble a bucket of chicken, opened in 1990

BY EDWIN POLYVEN

A fire on Feb. 3 damaged a landmark KFC restaurant on Western Avenue in Koreatown.

The fire was reported at approximately 1:15 p.m. at the restaurant at 340 N. Western Ave. Los Angeles Fire Department spokes-

woman Margaret Stewart said the fire was accidental, but the exact cause remains under investigation.

Firefighters cut holes on the exterior of the building to gain direct access to the flames, which were extinguished in 23 minutes. The restaurant remains closed.

WeHo considering Fountain Ave.

safety improvements

The West Hollywood City Council voted during its Feb. 5 meeting to consider a series of recommend-

ations to improve safety along Fountain Avenue for walkers, bikers and drivers.

Based on an analysis, the traffic consultant and staff are recommend-

ing priority test measures at multiple Fountain Avenue intersections. The general strategy for safety recom-

mendations includes reducing vehi-

cle conflicts at intersections; provid-

ing enhanced crosswalks for pedes-

trians, reconfiguring intersections with bulbouts and repainting to dis-

ourage vehicle speeding.

At Fountain and Harper avenues, the recommendation includes the installation of an enhanced crosswalk and median on Fountain, restricting left turns and only permitting right turn movements from the Harper approaches.

At Fountain Avenue and Havenhurst Drive, the recommenda-

tion is to install neck-down and pork-

chop medians on the Havenhurst approaches, only permitting right-

turn movements for Havenhurst motorists approaching the intersec-

tion, and to install an enhanced cross-

walk with a refuge island on Fountain.

At Fountain and Hayworth avenues, the recommendation is to install neck-down and pork-chop medians on the Hayworth approaches only permitting right-turn movements for Hayworth motorists approaching the intersection and install an enhanced crosswalk with a refuge island on Fountain.

Fountain Avenue’s intersections with Formosa Avenue, Detroit Street and La Brea Avenue will also receive added safety measures.

There is also a recommendation to adjust signal timing along the Fountain corridor to reduce speed-

ing potential during off-peak travel time and install additional speed radar feedback signs on Fountain Avenue.

Renee Weitzer joins CD4

planning team

Announcement follows departure of senior planning deputy

Councilman David Ryu, 4th District, announced that Julia Duncan, the Council District 4 senior planning deputy, will leave her post for a position in the City Planning Department. Joining the CD4 team will be Renee Weitzer as a senior advisor for Land Use and Development.

“Today is a momentous day for my office, as we say goodbye to Julia Duncan, who has been with my team since the campaign,” Ryu said. “We are sad to see her go, as she has served this office with professionalism, brilliance, and a tire-

less dedication to Council District Four and our residents. However, we are so proud as she steps into this new role in the Planning Department. The City family is very lucky to have a planner like Julia Duncan.”

Duncan will serve the city of Los Angeles as a project planner with the city’s Planning Department. Her last day working for CD4 will be Feb. 16.

Returning to the team is Renee Weitzer, a planning expert with over 36 years of service to the city of Los Angeles, many of them in Council District 4. Weitzer will return to Council District 4 as a senior advisor for Land Use and Development, effective immedi-

ately.

“Renee Weitzer is a venerable icon in Los Angeles City govern-

ment. Few people know Council District Four, its places, and its resi-

dents better than Renee,” Ryu said. “In her new role she will serve as a consultant on various projects in our district. We’re thrilled to wel-

come her back.”

Council District 4 is currently seeking applicants to fill planning roles within its council office. Interested parties for junior or senior planning roles can email Policy Director Nick Greif at nickolas.greif@lacity.org.
Third Street electric accident sends two men to the hospital

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Two workers replacing a bill-board were hospitalized on Feb. 6 after a pole one of them was using touched nearby electrical utility lines in the 8100 block of West Third Street.

One of the workers, a 30-year-old man, sustained electrical burns to his arms and legs, and was taken to Cedars Sinai Medical Center in serious condition. The other, a 42-year-old man, was in fair condition.

Criminal penalties for either scam during a declared state of emergency are significantly higher. Unlicensed contractors who seek to repair property damaged by a natural disaster face fines of up to $10,000, three years in jail or both if convicted of perpetrating a scam. Contractors convicted of defrauding a property owner or tenant for repairs to a structure damaged by a natural disaster can be fined up to $25,000.

Residents are encouraged to only hire licensed and insured contractors. Visit calb.ca.gov to check if a contractor is licensed.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office is also cautioning people to beware of public adjuster scams. The crimes occur when a public adjuster claims an insurer won’t pay the fair value of a property loss and offers to help for a percentage of the amount paid.

To report public adjuster scams, call (213)297-4250.

Off-duty officer faces potential discipline for firing gun in altercation

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles Police Commission on Feb. 2 unanimously ruled that an off-duty officer who fired a gun into the ground during an altercation with a group of teens outside his home in Anaheim last year violated LAPD policies regarding use of force.

The ruling came a little less than two weeks after the Orange County District Attorney’s Office decided not to file criminal charges against Officer Kevin Ferguson, 34, who was previously assigned to the LAPD’s Hollywood Division. The Los Angeles Police Commission voted 5-0 that Ferguson was in violation of LAPD tactics, rules on drawing and exhibiting weapons, and policies on the use of lethal and non-lethal force.

Ferguson has been assigned to his home with pay since the altercation on Feb. 21, 2016. The next step is for LAPD Chief Charlie Beck to determine what disciplinary measures Ferguson will face. Beck previously expressed “concerns” about Ferguson’s action in a report to the commission. The officer could be fired.

Ferguson was involved in an altercation with a group of teens who walked through his front yard. The officer’s house is located near a school, and he said students frequently trespass on his property on their way to and from the campus.

The altercation was captured on video by one of the teens in the group. Ferguson allegedly initially contacted a teen girl walking through the yard, and minutes later confronted a 13-year-old boy who came to her defense. Ferguson grabbed the male teen, Christian Dorchonz, by the collar and a scuffle ensued. A different male teen pushed Ferguson to the ground. He allegedly got up, pulled out a handgun and fired one shot into the ground. No injuries were reported.

Anaheim Police Department officers arrested Dorchonz, 13, for suspicion of making criminal threats and battery, but no charges were filed. The teen who allegedly pushed Ferguson was not arrested.

A civil lawsuit filed by Dorchonz’s family against Ferguson alleging the off-duty officer violated the teen’s civil rights is pending litigation.

Police investigate burglary in celebrity’s hotel room

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Beverly Hills Police Department detectives are investigating a burglary on Feb. 2 at the Beverly Hills Hotel, in the room of actress Caitlin McHugh.

The burglary occurred during the evening when the room was unoccupied, said Lt. Elisabeth Albanese, of the Beverly Hills Police Department. McHugh, 34, who is believed to have been driving the Volkswagen, fled the scene and has been driving the suspect’s vehicle and tried to run before police recognized a Volkswagen stopped on the Century (105) Freeway in connection with the crime spree.

The suspect followed the Volkswagen and notified fellow officers who joined the pursuit.

When the Volkswagen stopped in South Los Angeles, a passenger who was allegedly Gasparian’s accomplice, later identified as Daniel Ramirez, 25, jumped out of the car and jacked another driver at gunpoint.

Gasparian, who is believed to have been driving the Volkswagen, fled the scene and was arrested on Jan. 4, 2016.

Officers pursued the vehicle, shot two people and stabbed another before committing suicide.

Gasparian was also charged in a series of robberies, attempted murders, carjackings and other crimes in December 2015.

The crimes include the shooting of two men on Dec. 9, 2015, in Panorama City, and the murder of a man on Dec. 30, 2015, in Sylmar. The suspect, who was armed with a handgun, got out of his vehicle and tried to run before being shot by officers.

The defendent, Artyom Gasparian, has been in custody at the Men’s Central Jail without bail since Jan. 4, 2016, when officers involved in a manhunt for the suspect located him at an auto repair shop in Sunland.

Gasparian jumped in a car and drove away. Police pursued Gasparian until he crashed on the Golden State (5) Freeway near Sylmar. The suspect, who was armed with a handgun, got out of his vehicle and tried to run before being shot by officers. He was treated and has recovered.

Gasparian’s alleged crime spree included a shooting in West Hollywood that occurred shortly before 1 a.m. on Dec. 29, 2015, in the 1000 block of Kings Road.

The suspect allegedly shot an unidentified restaurant deliveryman. The victim later recovered.

Investigators said the motive was revenge for a series of robberies, attempted murders, carjackings and other crimes in December 2015.

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WeHo to consider paid family leave policies

The West Hollywood City Council unanimously voted at its Feb. 5 meeting to have city staff research paid family leave policies and develop recommendations for the city to consider adopting a local program.

City staff will perform community outreach with residents, the business community, and the City’s Women’s Advisory Board before reporting back to City Council with recommendations.

Paid parental leave can improve children’s physical and cognitive health, according to a city staff report. Access to paid parental leave allows parents to spend more time with their children at or around the time of childbirth. This can advance childhood health and development.

Studies show access to paid leave can have substantial health benefits for the child, as well as mental and physical benefits to post-partum mothers. Studies also show that fathers who take parental leave and participate in child care at the time of childbirth have increased paternal engagement later in the child’s life, benefiting cognitive development and household gender equity.

The report cited research in companies such as Apple, Google and Netflix that offer many months of paid leave to accommodate the needs of working parents. A growing number of states and cities, including West Hollywood, are providing family leave benefits to government employees.

The report also mentioned that five states and the District of Columbia have enacted or implemented statewide family leave programs.

New York State adopted one of the most comprehensive and generous paid family leave laws in the country. The benefits phase in over four years. During 2018, employees can take up to eight weeks of paid family leave and receive 50 percent of their average weekly wage. By 2021, the amount will increase to 12 weeks at 67 percent of the employee’s average weekly wage.

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State Rules Committee appointments announced

California Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles), chair of the Senate Rules Committee, announced Rules Committee Appointments last week, which included Hollywood matriarch and entertainment industry advocate Donelle Dadigan.

Dadigan, an Independent from Los Angeles, has been appointed to the California Film Commission. She is president and founder of The Hollywood Museum, chairman of the Hollywood Historic Trust, a member of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, among other organizations. The term will end on Jan. 24, 2020.

The California Film Commission encourages motion picture, television and commercial filming in California; supports productions of all sizes and budgets with location assistance and an extensive digital location library, free online permitting and other production assistance. The commission also administers the state’s Film and Television Tax Credit Program and counsels the Legislature and governor on issues relating to the motion picture industry.

Other appointees included David Steinhaus (a Democrat from Marin), Monica Fitzgerald (a Democrat from Contra Costa), Guy Lemieux (a Democrat from Riverside), Felicia Scruggs (a Democrat from Contra Costa), Lain Chávez (a Democrat from Fresno), Ali Tweini (a Democrat from Los Angeles), Dave Broad (a Democrat from Sacramento), Sejal Choksi-Chugh (a Democrat from Contra Costa), Teresa Alvarado (a Democrat from Santa Clara), Ricardo Lara (a Democrat from Bell Gardens), Debbie Manning (a Democrat from Sacramento), Joshua Pertula (a Democrat from Los Angeles), and Pamela Ling (a Democrat from San Francisco).
State Sen. Bob Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys) announced legislation on Feb. 5 to reduce middle class income taxes by expanding California’s modest service taxes to target other high-end services.

According to a news release from Hertzberg’s office, “the tax modernization in Hertzberg’s bill will help to counteract the damage done by the Trump tax in Washington.”

The Trump tax law will have a profound impact on California families. By eliminating the individual mandate for health care insurance, Californians can expect their premiums to increase. By capping the mortgage interest deduction and limiting deductibility of state and local taxes, the Trump tax law will increase taxes on many working California families.

Finally, the federal changes will add $1.5 trillion in debt to the federal deficit, reducing critical services here and in other states.

Revenue collected under Senate Bill 993 will be used to provide tax relief to middle-income and low-income Californians negatively affected by the Trump tax law. It will also be used for California infrastructure, workforce development and to support education at all levels.

SB 993 places a modest tax aimed at high-end business services, such as those provided by lawyers, consultants, and accountants for corporations and other high-income businesses. Such a tax broadens California’s tax base and begins to rebalance the state’s volatile fiscal formula. Importantly, the impact on businesses subject to the new tax would be minimal because they can continue to deduct these costs on their federal taxes.

Forty-nine states tax services, and 43 of those states tax more services than California does. Hertzberg has been working on solutions to improve California’s tax system for a decade through various legislation and his participation on the Think Long Committee for California. This solution could work in tandem with other statewide proposals, including one recently introduced tax plan by state Sen. Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles), to stabilize California’s budget with new revenue sources that provide the fiscal room to fund essential services and provide tax relief to those most hurt by the Trump tax law.
Clean Power Alliance begins serving first customers

Los Angeles Community Choice Energy has begun serving its first customers under a new name – the Clean Power Alliance of Southern California.

The alliance is a coalition of cities that have joined together to purchase clean, renewable electricity at wholesale rates and sell it to their residents and businesses at competitive rates.

Clean Power Alliance service will roll out in three phases throughout 2018, beginning with Los Angeles County-owned municipal buildings today. Service will begin for commercial and industrial customers of Clean Power Alliance’s members in L.A. and Ventura County in June 2018, with service to residential customers set to begin in December.

“Time has come for consumers in Southern California to exercise more control over their energy options,” said Diana Mahmud, the alliance’s newly elected chair. “I am honored to have the opportunity to lead the Clean Power Alliance’s efforts to offer our customers this choice.”

Mahmud is the Pasadena city councilwoman, also announced the appointment of the organization’s first executive director, Ted Bardacke. Currently the director of infrastructure in the office of L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti, Bardacke will begin his new position later this month.

“I am thrilled to have been selected to help build and lead our new clean energy utility,” he said. “Clean Power Alliance enables local communities to control their own power supply, rates, and customer programs such as incentives for energy efficiency, solar, and electric vehicles. Together with our partner cities and customers, we are fighting climate change and re-making Southern California’s energy future now.”

From three initial member agencies at its July 2017 launch, the alliance has grown to include 27 cities in Los Angeles and Ventura counties representing 2.4 million residents, with more lined up to join. In all, the Clean Power Alliance will expect to have more than 1 million residential accounts and a quarter million commercial accounts by end of the year, and will help to decrease greenhouse gas emissions by up to 9 percent across the region.

“The Clean Power Alliance is set up to geographically and socioeconomically diverse cities and unincorporated county areas across Southern California, including the counties of Los Angeles and Ventura, and the cities of Agoura Hills, Arcadia, Alhambra, Beverly Hills, Calabasas, Camarillo, Carson, Claremont, Culver City, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, Hawthorne, Malibu, Manhattan Beach, Moorpark, Ojai, Paramount, Rolling Hills Estates, Santa Monica, Sierra Madre, Simi Valley, Temple City, Thousand Oaks, West Hollywood and Whittier.

Hertzberg announces legislation to encourage social media transparency

State Sen. Bob Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys) introduced legislation with the support of Common Sense Kids Action to take steps to protect internet users from the spread of false information and misleading social media accounts. The bill, which will be officially introduced in the Senate next week, would require automated accounts – or bots – to be identified on social media sites.

 Californians are increasingly targeted with commercial, political or other messages carried by automated accounts masquerading as actual human beings. When used in large numbers, these fake accounts, known as bots, can help sway advertising audiences and reshape political debates through the false credibility, and popularity, they lend to ideas or users. Currently, social media companies do not identify the presence of bot accounts.

“Digital bots are used by individuals, companies, and others to spread information and simulate credibility, without any inkling of who might be behind it,” Hertzberg said. “It can be extremely difficult for an individual to determine when he or she is interacting with a bot, because they often appear just like any other person. We must equip users with the tools to understand where their information is coming from.”

Hertzberg, in an effort to highlight the issue, has created a bot, @Bot_Hertzberg. The Twitter account is a self-identified automated account. It will create automated posts, based on modern research, to explain why this is important and to demonstrate that bots, when properly identified, can exist positively in the social media ecosystem.

“Used negatively, however, bots can have significant consequences for our democracy. These bots can lend false credibility to the messages they put out, and some have been used to degrade the quality of the news and information online by pushing coordinated false messages, for example. “Bots are the cyberbullies of our democracy,” said James P. Steyer, founder and CEO of Common Sense. “We are proud to have been working with Senator Hertzberg over the past month on a comprehensive crackdown on this deceptive and downright dangerous digital practice.”

Internet users can purchase followers. However, a New York Times report this month revealed that not only do companies sell bots as followers, but there exists a global market of fake social media accounts that have been sold to companies, political candidates and entertainment icons to simulate larger spheres of influence for these users. The Times report concluded that, “Twitter now hosts vast swaths of unused accounts, including what are probably dormant accounts controlled by bot makers.” All of this confirms this estimate, concluding that as many as 15 percent of Twitter accounts are bots.

“We just want users to know up front whether the information they are receiving is from a real person, and if the users they follow have legitimate followers,” Hertzberg said. “This attack on information is serious, and we must find a solution.”

High levels of flu activity continue in L.A. County

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health reports that high levels of influenza activity continue in Los Angeles County. While it is hard to predict how long the influenza season will last, Public Health expects influenza activity to remain elevated for several weeks to come.

Influenza A (H1N1) viruses are the most common this season; H1N1-predominant seasons tend to be more severe.

As of Feb. 2, there are 158 confirmed influenza-associated deaths in Los Angeles County. By comparison, there were a total of 80 confirmed influenza-associated deaths during the entire flu season last year. Nearly 85 percent of deaths have occurred in adults over 65 years old and one death occurred in a child under 18 years old.

Residents can receive free flu shots at Public Health clinics; information about clinic locations and hours is available at publichealth.lacounty.gov.

Other steps people can take to protect themselves against influenza include washing hands often with soap and water, avoiding close contact with sick people, and avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth. People who are sick with flu-like illness should stay home from school or work for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone in order to prevent spreading flu to others.

Common symptoms of flu include fevers, chills headache, cough, sore throat and muscle/body aches. Symptoms of flu usually come on suddenly and are strong. Groups of people at high risk for flu complications include children younger than 5 years, adults 65 years and older, pregnant women, and people with certain medical conditions that can weaken the immune system.

For information, visit publichealth.lacounty.gov.

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WeHo forum examines benefits of light rail

Bringing rail to West Hollywood has been a goal for the city for decades, and it was the focus of a city-initiated Community Leaders Breakfast event on Feb. 6 at The Jeremy West Hollywood.

The discussion focused on the regional significance of light rail and the proposed Northern Extension of the Crenshaw/LAX Line, which would pass through West Hollywood. The line could provide regional connectivity, offering a one-seat ride from Torrance to Hollywood, and an alternative to the San Diego (405) Freeway. It could also connect passengers with LAX, and provide a direct link to a future high-speed rail station in Burbank.

West Hollywood Mayor John Heilman and Councilwoman Lindsey P. Horvath participated in the discussion, along with guest speaker Inglewood Mayor James T. Butts.

Heilman kicked off the meeting by welcoming community leaders from throughout Los Angeles County, including transit enthusiasts from Hermosa Beach, the South Bay, Crenshaw District, Mid-City, Hollywood and North Hollywood. Other participants represented hospitals and hotels, chambers of commerce, businesses and institutions. Residents and community members also joined the conversation.

Butts, who is also second vice chair of Metro’s board of directors, called for transit infrastructure that can remove boundaries between communities so resources can be shared more effectively. One destination discussed was the Stadium of Champions, a new NFL-stadium currently under construction in Inglewood for the Los Angeles Rams and Los Angeles Chargers, accompanied by a venue for the Los Angeles Clippers and new housing.

The city of Inglewood is experiencing an unprecedented amount of private investment, bringing it back from the brink of bankruptcy, Butts said. He also noted that advocates are encouraging “an epiphany amongst the Metro board members as to why this project is so important to the overall system.”

Horvath thanked the coalition of regional supporters of the Northern Extension of the Crenshaw/LAX Line, and cited their input in 2016 for persuading Metro to accelerate the project’s technical studies to provide shovel-readiness by 2020. The line is projected to have 90,000 daily riders.

“We are here as members of WHAM (West Hollywood Advocates for Metro Rail) and the All-On-Board Coalition because, after many years of promises, we can finally see the train coming,” Heilman added.

**Metro offers updates on Purple Line Extension**

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is continuing work on the Purple Line Extension under Wilshire Boulevard. Near Wilshire Boulevard and Western Avenue, construction is ongoing near the Wilshire/Western station.

To expedite decking and support construction activities in the very dense and heavily utilized area of Koreatown, a 10-day extended street closure of Wilshire Boulevard between Manchester Place and Western Avenue will be implemented from Feb. 16 through 26. By implementing the extended closure, Metro anticipates reducing the number of full weekend closures by five weekends, and reducing the number of nights worked from 21 to 10. From Friday, Feb. 16 at 9 p.m. through Monday, Feb. 26 at 6 a.m., all lanes on Wilshire Boulevard will be closed between Manchester Place and Western Avenue. Construction will occur 24 hours during the 10-day extended street closure.

For updates, visit metrolink.net.

Near Wilshire Boulevard and Norton Avenue, street restoration work continues. Concrete work, steel deliveries and underground work is occurring near Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue. Near Wilshire Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue, excavation and hauling is underway, and near Wilshire and La Cienega boulevards, the contractor is continuing with excavation, instrumentation, haulage and utility hanging.

Members of the public with questions or concerns about Purple Line Extension construction activity can also call the 24-hour project hotline at (213)922-6934, and email the project team at purplelinext@metro.net.

**Partnership will examine ways to meet sustainability goals**

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced a new partnership on Feb. 5 to attain the sustainable development goals adopted by the United Nations to end poverty, protect the planet and promote prosperity.

The collaboration with Occidental College will examine how the city can incorporate the sustainable development goals into planning, and more effectively allocate resources. It will also create a network of like-minded cities around the world to share best practices and lessons.

“Los Angeles can, should and will lead in building the healthier and more prosperous world that we dream of for our children and grandchildren,” Garcetti said. “Our partnership with Occidental College matches that commitment with the brainpower, research and data collection that will keep us on target to reach for the highest goals.

The sustainable development goals were adopted in 2015 by all 193 members of the United Nations, which called on the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to address challenges such as ending hunger and reducing inequality, building resilient infrastructure and combating climate change. Garcetti has also co-signed a memorandum with the World Council on City Data establishing L.A. as one of eight local data hubs for sharing information related to the sustainable development goals. Occidental teams are already utilizing World Council on City Data standards to bolster the efforts.

Last fall, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation funded an initial grant to support L.A.’s efforts to advance the sustainable development goals. Occidental teams are already utilizing World Council on City Data standards to bolster the efforts.

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“Los Angeles is our stage,” Mayor Garcetti said. “We have the talent and resources to take on these goals. We are the city of the future and we are leading the world to meet these goals.”

Dr. Sanjeev Khagram, the John Parke Young chair in global political economy, leads Occidental College in the partnership with the city. The college’s faculty and students have already begun working to map the city’s efforts around the sustainable development goals.

**Norton Avenue and Western Avenue, construction is**

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Cedars employees wear red for heart health awareness

Hundreds of Cedars-Sinai employees and guests wore red on Feb. 2 in observance of Linda Joy Pollin Women’s Heart Health Day. The celebration included blood pressure screenings, information about women’s healthcare and panel discussions. Participants came together for a photograph on the steps of the medical center’s Advanced Health Sciences Pavilion, where the Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute is located.

This year, Cedars-Sinai’s event was held on the same day as National Wear Red Day, established by the American Heart Association and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. Dressing in red raises awareness about heart disease risk factors. For information, visit cedars-sinai.org.

Ryu to visit South Korea for Winter Olympics

Councilman David Ryu, 4th District, will visit Pyeongchang, in the Gangwon Province of the Republic of Korea, for the 2018 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games.

He departed on Feb. 7, and is scheduled to arrive in Korea on Feb. 9 and return to Los Angeles on Feb. 13.

During the trip, Ryu will meet with local officials, business owners and organizers to gain a first-hand understanding of how cities prepare and host an Olympic Games ahead of the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Ryu will look at how Pyeongchang manages infrastructure, traffic, security and fiscal stewardship.

“I am honored to have a chance to visit Pyeongchang for the Winter Olympics,” Ryu said. “I look forward to cheering on Team USA and discussing best practices with local officials for a successful and fiscally sound games.”

Ryu will meet with the governor of Gangwon Province and attend the Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony. With L.A. hosting the 2028 Summer Games, the trip allows an opportunity to learn from Pyeongchang’s hosting and budgeting for the Olympics.

The trip is being funded by Ryu’s officeholder account and personal funds.

Utility boxes are artists’ canvases in 4th District

The newest utility box artwork in the 4th Council District was unveiled recently near the corner of Riverside and Fletcher Drives in Silver Lake. The utility box was painted by artist Skye Amber Sweet as part of Councilman David Ryu’s Utility Box Art Program. The program was launched in November 2017 to improve neighborhoods while supporting Los Angeles-area artists. Up to $250 is provided to the artists for projects. Sweet has painted four of the nine utility box art projects that have been completed in Ryu’s district. For information, visit davidryu.lacity.org/utility_box_art_program.page.
Letters to the Editor

Metro should consider ways to boost ridership

Feb. 1 issue

I have done weekly observations of the L.A. Metro empty train cars for the past 12 years as a volunteer in the zoo’s research department. I have no doubt that Billy and the other elephants are extremely well cared for by their handlers who are devoted to their well-being, enrichment department staff who are constantly devising new ways to keep the elephants stimulated and researchers who monitor their behavior to determine how to lessen the so-called “stereotypic” behavior that Billy occasionally demonstrates.

My research shows that Billy head bobs when he is expecting to receive fresh food or move to a new yard. Your article mentions that Billy’s entire life is spent within one area of the elephant habitat. To the contrary, he and the three females are moved from area to area throughout the day so that they have constant new areas to wander and forage in, and Billy is able to see, hear and touch the other elephants.

What Billy is lacking is a mate, and he would not find one in either of the nation’s two sanctuaries, which do not allow breeding. Perhaps if Billy’s permanent status in the L.A. Zoo was secure, a zoo with a breeding program, he would be willing to send her to L.A. so that Billy could have the mate he seems to need.

Diane Tuchman
Los Angeles

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El Pueblo and the El Pueblo Interpretive Center

March 10 will feature the late Nelson Mandela’s 100th birthday, Academy Award-winning journalist Soledad O’Brien, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and the Los Angeles Police Department Assistant Chief Beatrice Girmala, ITA Deputy CEO Jeanne Holm, Los Angeles City Council President and integrity of the organization. I applaud all of you for your outstanding work, but when we have the power to do something to save lives in this vulnerable population, we must not bury our heads in the sand. There is a hunger in the air. It will be our fault if we do not take the necessary steps to turn things around. We cannot afford to wait any longer. The time is now.

Kristin Crowley and Mars rocket scientist Diana Trujillo

The America Tropical Interpretive Center is located on the property of the El Pueblo Los Angeles/ Olivera Street. For information, visit elpueblo-lacity.org.

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 trust protector who would handle your assets in the event of your disability and their distribution in the event of your death. A revocable trust may be amended or revoked by you at any time during your lifetime, and the terms are your competence. 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 or after your death, the trust acts as a “will substitute.” In so acting as a “will substitute,” the use of a revocable trust can, in many cases, save you from probate costs and also eliminate the need for the probate of your assets held in the name of your trust, thus avoiding additional legal and probate fees in the administration and distribution of your estate.

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Cupid’s arrow hits Universal CityWalk

Celebrate Valentine’s Day at the entertainment capital of L.A. by cuddling up with your sweetheart in plush recliner love seats at the Director’s Lounge Cocktail Bar. Grab a drink before or after seeing a movie at the Universal Cinema.

Relive every passion-filled moment of “Fifty Shades of Grey” and “Fifty Shades Darker” with a movie marathon on Thursday, Feb. 8, beginning at 1 p.m. Catch an advance screening of “Fifty Shades Freed,” the final chapter of the provocative film franchise. Head over to the new Voodoo Doughnut and select from the four Valentine’s Day-themed doughnuts. The devilishly delicious heart-shaped doughnuts are available from Friday, Feb. 9 through Wednesday, Feb. 14.

Antique-quality champagne tasting

On Friday, Feb. 9, from 5 to 7 p.m., Viviane Restaurant at Avalon Hotel Beverly Hills introduces its monthly tasting series featuring Henriot Champagne. This free Champagne tasting event is a fun prelude for couples to celebrate their love during Valentine’s Day weekend. Champagne enthusiasts will learn from a Henriot Champagne expert offering flights of brut, blanc de blanc and rosé cuvée. Viviane will offer hosted hors d’oeuvres. Come back on Valentine’s Day for a three-course, prix-fixe menu dinner by the pool for $55 per person. Reservations are available from 5:30 to 10 p.m. 9400 W. Olympic Blvd., (310)407-7791.

Kids’ Valentine treats

On Saturday, Feb. 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., kids ages 6 to 8 years old will enjoy making chocolate-dipped strawberries and fruit kabobs, while the older kids will

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Park Labrea News/Beverly Press

13 February 8, 2018

Make and take valentines class

On Monday, Feb. 12, at 6 p.m., participate in a 4-hour class, where students stir, pour, roll and package their own Valentine’s Day gifts. Learn how to make salted caramel chocolates, marshmallow hearts and strawberry basil lolipops at The Gourmandise School of Sweets & Savories. The school is open seven days a week offering hands-on cooking and baking classes for beginners to professionals. 395 Third Street Promenade #329, Santa Monica, (310)956-8800.

Pie-Grams and heart-shaped pies

Working up the courage to let your crush know he or she makes your heart flutter? Send them a Winston Pie Pie-Gram for $7 on Feb. 13 for Galentine’s Day or Feb. 14 for Valentine’s Day. Place your order online, and your loved one will receive a gift certifi- cate redeemable at Winston Pies during the week of Feb. 12 to Feb. 18. Go into the shop to purchase a Winston Pie Pie-Gram for $7 on Feb. 13 for Galentine’s Day or a Winston Pies Pie-Gram for $7 on Feb. 14 for Valentine’s Day.

Valentine’s Day at Toscana

Toscana is offering a three-course menu with Maine lobster salad with pistachio crust and citrus dressing; risotto with potato, Gorgonzola cheese and red wine reduction; and lamb chops and sea- soned vegetables. Next door at Bar Toscana, toast to love with a Valentine’s Day cocktail by mixol- ogists Brighid Maguire and Miguel Hernandez. Their Ti Amo is made with prosecco, lavender, rose water, cherry liquor and lemon splash. Enjoy it with a variety of elegant romantic dinner items for purchase in the marketplace. Create lemongrass roasted chicken and adobo-rubbed pork belly porchetta at home for a romantic meal. 7475 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, (310)207-5743.


Baldoria’s night of love

Whether you’re spending Valentine’s Day with friends or a significant other, Baldoria at Little Tokyo offers two seatings at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. The Notte d’Amore includes a four-course, regional Italian dinner for $49 per person. Beer and wine pairings are available with each course for an additional $20 per person. Menus highlights include insalata caprese, pan-fried potato gnocchi, wild Alaskan halibut and a three-course meal with blood orange glaze and fresh cream. 243 S. San Pedro St., (213)947-3329.

XO on Beverly

This new all-day eatery from chef Michael Hung is offering a four-course, pre-fixe Valentine’s Day menu for $78 per couple. The meal progresses through the stages of a relationship, such as the “First Date” with beef and goat cheese puffs, white miso, and shiso, and the “Home Run” with braised beef short ribs. End with “Pillow Talk,” a vanilla pavlova served with blood orange conserva, candied citrus and lemon chantilly. If you want to dine at home, XO on Beverly offers guests a selection of their signature dinner items for purchase in the marketplace. Create lemongrass roasted chicken and adobo-rubbed pork belly porchetta at home for a romantic meal. 7475 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, (323)903-0016.

Specials on Sunset for Valentine’s Day

New executive chef Peter Macias offers special pre-fixe menus at Kettle Black and Sawyer. The three-course Kettle Black din- ner is $48 per person with an optional $32 wine pairing available. At Sawyer, start with a chilled seafood platter served with capital oysters and rosé niçoise, chilled shrimp and cocktail sauce, and Peruvian scallop tartare. Entries include crab claws with drawn bun- ner and truffle aoli; 31-day dry aged, 16-ounce prime rib-eye with truffled potatoes; local halibut with sweet potato spätzle, charred leeks, and mainake mushrooms. Dessert is a chocolate torte with hazelnut mousse, white chocolate pears and raspberry. 3705 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, (323)641-3705, 3709 W. Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, (323)641-3709.

Valentine’s Day at Puck

Romantic dinner at Tintorera

Two” menu that includes Snake River Farm’s American wagyu beef, 36-ounce porterhouse and a 5 pound red snapper, with citrus, fen- nel and preserved Meyer lemon to share. At THE Blvd, master chef Thomas Bellec is making a four-course dinner for $135 per person from 5 to 11 p.m. 9500 Wilshire, Beverly Hills. CUTF, (310)276-8500. THE Blvd, (310)385-3901.

Cured meats at CUTF by Wolfgang Puck and THE Blvd

Inside the iconic Beverly Wilshire, couples and lovebirds can enjoy two romantic Valentine’s Day menus. Dining at the Michelin-starred CUT by Wolfgang Puck, choose from a carefully curated “The Things We Do for Two” menu that includes Snake River Farm’s American wagyu beef, 36-ounce porterhouse and a 5 pound red snapper, with citrus, fennel and preserved Meyer lemon to share. At THE Blvd, master chef Thomas Bellec is making a four-course dinner for $135 per person from 5 to 11 p.m. 9500 Wilshire, Beverly Hills. CUTF, (310)276-8500. THE Blvd, (310)385-3901.

ALSO ON BEVERLY

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See Valentine’s Day Dining pg. 15

WINE AND DINE YOUR VALENTINE WITH US

This Valentine’s Day, we invite you to wine and dine your special someone at The Peninsula Beverly Hills.

The Living Room

Enjoy Afternoon Tea with a Valentine’s Day twist. Tea for Two includes traditional petits pastries along with Nicolas Feuillade champagne and a classic Peninsulacapaccio to take home. Starting at 5:00pm, indulge in a three-course prix fixe menu featuring heavenly Lobster Bisque and divine Filet of Beef. $90 per person.

The Belvedere

Upon arrival into The Belvedere, enjoy a complimentary glass of Nicholas Feuillade champagne to start the evening. Creamy Lobster Risotto and velvety Yukon Gold Gnocchi are just a few highlights of the delicious four-course prix fixe menu. $125 per person.

The Roof Garden

Inspired by California Baja cuisine, relish in a delightful three-course prix fixe menu on the hotel’s lush rooftop. Menu highlights include Lobster Tostada and Chipotle Coffee-Crusted Beef Short Rib. $65 per person.

Exclusive Cabana Experience

Seated in a private heated cabana including a chilled bottle of champagne, an intimate five-course dinner for two awaits. Menu highlights include Winter Corn Grittde Crust and Whole Grilled Branzino. $395 per couple.

For reservations for The Belvedere and The Living Room please call (+1) 310 975 2736
For reservations for The Roof Garden please call (+1) 310 975 2652

For reservations for The Belvedere and The Living Room please call +1 310 975 2736.
For reservations for The Roof Garden please call +1 310 975 2652.
At 7:40 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of Sunset at 10:30 p.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Sunset and Gardener at 11:30 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7400 block of Santa Monica at 10:36 a.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1700 block of Whitley.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 6200 block of Del Valle at 1:50 p.m.

An unknown suspect stole a bicycle in the 5900 block of Whitley.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Wilcox and Selma at 9 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1000 block of S. La Cienega.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1000 block of S. La Cienega.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 6200 block of Del Valle at 1:50 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1000 block of S. La Cienega.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 6200 block of Del Valle at 1:50 p.m.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 3900 block of Wilshire at 11:10 a.m.

At 7:40 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 6200 block of Del Valle at 1:50 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1000 block of S. La Cienega.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1000 block of S. La Cienega.

An unknown suspect stolen a vehicle parked in the 600 block of Casa del Rey at 7 a.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Sixth and Curson at 11:30 a.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1400 block of Tamarind.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 4900 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 800 block of S. Hudson at 1:08 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 800 block of S. Hudson at 7:12 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 800 block of S. Hudson at 7:12 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 800 block of S. Hudson at 7:12 p.m.

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

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 800 block of S. Hudson at 1:08 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 800 block of S. Hudson at 1:08 p.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6600 block of Selma at 10 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 800 block of S. Hudson at 1:08 p.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle near the corner of Sunset and Fairfax at 1:05 a.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle near the corner of Sunset and Fairfax at 1:05 a.m.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle near the corner of Sunset and Fairfax at 1:05 a.m.

An attempted burglary was report-

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 7300 block of Sunset at 5 a.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 7300 block of Sunset at 5 a.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 7300 block of Sunset at 5 a.m.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 4900 block of Beverly.

An attempted burglary was report-

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 7300 block of Sunset at 5 a.m.

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The Belvedere at The Peninsula Beverly Hills

Celebrate Valentine’s Day with a romantic meal prepared by executive chef David Codney. His four-course dinner includes a complementary glass of Champagne and entrée options such as wild Baja grouper, creamy lobster risotto or Yukon Gold gnocchi with porsci, pecorino and spinach. For dessert, pastry chef Stephanie Boswell creates a dreamy coconut entremet with raspberry and dark chocolate. A live pianist will provide romantic music all evening. The dinner is $129 per person. Give your date the red carpet treatment with an intimate five-course dining experience in one of the hotel’s private heated rooftop cabanas with a bot-tle of Nicolas Feuillatte Brut Champagne, long-stemmed roses and serenade by a strolling guitarist for $395 per person. 9882 S. Santa Monica Blvd., (310)997-2736.

Patina’s elegant Valentine’s meal

Treat someone special to an elegant prix-fixe, three-course menu for $105. Patina Restaurant is also offering a la carte options for an additional cost. Both menus are served with a complimentary chef’s amuse-bouche. Menu highlights include Maimi lobster and Snake River Farms wagyu beef. Rosé-inspired wine pairings are available for an additional cost. 141 South Grand Ave., Los Angeles, (213)972-3331.

Cafe Pinot

There are two prix-fixe menu options, with one for $65 and the other for $75, at the most romantic, garden oasis restaurant in downtown Los Angeles. Executive chef Viet Pham’s highlights include beet chitarra with black mussels, and duck confit. 700 W. Fifth St., (213)329-6500.

Romantic views of Los Angeles

Enjoy an elegant French meal on top of the 71st floor of the InterContinental Los Angeles Downtown at La Boucherie. The romantic menu by executive chef Alessandro Semi includes amuse-bouche of oyster with Ossetra caviar, Champagne mignonette, caviar-cured George Banks diver scallops served with reef sweet prawns, and pastizzi romanesci. Entrées include 42-day dry-aged spinalis, lobster steak accompanied by wild cress coals, blood orange and Gilroy garlic pomme au gratin. Finish with crèmeux au chocolat with hibiscus-rose gelée. The prix-fixe, three-course menu is $85 per person. Better yet, reserve one of the VIP starlight booths offering floor-to-ceiling private screens, while you and your loved one enjoy some of the best city views stretching from the Pacific Ocean to the Hollywood sign. 900 Wilshire Blvd., (310)424-6435.

Splurge at Mastro’s

Treat your loved one to a live entertainment, elevated service and juicy USDA prime steaks. The menu also offers fresh seafood and intoxicating aphrodisiac oysters. Finish with warm butter cake for two. 246 N. Canon Drive, Beverly Hills, (310)888-8782. 18412 Pacific Coast Hwy, Malibu, (310)454-4357.

Valentine’s Day specials at Casa Vega

To celebrate Cupid’s holiday with a margarita promotion. Just purchase four entrées on Feb. 14, and you’ll receive a pitcher of margaritas for $1. The Casa Vega bar program now features an expanded tequila offering and toast amongst friends. New winter dishes include filet mignon tacos, lobster enchiladas, paolos esquites and interactive tableside guacamole. Casa Vega, (310) 680-0330.

ANTONIO’S MEXICAN RESTAURANT PRESENTS THE DOLLEFACE DAMES CABARET!


Join us on Valentine’s Day Two shows at 8 & 10pm $10

ANTONIO’S Mexican Restaurant 7470 Metrose Ave. Los Angeles www.eatantoniosmelrose.com

RESERVE NOW 323-650-9060

I knew it was love when I wiped the mustard off your mouth that night we met. Let’s go back on Valentine’s Day.
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center announces new affiliation

A proposed affiliation between Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Torrance Memorial that was first announced last May is now official.

The affiliation will focus on new opportunities for coordination of care and resources between the two medical centers and joint programs to provide access to medical services, clinical trials and the latest developments in medical research.

The initial areas for collaboration include advanced treatments for cancer, heart disease and brain disorders. Cedars-Sinai specialists will work with Torrance Memorial physicians to provide clinical consultations for their patients and streamline patient access to clinical trials and new technologies.

Each organization will continue to have its own board of directors, its own hospital, medical staff and related physicians and its own employees. Each organization’s president and CEO – Craig Leach at Torrance Memorial and Thomas M. Priselac at Cedars-Sinai – will continue to lead their respective entities. Both organizations are now affiliated under a new parent organization – Cedars-Sinai Health System – and a new board of directors. Priselac will serve as president and CEO of Cedars-Sinai Health System, in addition to continuing to serve as president and CEO of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

Torrance Memorial includes the 470-bed Torrance Memorial Medical Center in addition to the multiprofessional physician group Torrance Memorial Physician Network, an independent physician association Torrance Health IPA and an Accountable Care Organization. Torrance Memorial Integrated Physicians. It collectively includes more than 500 physicians. Torrance Memorial also has several outpatient centers.

Cedars-Sinai includes the 886-bed Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, the 145-bed Cedars-Sinai Marina Del Rey Hospital, the Cedars-Sinai Medical Network, and many primary care, urgent care and specialty care centers throughout Los Angeles. It also is a research and education center, with more than 1,600 current research projects and 500 clinical trials, and trains 473 medical residents and fellows.

"While both Torrance Memorial and Cedars-Sinai have strong track records for serving the region, the governance structure of the affiliation is designed to further enhance accessibility to care and the sharing of resources to benefit patients and the community," Priselac said.

Cedars-Sinai, founded in 1902 and Torrance Memorial, founded in 1925, are two of California’s longest-serving nonprofit health-care organizations. For information, visit cedars-sinai.org.

Music Mends Minds comes to Beverly Hills

Music has a profound effect on humans. Studies now show that it may actually be therapeutic for those with neurodegenerative diseases like dementia, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, traumatic brain injury, stroke and PTSD.

Such findings have inspired Music Mends Minds, a program that brings people together to enjoy music and socialize. Founders Carol and Irwin Rosenstein started the program to bring hope and life into their home when Irwin was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease, but the program has quickly captured the attention of medical researchers and communities throughout the country.

“We want to bring together not only those who are challenged with cognitive issues, but also others who want to enrich their lives with music and just have fun,” said Myra Lurie, president of the Rotary Club of Beverly Hills, which is sponsoring the new local band.

The collaboration between the city of Beverly Hills, the Rotary Club of Beverly Hills and Music Mends Minds makes it possible to bring this program to Roxbury Park Community Center every Tuesday, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., beginning Feb. 13. Volunteers from the Rotary Club will assist, and Rotarian and musician Steven Weinglass will serve as handbell director.

"We’re very excited about the Beverly Hills board’s opportunity to bring people together with a joyful and therapeutic after- noon of music every Tuesday afternoon," he said.

Everyone is invited to participate, regardless of their age or musical ability, though those who have instruments are asked to bring them to play. “We hope this drop-in program becomes very popular because there is nothing like bringing people together through music,” said Party Acuna, city of Beverly Hills senior recreation supervisor.

To join, drop-in on Tuesday, Feb. 13 after at 1 p.m. at Roxbury Park Community Center; no registration is required, though caregivers should attend with those who require them, and youth under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

Say ‘I love you’ with a song on Valentine’s Day

On Wednesday, Feb. 14, let one of the barbershop quartets from the Santa Monica Oceaneers provide an unforgettable singing valentine for your loved one.

A barbershop quartet will arrive on Valentine’s Day to sing two special songs, and deliver a balloon and a card with your personal message.

Regular same-day delivery times will be between 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Service areas include Beverly Hills, Century City, Culver City, Marina del Rey, Pacific Palisades, Playa del Rey, Santa Monica, Westchester, West Hollywood and downtown Los Angeles. Prices start at $50 if ordered before Feb. 11.

For information, visit oceaneers.org, or call (323)247-7464.
Unexpected ‘Cloverfield’ starts well, but finishes epically bad

Sometimes knowing nothing is better than knowing. That’s the unfortunate takeaway from “The Cloverfield Paradox,” the third entry in a sci-fi series that refused to be labeled. Until now.

So many answered questions established in the previous two films. And in so doing, the mystique lefts and “Cloverfield’s” aura diminishes. A missed opportunity, certainly, but I must admit this one remains entertaining nonetheless, a smart film undone by a few key moments.

Without a clear connection to 2008’s “Cloverfield,” a found-footage monster movie, and 2016’s “10 Cloverfield Lane,” a sorta really well done, the third installment begins as a familiar bedfellow. Following years of neglect, Earth is in the middle of an energy crisis, but Hamilton (Gugu Mbatha-Raw) and a team of scientists volunteer to test a new, unlimited energy source on the Cloverfield Station in space. If they succeed, they’ll prevent global war, but this blind them to one possible problem: the Cloverfield Paradox.

Some naysayers believe the station’s particle accelerator can fracture reality: dimensions collide and unknown creatures find their way to our reality. That’s crazy talk. Of course it happens. If you’ve ever wondered how the previous “Cloverfield” films connect, the third installment has all the answers you never needed. Shame too, considering how much producer J.J. Abrams and Netflix banked on a little marketing ploy on Sunday. Without any trailers or pre-screening for critics, Netflix dropped a teaser for the film during the Super Bowl, informing viewers it would go live immediately after the big game. Brilliant move. And that teaser reveals all kinds of goodies ready for exploration after all those Tide ads.

This is all in line with “Cloverfield’s” legacy. Abrams always kept these projects hush-hush, requiring actors to stay quiet and revealing even less in each piece of viral marketing. So why not go for broke, no promotion, let the public jump in? It’s especially effective if the film already had a rough production history and was sold from Paramount, unsure if it would survive much press. We’ve seen this story before. “Alien,” “Life,” “Event Horizon.” It’s a dated formula: space crew experiences an anomaly, they explore it further, slowly the crew gets picked out, talk on a life less about the hubris of humanity. But for brief moments, “Paradox” introduces some original ideas, particularly when the film’s realistic converge (one scene with a sentient hand sticks out).

And how often does a sci-fi film feature a black female lead? Mbatha-Raw belongs in leading roles, and thank H.G. Wells, we’ll see her soon enough in another sci-fi film, “A Wrinkle in Time.” A Disney adaptation of Madeleine L’Engle’s amazing children’s book. “Paradox” even offers solid performances from David Otewolo (MLK in “Selma”) as Keel the research team leader, and Chris O’Dowd as Mondy the mechanic.

The rest of the team, however, are wasted opportunities. Ziyi Zhang (“Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon”) deserves more than she receives here. Daniel Britth’s Schmidt is rather vanilla. And Elisabeth Debicki as Jenson, while closer to a fleshed-out character, is mostly a mixed bag.

And then we come to the odd decision to include an entire sub-plot about Hamilton’s husband back on Earth, Michael (Roger Davies), which only seems to exist for a limp twist that's disappointingly predictable. This is likely an add-on to establish the “Cloverfield” connection, likely not part of the film years ago when it was originally called “The God Particle.”

Which leads us to the ending. A horror film lives and dies on those concluding moments. Sure, the final girl can die, but the film better make sense, have a point, resat a knee-jerk tactic for in own sake, etc. “The Cloverfield Paradox” doesn’t wrap things up in a satisfying way. We need this ending about as much as “Alien: Covenant” needed to provide us all a tidy explanation for how the xenomorph came to be.

I see no reason “Cloverfield” can’t recover and provide more original sci-fi and horror cinema. At worst, this film is a hiccup, a lukewarm installment easily watchable and forgotten soon after. Many “threequels” do much worse (“Spider-Man 3,” “Alien 3,” “The Godfather Part III”). The real affront is how much it tries to tell all in a franchise built on ambigu- ty, often requiring true believers to put the pieces together themselves. That's the betrayal at work here.

On Screen

W/ TIM POSADA

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‘Walk With the Mayor’ and learn about Alzheimer’s

Join the mayor of Beverly Hills for a special “Walk With the Mayor” event with an Alzheimer’s awareness theme on Monday, Feb. 12 at 8:30 a.m.

Participants will come together in front of Beverly Hills City Hall, at the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Crescent Drive. Walkers will stop at the offices of the Alzheimer’s Association California Southland Chapter and at Sunrise Senior Living in Beverly Hills. Learn about free resources available to people with Alzheimer’s disease and their fami- lies. Beverly Hills schools will not be in session, and students are encouraged to participate.

For information, email Negar Kamara at nakarawsy@aol.com

Beautiful Spanish Colonial Revival Home

Open Sunday, Feb. 11th 1-4 pm

908 S. Burnside Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90036

Warm and inviting this 4 bedroom and 2.5 bath Spanish Colonial Revival home is located on one of the prettiest streets in the highly sought after Miracle Mile neighborhood. The home has the “wow” factor inside and out from the commanding curb appeal to the exquisite interior. This sought after Miracle Mile neighborhood. This home has the “wow” factor inside and out from the commanding curb appeal to the exquisite interior. This

Amazing Condo

2-bed, 2-bath

10515 recreation/entertainment

4100 Spadina Avenue

Selling price: $6,000/month

Proudly Offered $1,795,000.

PortiaPark.com Keller Williams -Larchmont 310.801.6873 CallBe: 01491884/1870534

Charming Traditional 3BD, 2.5BA

Beverly Grove Gem!

152 S Kilkea Drive

$6,000 / MONTH

Immaculate Heart juniors transition to leadership roles at Ring Ceremony

Immaculate Heart High School held its Junior Ring Ceremony on Feb. 2, capping student activities celebrating the school’s identity and values during Catholic Schools Week. The Ring Ceremony is a long-standing Immaculate Heart tradition in which juniors receive their class rings. It also marks the official transition of juniors as upperclasswomen.

The ceremony brought together family members, faculty, administrators and members of the senior class. Following a mass led by Father Marlon Ekchian, board President Monica Garcia and Principal Alfredo Juarez attended.

Students were prepped and ready for the press conference with the help of their after-school multimedia program. Students learn the media skills of still and video camera operation, storyboarding, lighting and editing. Students also learn how to prepare scripts and practice the art of capturing a great interview.

On Jan. 17, the Beyond the Bell Youth Development After-School Program, in partnership with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, announced the grand opening of the new Charles White Elementary School Art Gallery.

Immaculate Heart School in Beverly Hills is located on Rexford Drive.
Experience Immaculate Heart!

A Private, Catholic, College Preparatory School for Grades 6 – 12

Immaculate Heart High School & Middle School

“Educating the Hearts & Minds of Young Women Since 1906”

5915 Franklin Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90028 • (323) 461-3651 • www.immaculateheart.org

Go to school at ‘College Night’ at LACMA

On Tuesday, Feb. 13, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art is hosting a free evening for college students that will include special after-hours access to exhibitions, art-making workshops and more. Explore “Found in Translation: Design in California and Mexico, 1915-1965,” the exhibition about design dialogues between California and Mexico. Discover the exhibition “Painted in Mexico: 1700–1790: Pinxit Mexici,” devoted to 18th-century Mexican painting, “A Universal History of Infamy,” which engages 16 U.S. Latino and Latin American artists and collaborative teams working across a range of media – from installation and performance to drawing and video, “Vu Bin: Ten Views of a Linght Stone,” which explores the history of collecting strange stones in China and the relationship between them, Daoist cosmology, and classical Chinese poetry; and contemporary photography in “Richard Prince: Untitled (cowboy).” Participate in gallery discussions, curator tours, create art inspired by “Found in Translation,” and enjoy a free reception in honor of college students. Art-making workshops include jewelry design with Sofia Mas and printmaking with Elonda Norris. The Los Angeles County Museum of Art will open its doors exclusively to college students for a night of discussions, tours and art-making.

Celebrate your courtship with a fitting sparkling wine

This Valentine’s Day, tell your sweetheart how your feel about your relationship with a French sparkling wine that says it for you – Le Grand Courtaud, which means ‘the great courtship.’ What a better way to celebrate your love than over a bottle of bubbly? Proprietor Tawnya Faulkner left her career in San Francisco as an architect and moved to France a few years ago to develop the wine, which comes in blanc de blanc brut and brut rose. Faulkner saw a need in the market that bridged the gap between taste and affordability. Le Grand Courtaud has a softer taste than the yeasty and more expensive bubbles. Faulkner said her wines put you in the Champagne state of mind, like you’re treating yourself without breaking the bank. The grapes are from the Burgundy region of France, providing Le Grand Courtaud with a dry, crisp taste that is light on the palate. The Gold-medal winning sparkling wines are available at local retailers including BevMo!, Whole Foods, Mission Wine & Spirits, Yummy Foods and on their website legrand-courtaud.com. Enjoy with your Valentine’s dinner of spicy Asian dishes, beef, lamb duck or chicken. It is highly versatile and pairs well with pastas, cheese and seafood, too. “We’re in the happiness business of bringing people together over food and wine,” Faulkner said. She encourages lovers to put down their devices on Valentine’s Day and pop open the bubbly instead. Her sparkling wines retail for around $20 per bottle.

by Karen Villalpando

Laissez les bon temps rouler at the Farmers Market Mardi Gras parade

The 29th annual Mardi Gras celebration will be held on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 10 and 11, as well as Fat Tuesday, Feb. 13. The Market will be decorated in purple, green and gold, and zydeco and Cajun music will fill the air. Enjoy traditional New Orleans fare such as Dixie beer, beignets, Cajun gumbo and jambalaya from The Gumbo Pot. Festivities include bead throwing, crafts and more. The three-day event also offers fun for pet owners. The Dog Bakery and The Dog Bakery and Cat Bakery will be offering a variety of treats and toys. The 29th annual Mardi Gras celebration will be held on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 10 and 11, as well as Fat Tuesday, Feb. 13. The Market will be decorated in purple, green and gold, and zydeco and Cajun music will fill the air. Enjoy traditional New Orleans fare such as Dixie beer, beignets, Cajun gumbo and jambalaya from The Gumbo Pot. Festivities include bead throwing, crafts and more. The three-day event also offers fun for pet owners.

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Featuring 70 premier Western artists, the “Masters of the American West” opens Saturday, Feb. 10, at the Autry Museum of the American West in Los Angeles. This exhibition and sale showcases paintings and sculptures by nationally recognized artists such as George Carlson, Tammy Garcia, Z. S. Liang, Jeremy Lipking, Kevin Red Star, Mian Situ, Tucker Smith, Curt Walters and Morgan Weistling. Proceeds from the show support the Autry’s educational programs, ongoing conservation and more.

“Masters also includes work by emerging talent such as Tony Abeyta, Thomas Blackshear, Scott Burdick, Glenn Dean, Sue Lyon, Mark Maggiori, Eric Merrell, Dan Ostermiller and Mateo Romero. The show will remain on view through Sunday, March 25.

“Masters seeks to engage audiences with a wide range of artistic narratives about the American West, from its pioneers of legend and exceptional landscapes to contemporary Native artists who are reinventing traditional images, art forms, and styles,” said Amy Scott, the Autry’s chief curator, and Marilyn B. and Calvin B. Gross curator of visual arts.

A ticketed opening-day program includes presentations by artists Lipking and Daniel W. Pinkham, and a luncheon with an awards presentation. The event continues into the evening with a cocktail reception and fine art sale.

Entrance to the exhibition is included with museum admission. The Autry Museum is located at 4700 Western Heritage Way. For information and tickets, visit theautry.org/masters, or call (323)495-4375.

On Feb. 14, Grand Park is making Valentine’s Day affordable with an ode to romance, and an evening featuring lovers rock, an American soul-influenced reggae music subgenre. Angelenos looking for a Valentine’s evening under the stars will be serenaded to the sounds of DJ Danny Holloway and DJ Phersone, who will spin reggae tracks from 6-10 p.m.

Couples will enjoy the park’s ambiance and tables for two throughout Olive Court, illuminated with string lights. They can dine amidst views of Los Angeles City Hall and Grand Park’s Arthur J. Will Memorial fountain. Park furniture is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Grand Park’s Olive Court and Arthur J. Will Memorial fountain is located at 200 N. Grand Ave. For information, visit musiccenter.org.

The Broad will host several events in February in conjunction with the new Jasper Johns’ exhibition, “Something Resembling Truth,” opening on Feb. 10.

One of the most influential artists to emerge in the 20th century, and one of America’s great living artists, Johns has been seminal to The Broad collection. With loans from international public and private collections, including significant works from The Broad’s collection, the exhibition will trace the evolution of the artist’s six-decade career through a series of thematic chapters.

The exhibition encompasses the range of Johns’ materials, motifs and techniques – including his use of encaustic, or heated beeswax, and found-material collage in paintings – and the innovations he has achieved in sculpture and the graphic arts.

The Broad’s Un-Private Collection series will present a conversation at 2 p.m. on Feb. 10 with Roberta Bernstein, co-curator of The Royal Academy and The Broad’s “Something Resembling Truth,” and host curators Joanne Heyler and Ed Schad. They will discuss Bernstein’s book, “Jasper Johns: Redo an Eye,” and such topics as how Johns is among the most influential living artists to emerge in the 20th century and his essential influence on younger artists.

A book signing with Bernstein will follow the conversation. Copies of “Jasper Johns: Redo an Eye,” will be available for purchase onsite from The Shop at The Broad. Tickets include same-day timed entry to Jasper Johns: “Something Resembling Truth” at 1 or 4 p.m.

On Feb. 28, The Broad will host the first performance in the Cross-Hatched Concert Series, in which pianist Adam Tendler explores Johns’ friendships with composer John Cage, and choreographer and dancer Merce Cunningham. Tickets to this program include complimentary timed tickets to Johns’ exhibition at an alternate date and time of your choosing, subject to availability.

The Broad is located at 221 S. Grand Ave. For information and tickets, visit thebroad.org.

Enjoy a free reggae concert on Valentine’s Day

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The Autry presents ‘Masters’ of Western art

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School configuration under review in Beverly Hills

From page 1

think it’s great to look at how do we deliver better education. I couldn’t agree more. I think it’s great to look at why we have the middle school. I think these are all excellent questions. But if all you have is a hammer, then every-thing’s a nail. So if every question leads you to a dedicated middle school, then that’s a process I trust. Hence, I don’t trust the process.”

Two weeks ago Superintendent Michael Breyg held an impromptu meeting, which students and faculty attended in person and remotely. Breyg is the one among the leadership team who is involved in the ongoing reconfiguration of K-8 schools. The meeting was held to discuss the possibility of eliminating one middle school. A large number of teachers and students who attended the meeting had a question about the model.

Reconfiguration. And downsizing to three middle schools would not lead to the $5 million in cuts the district will attempt to make for the next school year to avoid dipping into its reserves.

Challenges to how funding is allo- cated to school districts in California over the years have adversely impacted Beverly Hills Unified and its ability to fund its long-time K-8 model. It’s status as a basic and district, meaning the dis-trict property tax levied on all properties is greater than the state funding it would be entitled to, virtually elimi-nates any state funding for board members and school district offi-cials have also cited declining enrollment, a trend they’ve said is projected to continue, as reason to reconfigure.

At the beginning of Tuesday’s meeting, school board member Mel Spitz said he supported the one middle school plan.

“We’re faced with two urgent and transformational issues,” Spitz said. “One is educational, and the other is financial. Both issues are going to have to be addressed with some level of certainty because they’re interconnected.”

The district’s middle school stu-dents are deprived of a quality education under the [K-8 model],” he added.

“Making the wrong decision is easy to do,” Spitz said. “But living with the consequences can be very hard. … Let’s commit this Board of Education to reconfiguration to one middle school as soon as a smooth transition can be assured by staff in a comprehensive action plan. It is clearly the right thing to do, we can’t afford to delay, and there is no good alternative to resolving our educational and financial issues.”

Another idea for a K-6 and 7-12 model that had been mentioned by Councilman John Mirisch was taken off the table because it is not a solution to the short term near future, and it presents the board with a way to resolve the issues that this district is facing at this very present moment,” said school board mem-ber Isabel Hacker, who also said she supports a one middle school model. Hacker again suggested a city- wide referendum to determine the future of the district’s configura-tion.

Spitz said this November’s special election to redistrict the city, in which two new members will be chosen, could turn into a referendum on district configura-tion. The district’s current four middle school model has been one of the reasons for exploring reconfiguration.

Piano virtuoso Stephen Hough

Hailed as “the best ensemble of its kind in the world” by the Manchester Evening News, the Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet make its debut at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts with one of the most distinctive artists of his genera-tion, pianist and MacArthur “Genius” Stephen Hough, in a one-night-only performance in the Bram Goldsmith Theater on Saturday, Feb. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Stephen Hough has distinguished himself as a true polymath, securing some of expression, tonal spectrum and conceptual unity. Listeners and crit-ics agree that the ensemble has succeeded in virtually redefining the sound of the classic wind quintet.

The Washington Post said Stephen Hough is “a virtuoso who begins where others leave off.”

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The North Hollywood man, Mark Morman, 55, was prohibited from having guns in his residence because of a protective order issued in a pending domestic vio-lence case.

State authorities served a search warrant on Morman’s wife’s house and the defendant’s residence because Morman did not relinquish two firearms authorities say he was using because they were registered in California. They found 23 addi-tional firearms, including a single gun due to a pending domestic violence case, and a massive stockpile of more than two dozen unsecured weapons and 2,000 rounds of ammunition. Imagine this arsenal next door to you and your family, in the hands of someone under a criminal pro-tection order.”

Morman was arrested and charged with 25 counts of posses-sion of a firearm by a prohibited person due to a criminal protective order, possession of ammunition by a prohibited person, importa-tion of a large capacity magazine, unlawful storage of a firearm, and resisting or delaying an investiga-tion.

He allegedly violated another city law previously authored by Krekorian that requires plastic containers to be locked and stored. He pleaded not guilty and is sched-uled to return for a pre-trial hear-ing on Feb. 27.

Gun tip line bolsters law enforcement

action against prohibited posses-sors is an important step towards a safer city,” said Capt. Aaron McNaney, who oversees patrol for the LAPD’s Wilshire Division. “Wilshire Division has placed a great emphasis on getting illegal guns off the streets and we wel-come any additional tools to help us expedite our efforts.”

Krekorian praised the council’s support for the tip line. Next, the city attorney’s office will draft an ordinance that will be returned to the City Council for further vote likely in a couple of weeks.

“I’m grateful that my City Council colleagues continue to stand with me as we take steps to protect the public from gun vio-lence,” Krekorian said. “Our work to create a new anonymous tip line and reward system will help get guns out of the hands of people who aren’t legally allowed to pos-sess them. Anyone who provides information leading to the discov-ery of illegally possessed weapons will be eligible for a $1,000 reward.”

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Homelessness continues to beegle the county

From page 1
Homeless Services Authority and sheriff’s department.

There are nearly 58,000 homele-

sless people in Los Angeles County on any given night, according to the 2017 Greater Los An-

geles Homeless Count results. There were 105 in West Hollywood, including 92 living in the street.

Despite the relatively low homeless population compared to neighboring areas in the city of Los Angeles, a few notable crimes involving homeless indi-

viduals over the past year have given residents cause for concern. In September, for example, a 41-

year-old transient Kisue Brady Brown struck a man multiple times with a double-edged hatchet at a West Hollywood 7-Eleven.

“This, we can all agree, is a complex issue that no doubt requires complex solutions,” said Capt. Sergio Aloma, of the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station.

Many of the solutions I think have been addressing and we have been addressing over the last several years, Aloma said.

But much work has been done. In West Hollywood, 320 homeless individuals were arrested for offenses like vagrancy, the violation of local ordinances — 17 more than the totals from 2015 and 2016 combined.

“We have to find that healthy balance between the rights of the homeless people and the quality of life of people who live, work and visit the city of West Hollywood,” said L.t. Ed Ramirez, of the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station.

One of the countywide invest-

ments to address the homeless crisis is Measure H, approved by nearly 70 percent of voters in March 2017 to add a $2.95 per

sales tax for 10 years to homeless services and prevention. It is projected to generate roughly $355 million annually.

More than 5,000 volunteers joined this year for the West Hollywood Homeless Count, the least count, which will help guide future efforts among local offi-

cials. Results are being tallied.

“Outreach that’s not coordinated sometimes can do more harm than good,” Colleen Murphy, outreach coordinator for the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, said.

She said the agency is “taking a regional approach” to bolster out-

reach around the county, and working on initiatives such as a portal to better field requests for outreach and dispatch workers.

“The work of outreach workers is absolutely, probably one of the most important and the most challeng-

ing functions of this work,” Murphy said. “Making sure out-

reach workers are not only meeting the agency, or entity or T-shirt worn that they all have access to really good training and research.

Shayla Myers, of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, said she supported local law enforce-

ment’s approach.

“We have been very pleased with the county of Los Angeles and its decriminalization platform as part of the homelessness initia-

tive,” she said. “I’m very happy to hear for the city of West Hollywood and the sheriff’s department that law enforcement

is seen as a partner with social ser-

vices rather than a replacement for those services, and that everyone around this table, it seems, is acknowledging that law enforce-

ment cannot be the solution to homelessness.”

West Hollywood also debuted a “Reel Change” donation program last month. Residents and visitors can drop coins in one of four pur-

chasing kiosks throughout the city to support its efforts to combat home-

lessness.

“Since there are four donation sta-

tions presently, and, if the pro-

gram is successful, perhaps we

will add more downtown through the city,” Councilwoman Lauren Meister said in a statement.

“Folks can feel good about feed-

ing these meters because the funds collected will go towards the city’s Homeless Initiative. It’s a great way for community mem-

bers to support the city’s outreach efforts and services to assist peo-

ple who are experiencing homelessness.”

Almost 1,000 visit LAMOTH on Free Museum Day

Thanks to publicity surrounding Museums Free-for-All Day, the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust welcomed a record-breaking 997 visi-

tors during the last Sunday of January. Volunteer docents led group tours of its galleries throughout the day. The museum also hosted a screening and Q&A of Jon Kean’s film “After Auschwitz” as part of its International Holocaust Remembrance Day program. Admittance to the museum is free every day.

Academy Gold enters second year with 22 entertainment industry partners

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced the launch of the 2018 Academy Gold internship and mentorship program for students and young professionals from underrepre-

sented communities.

Currently, there are 22 enter-

tainment industry partners, including The Walt Disney Company, Creative Artists Agency, Deluxe, Illumination Entertainment, IMAX, Lionsgate, Overbrook Entertainment, Panavision, Paramount Pictures, Participant Media, Snap Inc., Sony Pictures, Technicolor, Twentieth Century Fox Film, Universal Pictures, United Talent Agency, blinkbox, Bros. Entertainment, Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, and Q&A of Jon Kean’s film “After Auschwitz” as part of its International Holocaust Remembrance Day program. Admittance to the museum is free every day.

From page 1
Public Health said that the U.S.

has made the least progress compared to several other countries over the last three decades in reducing per-

capita fatality rates for walkers and bike-

kers. The study suggested that bike lanes have led to greater reduc-

tions in per capita fatalities in other countries when they’re combined with other safety measures that are less common in the U.S., such as auto-free zones, neighborhoods with speed limits reduced to 20 miles per hour and priority traffic signals for cyclists.

“U.S. cities only began building separate bike facilities in the 1990s,” according to the study by Ralph Buehler, an urban affairs and planning professor at Virginia Tech, and John Pucher, an urban planning professor at Rutgers University.

“Even currently, they lag far be-

hind northern European cities in the extent, quality, and integration of their bikeways.”

Wunderlich said that painted lanes would help bicyclists feel safer, and Mirisch added that they

would be more attractive.

The staff report said the city plans to use thermoplastic material, applied with reflective and anti-

skid material, to mark the lanes and signposts, adding that it has the “highest durability of all options available.” Mirisch also suggested that the city look into using paint that retains sunlight and glows in the dark.

Last June, the City Council unani-

mously voted to add bike lanes along Santa Monica Boulevard. Former Beverly Hills Mayor

Robert K. Tanenbaum and former City Councilwoman Nancy Krane spoke against adding bike lanes at that meeting. But a procession of nearly 40 local residents, from Beverly Hills and surrounding areas, supported adding the lanes as a safety measure.

Boise reiterated her support for adding more bike lanes throughout Beverly Hills.

“This is just the beginning,” she said.

The Santa Monica Boulevard Reconstruction Project is scheduled for completion this spring.
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