Campaign calls for BHPD chief’s removal

■ Beverly Hills mayor, council affirm their support for the chief amid multiple lawsuits

BY EDWIN FOLEVN

On the heels of multiple lawsuits against Beverly Hills Police Chief Sandra Spagnoli, local residents have launched a campaign seeking to oust her from the job. Led by longtime resident and former Beverly Hills City Council candidate Vera Markowitz, the BHPD Crisis campaign has created a website, run advertisements and is generating support for Spagnoli’s removal. The chief and the city dispute the group’s claims that the police department is in crisis. To the contrary, their contention is the department is being reformed and changes are occurring that will make the city safer.

Markowitz said she has long supported the police department and decided to launch the BHPD Crisis campaign to raise awareness about the more than 20 Beverly Hills Police Department employees who have filed lawsuits, including litigation resulting in a $2.3 million settlement paid to a former employee. She added that the group’s goal is to support candidates who will advocate for the police department.

A campaign centering on comments against the Beverly Hills Police Department and Chief Spagnoli alleges the department is in crisis. “This is grassroots politics. It’s about as hands-on as you can get,” said Max Kirkham, chair of the neighborhood council’s election committee and a candidate to represent Geographic Area 9. “It’s very fulfilling.”

Beverly Hills mayor, Councilman Mitch O’Farrell announced last fall will be making the streets safer for the city, but only 19 percent of local roads have a crosswalk in the neighborhood at any given time. “We represent the public, which is why I’m here today,” O’Farrell said of the council’s president for the past 10 years and is running again to represent Geographic Area 1, said he is proud to be part of a group overseeing progress in the area. “We represent the public, which is why I’m here today,” O’Farrell said of the council’s president for the past 10 years and is running again to represent Geographic Area 1, said he is proud to be part of a group overseeing progress in the area.

Teacher returned to class on Wednesday after district, union ended the strike

BY LUKE HAROLD

Hours before a deal to end the Los Angeles Unified School District teachers strike was announced, teachers at West Hollywood Elementary School picketed along the Sunset Strip on a windy Tuesday morning with a few of their students. “I think we’re definitely making a change,” said Juliet Melzer, who has been a teacher at West Hollywood Elementary for 14 years. “People are hearing us loud and clear throughout the country.”

Terms of the deal between the Los Angeles Unified School District and United Teachers Los Angeles include 6 percent pay increase for teachers, reducing class sizes by four students for grades 4-12, and increasing nurses, library services and counselors.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, whose office was involved in marathon negotiating sessions at City Hall when both sides resumed talks on Jan. 17, indicated on Monday that a resolution could be imminent. Teachers and union leadership gathered at Grand Park on Tuesday afternoon to announce the deal.

30 candidates enter Wilshire council race

BY EDWIN FOLEVN

The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council, which oversees the neighborhoods between La Brea and Western avenues, and from Melrose Avenue to Olympic Boulevard, is holding an election for new board members on March 13.

The deadline for candidates to register was Jan. 15, and 30 people threw their hats in to run as representatives in the neighborhood council’s 15 geographic areas, as well as six special categories representing educational institutions, renters, businesses, nonprofit and religious institutions, and an at-large category.

The list of candidates includes incumbent members as well as newcomers. The council is an advisory body that provides guidance to the city on new development and quality of life issues such as public safety, sidewalks, repair and tree maintenance. It also holds special events and forums on topics such as crime, the environment and public health. The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council represents approximately 60,000 residents and stakeholders.

Heart of Hollywood readies for closeup

■ At annual State of Hollywood, Councilman Mitch O’Farrell details new strategic plan

BY LUKE HAROLD

More pedestrian safety enhancements, bridge housing to address the homeless crisis and a few encouraging crime statistics were some of the highlights Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O’Farrell mentioned at the annual State of Hollywood address on Jan. 17.

Moving forward, a new “Heart of Hollywood” initiative the councilman announced last fall will provide a holistic blueprint for Hollywood’s continued growth. “This vision process in in and of itself will lead to the kind of exciting change this community has been longing for,” O’Farrell, 13th District, stated at the annual event, held at the Taglyan Complex on Vine Street and hosted by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. Part of this process includes making the streets safer for the residents, visitors and business owners who walk, and cross, the streets of Hollywood every day. Hollywood Boulevard, from North Martel Avenue to Barnsdall Art Park, is part of the high injury network of roads throughout the city that have caused severe injuries and death.

Following the first scramble to crosswalk in the neighborhood at Hollywood Boulevard and Highland Avenue, the boulevard welcomed another at the corner of Hollywood and Vine. Bicyclists and walkers account for 44 percent of people killed or severely injured while traveling around the city, but only 19 percent of local travelers use walking or biking as the primary mode of transportation. The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council represents approximately 60,000 residents and stakeholders. Board members serve in two-year terms.

"This is grassroots politics. It’s about as hands-on as you can get,” said Max Kirkham, chair of the neighborhood council’s election committee and a candidate to represent Geographic Area 9. “It’s very fulfilling.”

Owen Smith, who has served as the council’s president for the past 10 years and is running again to represent Geographic Area 1, said he is proud to be part of a group overseeing progress in the area. “We represent the public, which is why I’m here today,” O’Farrell said of the council’s president for the past 10 years and is running again to represent Geographic Area 1, said he is proud to be part of a group overseeing progress in the area. "This vision process in in and of itself will lead to the kind of exciting change this community has been longing for," O’Farrell, 13th District, stated at the annual event, held at the Taglyan Complex on Vine Street and hosted by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. Part of this process includes making the streets safer for the residents, visitors and business owners who walk, and cross, the streets of Hollywood every day.

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Mediation Rahimi and Jeff Mario star in the West Coast premiere of "Paradise," a moving, funny and thought-provoking drama by Laura Maria Censabella running from Thursday, Jan. 24, through Sunday, Feb. 17 at the Odyssey Theatre. Two outsiders, a gifted Yemeni-American teenager at a poorly rated high school in the South Bronx and her disillusions, l♡ve for each other's lives becomes greater than either imagined. Tickets are $35. 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd. (323)960-7724, plays411.com/paradise.

Joe Praml on 'Frankenstein'

Join West Hollywood resident and poet Joe Praml for "Discovering Mary Shelley's Frankenstein" on Saturday, Jan. 26, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Westwood Branch Library. Praml will share his story of discovery when he first read Shelley’s “Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus,” as a boy. The event celebrates the book’s 200th anniversary. Praml will also read from his upcoming autobiographical novel, "JFC!" 1246 Glendon Ave. (323)474-1739, jopraml.com.

Lunar New Year

Celebrate with the city of Beverly Hills at its eighth annual Chinese New Year celebration on Saturday, Jan. 26, at 3 p.m. at the Saban Theatre. The celebration of the year of the pig includes the Chinese Peking Opera and Peking Opera Fashion Show performed by the Beijing Liansheng Culture, Chinese folk dance performed by the Beijing Song and Dance Troupe, Chinese martial arts by the Tianjin Wushu Regiment, folk music by the Tianjin Folk Orchestra and acrobatics performed by the Hebei Acrobatic Troupe. Tickets are $10. 8440 Wilshire Blvd. lovebeverlyhills.com/jpg.

Hammer Kids

Families can celebrate plants in Los Angeles with artist Saría Dougherty during an event on Sunday, Jan. 27, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hammer Museum. Observe and draw native and non-native plants of Los Angeles, or a plant from memory. The event is part of the Hammer Kids series. Admission is free. 10899 Wilshire Blvd. (323)443-7000, hammer.ucla.edu.

Forever Flamenco'

Fans of flamenco won’t want to miss “Forever Flamenco” by Kai Nuesca (pictured) on Sunday, Jan. 27, at 7:30 p.m. at the Spielberg Theatre at the Elystan Theatre. General admission is $10. 6712 Hollywood Blvd., (323)377-7238, lafilmforum.org.

Writers seminar

Aspiring writers are invited to an Independent Writers of Southern California seminar titled “What Kind of Publishing Is Right for You?” on Sunday, Jan. 27, at 7:30 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building in Culver City. Admission is free for IWOSC members; $15 for nonmembers. 4117 Overland Ave. (310)773-8075, iwosc.org.

‘Ms. Smith Goes to Washington’

Sam Waterston will join “Scandal” co-stars Joshua Malina, Jeff Perry and Bellamy Young for a reading of “Ms. Smith Goes to Washington” on Thursday, Jan. 24 through Saturday, March 9.

Just Down the Road

Celebrate Valentine’s Day aboard Fillmore & Western’s Valentine’s Comedy Murder Mystery Dinner Train on Thursday, Feb. 14. The tire features dinner and a 1920s-style spoof of the popular “Love Boat" characters on their aloha voyage above the Love Train. Passengers will enjoy an evening of intrigue, entertainment and music. The menu is filled with choice of prime rib, chicken cordon bleu, blackened pork chop and vegetarian salad. Tickets are $99. Trains depart at 7 p.m. from 364 Main St., Fillmore. (805)524-2546, ferry.com.

Carol Ferraro

Council Chambers. A gender-

Adoption meeting

People considering child adoption and foster parenting are encouraged to attend an informational meeting about resources on Saturday, Jan. 26, from 10 a.m. to noon at Children’s Bureau Magnolia Family Place. Children’s Bureau resource parents protect and nurture children, meet their developmental needs and support children’s relationships with birth families. 1910 Magnolia Ave. (213)342-0162, photos4kids.org.

‘Accidental Death Of An Anarchist’

The Actors’ Gang presents Italian playwright Dario Fo’s “Accidental Death of an Anarchist,” running from Thursday, Jan. 24, through Saturday, March 9. Admission is free. 10899 Wilshire Blvd. lovebeverlyhills.com/jpg.

Order No 736637.

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Newly elected local women highlight third annual Women’s March in downtown LA

Organizers said 200,000 people marched to City Hall last weekend

BY LUKE HAROLD
A former undocumented immigrant from Boyle Heights, Wendy Carrillo prevailed in a field of 11 men and one other woman in a 2017 special election for a state Assembly seat vacated by Jimmy Gomez, who left to serve in Congress.

Carrillo (D-Los Angeles) was one of several women serving their first terms representing Los Angeles in multiple levels of government who spoke at the Women’s March on Jan. 19, underscoring the impact the movement has had on local politics.

“Don’t wait for anyone to tap you on the shoulder and tell you that it’s your turn,” Carrillo said to the thousands of women gathered at Pershing Square, before the march to Los Angeles City Hall. “Run, organize, raise money and give everybody hell, because we need you to have a seat at the table to make decisions about our bodies, our community, our family, the future of our state and the future of this nation.”

One of her colleagues in the Legislature, longtime labor activist Maria Elena Durazo, won the November state Senate race to replace Kevin de Leon, who was term-limited. She announced her candidacy in April 2017, and told the Los Angeles Times that her opposition to the Trump administration inspired her to run.

“When we back each other up, we have more power,” Durazo (D-Los Angeles) said.

Organizers said 200,000 marchers took to the streets of downtown L.A. for the third annual Women’s March on Jan. 19, underwritten that she will focus her efforts and expertise on our cause of gender equality across our society,” Gov. Newsom said. “I am excited that she will fulfill her promise and make up one in four members of Congress, closing the gender gap.”

That means that women only

Gov. Gavin Newsom and First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom announced the creation of the Office of the First Partner within the governor’s executive team.

The first partner and her team will focus on lifting up women and their families, breaking down barriers for our youth, and furthering the cause of gender equity in California.

“I have always been so proud of Jennifer’s important work shifting cultural norms and advancing the cause of gender equality across our society,” Gov. Newsom said. “I am excited that she will focus her efforts and expertise on our California communities, and help ensure that California continues to lead on issues of equality.”

It is the honor of a lifetime to serve the people of California as first partner, and I am excited to use this platform to continue advocating for gender equality across our great state. The work of the Office of the First Partner will be about inclusivity, breaking down old stereotypes, and forging a new more equitable path forward,” Siebel Newsom said.

As part of the creation of the Office of the First Partner, the governor announced the appointment of two senior public servants to lead the office’s efforts.

Becky Boland McNaught, 32, of Sacramento, has been appointed chief of staff in the Office of the First Partner. McNaught previously served as the Democratic counsel for the U.S. Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee and was the lead author of the committee’s 2017 minority staff report “Tackling the Gender Gap: What Women Entrepreneurs Need to Thrive.” This position does not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is $100,000. McNaught is a Democrat.

Hamiah Milgrom, 28, of San Francisco, has been appointed director of communications in the Office of the First Partner. Milgrom most recently served as surrogate director on the Newsom for Governor Campaign, where she managed all public appearances and communications for the first partner. This position does not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is $145,000. Milgrom is a Democrat.
The Los Angeles City Council on Jan. 16 called for ways to better prevent, track and react to hate inci-
dents and hate crimes, as well as ways to increase reporting.

The council action was based on the results of an LAPD report previ-
ously initiated by Councilmen David Ryu, Paul Koretz and former
Councilman Mitch Englander. On Jan. 18, the council instructed the
LAPD and the City Administrative Office to work with the city’s
Emergency Management Department and report back on security
enhancements around potentially at-risk institutions. The
San Francisco Board of Supervisors agreed with the Los Angeles
option.

“The Los Angeles City Council is very troubled by the increase in hate
incidents and hate crimes, which we saw both in the 2017 report and
the current report,” Councilman Mitch Englander said. “We will try to
comprehensively address the issue. There’s clearly a national problem
that needs to be addressed, and what we can do in Los Angeles is
important.”

In a previous citywide report, the LAPD found that hate crimes
increased by 18.2% in 2017 over 2016. The report also noted that
hate crimes were more likely to occur in some Pacific Islander,
Asian, and Middle Eastern neighborhoods.

The report also noted that hate crimes are often under-reported and
cannot be accurately tracked. According to the report, hate crimes
are often not reported to the police because victims feel there is no
solution to the problem or that the police will not be able to help.

In the past, hate crimes have often been reported as other crimes,
such as vandalism or assault. This can lead to a lack of resources and
attention being directed towards hate crimes.

The Los Angeles City Council has requested that the LAPD and the
City Administrative Office work together to develop a comprehensive
plan to address hate crimes. The council has also called for the
department to report on hate crime statistics on a regular basis.

The council has also called for increased funding for hate crime
prevention and enforcement, as well as increased training for police
officers on how to recognize and report hate crimes.

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—Kevn Wells, former lead dancer of the English National Ballet

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—Daniel Herman, Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic

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Schiff, now chair of House Intelligence Committee, prepares to reopen investigation into Trump, Russia

BY LUKE HAROLD

In June 2017, with President Trump a few months into his first term, the House Intelligence Committee called former Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson in for a hearing about Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election. “At its heart, our democracy relies on the trust of the American people in their institutions,” Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank), the committee’s ranking Democrat, said in his opening statement. Johnson, former CIA Director John Brennan and Trump campaign advisor Carter Page were among those who testified, but the committee, chaired at the time by U.S. Rep. Devin Nunes (R-Tulare), put an abrupt end to its Russia investigation last April. It concluded, in part, that there was no evidence of collusion, coordination or conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia.

Questions were raised about its investigation into Trump’s ties to Russia, or a number of other topics with implications for Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election. It was labeled the investigation a “witch hunt,” and many other prominent Republicans have backed that assertion or remained quiet. Schiff, in the eyes of many of his constituents and Democrats across the country, will have a chance to restore the trust of the American people.

“The American people entrust a new majority in the House with a great responsibility to put forward a positive agenda for the nation,” Schiff said upon being sworn into his tenth term earlier this month, and also mentioning oversight of the Trump administration.

The House is restarting its investigation into Russian interference in U.S. elections, including a closer look into the Trump Organization’s finances and Trump associates such as Michael Cohen, who will be appearing before the committee. “We lost a lot of valuable time we’re now going to have to make up for,” Schiff said in a phone interview this week.

Polling data shows public opinion over Trump’s ties to Russia trending against the president, but the House investigation will still be divided along partisan lines. Brennan, an Obama appointee, tweeted that the “highly partisan, incomplete, and deeply flawed House Intelligence Committee means nothing,” following the Republican-led House Intelligence Committee report last year. The president has repeatedly labeled the investigation a “witch hunt,” and many other prominent Republicans have backed that assertion or remained quiet.

In the meantime, the work of Special Counsel Robert Mueller has produced a guilty plea from Cohen for making false statements to Congress, multiple charges against former Trump campaign Chairman Paul Manafort, a guilty plea by former Trump advisor Michael Flynn for making false statements to the FBI, and charges against 12 Russians for computer hacking for the purpose of interfering in the U.S. election.

Other areas of potential concern have arisen in the media. BuzzFeed reported on Jan. 17 that Trump personally directed Cohen to lie to Congress about negotiations to build a Trump Tower in Moscow. Mueller’s office refuted the story, but BuzzFeed is standing by its reporting.

WeHo to hold candidate forum

In anticipation of the city of West Hollywood’s upcoming election on Tuesday, March 5, the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce will host a West Hollywood City Council Candidate Forum with the participation of the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles.

Eleven candidates are running for three West Hollywood City Council seats in the March 5 election and all candidates have been invited by the host organization to participate in the forum. The Candidate Forum will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 29, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the city’s Council Chambers/Public Meeting Room, located at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. Robert Kovacik, anchor and reporter for NBC4 Southern California, will serve as moderator.

For information about the forum, contact Genevieve Morrill from the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce at (323)650-2688 or at gmorrill@wehochamber.com.
The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department has promoted former West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station captain Sergio Aloma to the rank of commander, and has appointed Lt. William Moulder as the acting commanding officer at the station while a permanent replacement is selected.

Aloma’s final day at the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station was Jan. 13. He has been assigned as a commander in the Custody Services Division, which oversees the department’s jails.

The 32-year veteran of the sheriff’s department served as captain at the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station since April 2017. He had previously worked at the station in different capacities and at different times since the late 1980s.

Prior to being named acting captain, Moulder served as operations lieutenant at the station. The timeline for a new captain to be selected is uncertain. Moulder could not be reached for comment.

Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva will make recommendations for the next captain to West Hollywood City Manager Paul Arevalo, who will consult with the City Council to narrow the field and present their choice to the department. Villanueva has the final say on the appointment. Input from the City Council is a strong factor in the department’s considerations, West Hollywood Mayor John Duran said.

“We are the one city that contracts with the sheriff’s department that has a 24-hour clock. We have a daytime economy and a nighttime economy,” Duran said. “The extraordinary challenges that we have in the city you’re just not going to find in Whittier or Walnut, or any of the other contract cities. We are a proving ground for future chiefs and commanders, and I’m sure whoever the sheriff sends us, they will be good candidates.”

Duran said the new captain must be able to positively interact with diverse groups including the LGBTQ, senior and Russian communities. He said another consideration is the new captain’s ability to serve and interact with immigrants.

Duran added that he does not favor promoting personnel already assigned to the station over those serving in other assignments, and is confident the new captain will be a good fit. He is also confident the station will operate seamlessly until a new commanding officer is appointed.

“It’s actually OK with whatever timeline,” said Duran, who surmised the sheriff will provide a list of candidates within a month. “We have Lt. Ramirez and now acting captain Moulder. I don’t have a sense of urgency about the pick.”

The Los Angeles Unified School District has reached a tentative agreement with the Los Angeles/Orange County Building Trades Council for 2017-20 that includes a 6 percent salary increase.

“I am pleased to announce that we have reached a tentative agreement with the Los Angeles Unified School District for a three-year contract that provides a 6 percent across the board raise for all of our members,” said Chris Hannan, who serves on the council as the representative for Los Angeles County. “We are committed to working with legislators in Sacramento to secure additional funding for our public schools.”

“The Building Trades recognize the significant budget constraints facing the Los Angeles Unified School District, and we are committed to working with legislators in Sacramento to secure additional funding for our public schools.”

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“The Building Trades are dedicated plumbers, electricians, welders and others who help make our schools great learning environments,” LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner said. “We appreciate the Building Trades’ commitment to working with Los Angeles Unified to call on Sacramento to increase funding for public education.”

The agreement also includes a 3 percent retroactive salary increase in 2017-18 and 3 percent in 2018-19.

Los Angeles Unified has reached labor agreements with AALA, CSEA, SEIU Local 99 and Teamsters Local 572, and a tentative agreement with the Building Trades, which together represent about 68 percent of the school district’s workforce.

“LAUSD reaches tentative agreement with building trades

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“LAUSD reaches tentative agreement with building trades

The Los Angeles Unified School District has reached a tentative agreement with the Los Angeles/Orange County Building Trades Council for 2017-20 that includes a 6 percent salary increase.

“I am pleased to announce that we have reached a tentative agreement with the Los Angeles Unified School District for a three-year contract that provides a 6 percent across the board raise for all of our members,” said Chris Hannan, who serves on the council as the representative for Los Angeles County. “The Building Trades recognize the significant budget constraints facing the Los Angeles Unified School District, and we are committed to working with legislators in Sacramento to secure additional funding for our public schools.”

“The Building Trades are dedicated plumbers, electricians, welders and others who help make our schools great learning environments,” LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner said. “We appreciate the Building Trades’ commitment to working with Los Angeles Unified to call on Sacramento to increase funding for public education.”

The agreement also includes a 3 percent retroactive salary increase in 2017-18 and 3 percent in 2018-19.

Los Angeles Unified has reached labor agreements with AALA, CSEA, SEIU Local 99 and Teamsters Local 572, and a tentative agreement with the Building Trades, which together represent about 68 percent of the school district’s workforce.
When earthquakes, fires or floods strike, L.A.’s public safety personnel rush to the scene, to do all they can for Angelenos. But if a major disaster strikes, the city isn’t adequately prepared to actuate the rest of its workforce to help out, reported L.A. Controller Ron Galperin in his latest report about the city’s disaster service worker program.

The program, which has never been activated, authorizes city leaders to assign civilian employees to support first responders during major emergencies. Galperin said the city hasn’t assembled a centralized database of employee contact information, such as cell and home phone numbers and personal emails to reach out to employees in an emergency, the city currently lacks coherent disaster service worker deployment procedures; and the city has failed to properly train and prepare employees if they need to be called up to duty.

“Los Angeles has weathered more than its fair share of destructive fires, floods and mudslides in recent years, and the threat of the Big One is always on the horizon,” Galperin said. “We have incredibly dedicated and talented city workers and we need to be ready to deploy them to aid our first responders when a major disaster strikes. My report offers recommendations to improve the city’s disaster service worker program and ensure that our employees are well-trained and ready to be called into action in case of emergency.”

Under city and state law, if disaster response and recovery efforts need support, disaster service workers may be assigned to such civilian duties as answering phones, delivering supplies, preparing food, filling sandbags and managing volunteers. According to Galperin’s report, the city needs to be better organized should the need arise to activate the disaster service worker program.

Key players in any activation of the program are the city’s Emergency Management and Personnel departments. Galperin’s report includes several common sense recommendations, including creating a cloud-based database of employee contact information, developing procedures to identify which employees to deploy first, implementing regular disaster service worker trainings for city employees and testing deployment during annual activation drills.

To read the full report, visit lacontroller.org/disasterserviceworker.

Controller says city workers need to be prepared when disaster strikes

LGBT Center celebrates ’50 Years of Queer’

The Los Angeles LGBT Center, the world’s largest LGBT organization, announces “50 Years of Queer,” the jubilant campaign to commemorate its 50th anniversary. Throughout the year, the center’s signature events and other community-focused occasions will celebrate the organization’s half-century milestone.

“This is a historic moment for the center and for the LGBT community,” LGBT Center CEO Lorri L. Jean said. “Fifty years ago, a small group of volunteers banded together and decided to change the world. Perhaps that’s not how they thought of it, but that’s what happened. What began as a vision for helping members of our community developed into what’s now the largest LGBT organization, with nearly 700 employees, thousands of volunteers and a membership of tens of thousands of people whose lives have been changed for the better. What better way to celebrate who we are, where we’ve come from, and where we’re going than with a year-long set of opportunities for everyone to get involved.”

The year-long celebration will feature two landmark events that will serve as centerpieces of the anniversary festivities.

On April 7, the center will open the two-acre Anita May Rosenstein Campus, a first-of-its-kind complex in Hollywood which will offer comprehensive multigenerational services and 100 beds for homeless youth, a new Senior Community Center and Youth Academy, and expanded programming and administrative space.

Phase 2, scheduled to open in early 2020, will include 99 units of affordable housing for seniors and 25 supportive housing apartments for youth.

On Sept. 21, a star-studded celebration and concert at the Greek Theatre will feature musical headliners and special guests, preceded by a sit-down gala dinner.

In celebration of “50 Years of Queer,” events throughout the year will integrate important historical and cultural themes that highlight not only the history of the center, but the LGBT movement at large. Among those events will be a special year-long Big Queer Convo panel series documenting the impact of LGBT people on the entertainment and news media over the last half-century, beginning on Jan. 30 with “The New Normal: Television and the Emergence of LGBT Identities.”

For information and complete list of events, visit lagresqlentcenter.org/50.

Galperin

Dept. of Education announces new deputy supt. of government affairs

Jackson recently served as director of government relations for San Diego schools

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced that Khieem Jackson will lead the Government Affairs Division and serve as the California Department of Education’s liaison with local, state, and federal elected officials and government agencies.

Jackson brings a wealth of expertise to the department, with a diverse background in federal, state and local government advocacy, along with extensive international experience serving as an officer in the United States Marine Corps.

“I am thrilled to have Khieem Jackson join our team as deputy superintendent of government affairs,” Thurmond said. “He is a strong advocate for students who need the most assistance, and brings invaluable insight from throughout the world supporting service members and their families.”

Jackson recently served as director of government relations for the San Diego Unified School District, where he provided executive level policy and legislative guidance on critical issues such as curriculum, transportation and energy.

While at San Diego Unified, Jackson also advocated for career technical education incentive grants and increased support for school districts with refugee students.

Jackson also served as director of federal legislative affairs with the United States Marine Corps in Oceanside.

In that role, Jackson worked with former Gov. Jerry Brown’s office to establish a monitoring process to measure the education-alf success of military students and advised military leadership on state education bills.

This came after Jackson served as deputy director of legislative affairs to the U.S. House of Representatives for the Marine Corps.

In that role, he traveled to more than 75 countries in nearly five years, on numerous occasions meeting with heads of state, foreign dignitaries, and U.S. Department of State ambassadors and staff.

As the state Department of Education’s deputy superintendent of government affairs, Jackson will be responsible for the administration of all departmental activities relating to state and federal legislation.

Jackson replaces the former division director, Debra Brown, who is now the director of education and government relations at the Sacramento-based organization Children Now.

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Discrimination Can NOT Be Tolerated!

Twenty-Two lawsuits or employment claims alleging discrimination, harassment and retaliation have been filed against the City of Beverly Hills arising from the alleged misconduct of our current Chief of Police.

These claims and lawsuits have been brought by Police Department officers and employees for discrimination based on:
- Age
- Ethnicity
- Race
- Religion
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation

Our City Council must act to prevent injustice, protect our Police Department employees from discrimination and harassment, ensure our public safety and protect our City from potentially large financial liability.

Instead, they are hiring public relations firms, avoiding responsibility, and attempting to shift the blame to others.

Defending lawsuits is not a solution!
Paying millions of dollars in settlements will not fix the problem!

It’s Time For The City Council To Take Action!

Learn more and get the facts at www.BHPDCrisis.com

Paid for by a Group of Concerned Citizens
Big Sunday distributes clothing on MLK Day

More than 1,000 volunteers prepared tens of thousands of articles of clothing for distribution on Jan. 21 at Big Sunday’s seventh annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day clothing collection and community breakfast.

The collection was held outside the nonprofit Big Sunday’s headquarter at 6011 Melrose Ave. Volunteers sorted clothing that was donated to Big Sunday, and the apparel was distributed to organizations serving individuals in need.

Each year, Big Sunday offers thousands of ways for people to help and volunteer, including clothing and food drives, service at community organizations, outreach to homeless individuals and programs for seniors and veterans. For information, visit bigsunday.org.

“We are in very fraught times, but at Big Sunday, we keep finding that most people of all ages, from all walks of life and yes, different political bent, want to work together to make our world a nicer place and celebrate what we share,” said Big Sunday founder and Executive Director David Levinson. “Big Sunday is here 52 weeks a year, and we are always looking for new people and more ways to help.”

Baldwin Hills resident Chita Oje and her children Eden, Ezeh and Anthony volunteered at Big Sunday for the first time on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Oje said her daughter Eden attends the Archer School for Girls, which organized a group of volunteers at the Big Sunday clothing drive.

“I thought it was a great opportunity to teach my daughter and two boys to help and serve for a good cause,” Oje said. “It’s important on a day like this to teach about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s impact on society.”

Cedars commemorates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

On Jan. 17, what would have been Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.”s 90th birthday, Martin Luther King III, the eldest son of the civil rights leader, addressed a capacity crowd in Cedars-Sinai Medical Center’s Harvey Morse Auditorium.

“I was just 5 years old when he delivered his ‘I Have a Dream’ speech at the great March on Washington,” King said at Cedars-Sinai’s 17th annual Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration. “Even at the age of 5, I felt great pride that my dad had given so many Americans a sense of hope and unity. The feeling that his vision could bring people of all races together has been a part of my life since.”

King currently serves as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization co-founded by his father. He is also founder and president of Realizing the Dream Inc., which focuses on eliminating poverty, racism and conflict around the world.

“His father was assassinated when I was 10 years old,” King said. “He wasn’t just a famous leader to me, he was a warm, caring, compassionate father whose company was so, so enjoyable, and I sorely missed him after he was killed and miss him even today.”

King added that his father’s teachings provide more than “an interesting history lesson.”

“They offer us the closest thing we have to a road map to fulfillment of the American dream,” King said.

“This is the legacy we must pass on to all future generations.”

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Cedars commemorates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Metro is continuing work on the Purple Line Extension subway project at many locations along Wilshire Boulevard.

In Beverly Hills, excavation, hauling, instrumentation and street restoration continues. Excavation is primarily occurring at construction staging yards near Wilshire/La Cienega and Wilshire/Gale. Work hours are 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

The next monthly meeting on the subway construction in Beverly Hills will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 6, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Beverly Hills City Hall, Second Floor Municipal Gallery, 455 N. Rexford Drive. For information, visit metro.net.

Near Wilshire Boulevard and Ogden Drive, excavation and hauling remains ongoing. Ogden Drive will be closed intermittently at Wilshire Boulevard, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Additionally, intermittent single lane closures may be needed to support deck panel maintenance around the Wilshire/Ogden staging area.

Tunneling preparation and support continues at staging yards near Wilshire Boulevard and La Cienega Avenue, and from a staging area in the middle of Wilshire Boulevard east of Sycamore Avenue. Through Friday, Jan. 25, westbound and eastbound Wilshire Boulevard will be intermittently reduced to one lane between Sycamore and Mansfield avenues.

At the east side of project near Wilshire Boulevard and Western Avenue, excavation, concrete work and street maintenance are ongoing. From Friday, Jan. 25, through Monday, Jan. 28, a work zone on the north side of Wilshire Boulevard between Manhattan Place and South Oxford Avenue will be removed and Wilshire Boulevard will be restored to three lanes in each direction. Intermittent lane closures will be necessary. On Jan. 28, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to one lane to support traffic signal work.

For questions and concerns, call the 24-hour project hotline at (213)922-6934, email the project team at purplelineext@metro.net or visit metro.net.

Thousands of participants are expected at the Griffith Park Half Marathon and 5K Road Race on Sunday, Jan. 27.

The half marathon starts at 7 a.m., followed by the 5K road race at 8 a.m. An expo with music, entertainment and family activities runs through noon.

Both the half marathon and 5K run/walk begin and end at Park Center, 4730 Crystal Springs Drive. The half marathon circles Wilson Harding Golf Course, the Los Angeles Zoo and the Autry Museum of the American West, and the course includes horse trails and passages by the Los Angeles River. The 5K follows Crystal Springs Drive along a relatively flat course. All proceeds benefit city parks.

Crews are working on the subway station at Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue as twin tunneling machines dig their way toward the Wilshire/Western station, the Purple Line’s current terminus.

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For information, visit laparks-foundation.org.

Councilmen Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, and David Ryu, 4th District, joined community members and supporters at a dedication on Jan. 23 for a new crosswalk at Hollywood Boulevard and Rodney Drive.

The crosswalk is located on a stretch of Hollywood Boulevard just east of Vermont Avenue in a neighborhood near the East Hollywood, Los Feliz and Silver Lake border. The crosswalk was installed to improve safety in the area, which is gaining in popularity with new restaurants and shops.

“Councilmember David Ryu and I crossed the intersection with residents and stakeholders, while enjoying the new pedestrian safety features, which include upgraded curb ramps, a pedestrian-activated flashing beacon and a pedestrian island at the center of Hollywood Boulevard,” O’Farrell said. “Special thanks to LADOT, as well as the Bureau of Street Services and the Bureau of Engineering, who worked closely with my office to ensure the seamless design and installation of the new ADA-compliant curb ramp on the south side of Hollywood Boulevard. I also want to thank the local small businesses for their patience while we worked to install the improvement at this vibrant intersection.”
Lawry’s The Prime Rib’s dineL.A. menu

Today, Jan. 24, and tomorrow, Jan. 25, enjoy a $59 three-course feast that includes the famous original spinning bowl salad, and a choice of roasted prime rib and broiled Nova Scotia lobster tail or Scottish salmon with lobster tail and mashed potatoes. Side options include creamed corn, creamed spinach or seasonal vegetables. Finish with a choice of three different dineL.A. desserts.

Lucques’ Sunday Supper series

On Sunday, Jan. 27, Lucques will host a supper in honor of the Scottish poet Robert Burns and his birthday. Take a culinary trip to the Highlands with Suzanne Goin’s versions of Scottish classics. Expect a whiskey flight and a hand-crafted cocktail. Menu items include Scottish salmon with marinated beets, watercress and caper vinaigrette or duck “haggis” with Mark’s turnips, potato purée and Barbara’s greens. Desserts include The Three Chimneys’ hot marmalade pudding with Scotch custard. The Robert Burns Sunday Supper is priced at $52 per guest. Supplemental wine pairings by Caroline Styne are available for $35. 8474 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood, (323)655-6277.

Free Beyond Sausage at Dog Haus

On Monday, Jan. 28, Dog Haus will give away free Beyond Meat sausages. To celebrate its new plant-based menu, Dog Haus will offer its first 50 customers a choice of two gourmet sausage variations to enjoy for free. The Beyond Brat has sauerkraut, caramelized onions and spicy brown mustard, and the Sooo Veggie with Beyond Sausage Hot Italian has avocado, arugula, tomato, crispy onions and spicy basil aioli. These items will be available at all Dog Haus locations nationwide.

Wood & Vine welcomes ‘Hello, Dolly!’

It’s Hollywood Locals Neighborhood Night at Wood & Vine on Tuesday, Jan. 29, starting at 6:30 p.m. The Pantages Theatre’s 12 January 24, 2019 Park Labrea News/Beverly Press
Diners will be begging for more after they scrape the last spoonful of the seasonal porridge at Porridge + Puffs.

The corner restaurant in Historic Filipinotown features an inviting and airy atmosphere. My daughter and I sat down at a blonde wood table banquette and admired the large handmade collage of dried herbs and flower fastened to the white wall. Each place setting had a porridge spoon, napkin and chopsticks.

The menu is broken into four sections – porridge, plants, puffs and drinks. Some dishes offer crisp and crunchy items to pick up with the chopsticks, and others can be enjoyed with a spoon.

We started with a couple of drinks – jasmine iced tea and hibiscus-shiso shrub. Shrub is a drinking vinegar infused with fruit juice, herbs and spices. It’s similar in taste to a kombucha, but syrupier. Hot beverages include Peri drip coffee and loose-leaf teas.

The restaurant’s porridge is a little like oatmeal, but also like grits or congee. Chef Minh Phan boils a Japanese-style, medium-grain rose rice grown exclusively on Koda Farms in Dos Palos, a city in Merced County, California. The rice is crushed and served hot in a bowl with a nice balance of sweet and savory items.

The seasonal porridge I ordered was topped with thin slices of bright orange kabocha squash, also known as Japanese pumpkin, which offered a pop of color and texture to the tender and sticky porridge. Phan and her sous chefs thinly slice the squash and braise it in coconut curry before adding tangy pickles and fresh herbs. Other porridges include sweet soy-braised chicken and turkey topped with mushrooms, crispy shallots, celery and small edible flowers. Phan also braises beef brisket in sake for half a day and dazzles short ribs with the superfood jujube fruit for a splash of sweet apple and date flavors. For an even more savory porridge, add a hibiscus-shiso pickled soft egg on top for an extra $2.

Under the plants section, Phan offers a bold Asian herb slaw with earthy rau ram (Vietnamese coriander), shiso, holy basil, peanuts and sesame. We also ordered the cucumbers and seaweed bowl, which featured cucumbers pickled with Chinese prickly ash. Tucked away at the bottom of the dish was a seaweed, known as kombu, with mushroom-like flavors. The pepperiness of the Chinese prickly ash paired perfectly with the savory kombu, as well as with the sweet and earthy satsuma mandarin slices and microgreens topping off the dish.

More Porridge + Puffs please

By Jill Weinlein

Porridge + Puffs’ seasonal porridge options include one topped with bright kabocha squash, tangy pickles and fresh herbs.
Beverly Hills Police Department

Jan. 6
At 5:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 600 block of Cote Place.

Jan. 7
At 2:27 a.m., an identity theft was reported in the 400 block of N. Camden Drive.

Jan. 8
At 6:30 a.m., an identity theft was reported in the 9700 block of Wilsire Boulevard. One suspect was approximately 5 feet 10 inches tall, while the other was approximately 5 feet 7 inches tall. Both suspects weighed approximately 150 pounds.

An unknown male suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Wilshire and Burton at 11:32 a.m. The suspect was approximately 33 years old, 5 feet 7 inches tall and 230 pounds.

Jan. 9
At 9 a.m., two unknown suspects committed a burglary in the 300 block of S. La Cienega Boulevard. One suspect was approximately 5 feet 10 inches tall, while the other was approximately 5 feet 7 inches tall. Both suspects weighed approximately 150 pounds.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 600 block of N. Bedford Drive at 8:15 p.m.

Jan. 10
At 7:15 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft near the corner of North Wilman Drive and Wilsire Boulevard.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 600 block of N. Bedford Drive at 8:15 p.m.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 200 block of Cote Place at 11 p.m.

Jan. 11
At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1000 block of Cove Way.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 200 block of Reeves Drive at 11 p.m.

Jan. 12
At 1:57 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9600 block of Sunset Boulevard.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 200 block of N. Crescent Drive at 4:30 a.m. Burglaries were also reported near the same location at 6:37, 6:40, 7:55, 8:50 and 1:12 a.m., and 3:06 p.m.

At 5 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 200 block of Tower Drive.

Jan. 13
At 6:12 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 300 block of S. Doheny Drive. The suspect was approximately 33 years old, 5 feet 7 inches tall and 119 pounds.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 500 block of N. Camden Drive at 8:23 p.m. The suspect was approximately 47 years old, 6 feet 2 inches tall and 230 pounds.

West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

Jan. 14
An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at 1 a.m.

At 12:44 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of Orange Grove.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 7600 block of Norton at 4 a.m.

At 6:45 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8500 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8500 block of Santa Monica at 7 p.m.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8900 block of Beverly at 8:04 p.m.

Jan. 15
At midnight, an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of N. Robertson.

At 5:01 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8600 block of Rugby.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9200 block of Sunset at 8 p.m.

At 8:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of Fairfair.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7200 block of Santa Monica at 11:20 p.m.

Jan. 16
At midnight, an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1200 block of Hayworth.

At 7 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1100 block of N. Formosa.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 7600 block of Romaine at 2:30 p.m.

At 3:45 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of Doheny Drive at 7 p.m.

Jan. 17
At 7 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1100 block of N. Formosa.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 7600 block of Romaine at 2:30 p.m.

At 3:45 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of Doheny Drive at 7 p.m.

Jan. 18
At 2 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8700 block of Rosewood at 8 p.m.

Jan. 19
At 10:03 p.m, an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Highland and Genesee at 3:30 p.m.

At 5:25 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 800 block of S. Loma.

Jan. 20
At 3:12 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8200 block of W. Third.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 100 block of The Grove at noon.

At 3:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of N. Stanley.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7000 block of Sunrise at 9:30 p.m.

Jan. 21
An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of N. La Cienega at 12:44 p.m.

At 1:50 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of N. La Cienega.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Poinsetta Place and Beverly at 5:05 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 6800 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 7000 block of Hawthorn at 7 p.m.

Jan. 22
An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 800 block of N. Robertson.

At 6:15 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Beverly.

Jan. 23
At 6:20 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of S. San Vicente.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 100 block of N. Wilcox at 11:40 a.m.

At 3:12 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 400 block of N. Laurel.

At 4:15 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 800 block of Lillian Way at 9:15 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1700 block of Wilcox.

Jan. 24
At 4:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1500 block of N. Vista.

At 10 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5100 block of Wilsire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1700 block of N. Hauaanga at 1:15 p.m.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked near the corner of Wiloughby and La Brea at 1:16 p.m.

At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of S. Hayworth.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of N. Fairfair at 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 16
At 8:45 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1600 block of Vine.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 800 block of S. Mullen at 12:28 p.m.

At 12:43 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1000 block of N. Las Palmas.

Estate Planning

Many people think that estate planning is simply the writing of a will. But a good estate plan will also protect you in the event of your incapacity. It will give you control over your medical care and control your property. The time to start planning your estate is now - while you can and before you need it. None of us likes to think about our own frailties, but that is exactly why so many families are caught off guard and unprepared when incapacity or death strikes.

Who Needs Estate Planning?
EVERYONE! The average age of 18 should consider the benefits associated with designating a person who, in the event of your incapacity, will have the responsibility for the management of your health care, including the authority to make health care decisions on your behalf.

Whatever the size of your estate, even a small one, someone should be in charge of its management. If your estate is large, you will also want to consider various ways to protect your assets (for your beneficiaries and to reduce or postpone the amount of estate taxes that otherwise might be payable at your death.

Where Is My Estate?
Your estate consists of, simply, of everything you own - including your personal effects. Other real estate, bank accounts, investments, insurance policies, cash, personal belongings, and other valuables. When you add it all up, you may find, like many people do, that you actually own a lot more than you think. Now, you might wonder why people do estate planning.

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A partner/president of Martin
Union Privilege Network

Who Needs Estate Planning?

Estate Planning

Who Needs Estate Planning?

Estate Planning

Estate Planning

Who Needs Estate Planning?

Estate Planning

Who Needs Estate Planning?

Estate Planning

Who Needs Estate Planning?

Who Needs Estate Planning?

Who Needs Estate Planning?
Restaurant offers a variety of porridges and puffs for dipping

From page 13

Per our server’s recommendation, we tried the naked puffs for dipping in the porridges. These slightly grainy, puffed rice bread sticks reminded us of French baguettes without the powdered sugar. For a sweet treat, the puffs can be ordered dusted with cardamom sugar and a touch of jasmine or coffee.

We wrapped up the meal with the soft brown butter mochi topped with toasted coconut. It was delicious, tasting like a blend of Japanese and Hawaiian influences, with a hint of sweetness from the mochi and the nuttiness of the coconut. The combination of textures and flavors was a delightful ending to our meal.

Jesse Boy opens in Hollywood

Jesse Boy, a Korean fried chicken and Korean fried cauliflower restaurant that emerged from local farmers markets in Los Angeles, will celebrate the grand opening of its first location on Saturday, Jan. 26, from noon to 10 p.m. The eatery will be offering free Jesse Big Boy Sliders for the first 100 guests, with a choice between chicken or veggie, as well as hand-cut bread sticks or slices of sticky toffee pudding cake.

Since Porridge + Puffs opened a few months ago, it has already attracted quite a following. Head over now to try out the reasonably priced pan-Asian cuisine – it will leave you wanting more. $$

Restaurant News

From page 12

pre-dinner venue welcomes Broadway legend Betty Buckley as she stars in the Tony Award-winning show Hello, Dolly! Theatergoers can come in before the show and present their tickets for a complimentary appetizer. Chef Richard Sipovic will offer his new burgers to enjoy before or after the show, along with a nightcap: 6280 Hollywood Blvd., (323)334-3360.

The Grill on the Alley’s birthday

Next Thursday, Jan. 31, celebrate The Grill on the Alley’s 35th anniversary. Its old-fashioned decor, white-jacketed servers and intimate booth seating makes the restaurant a popular location. Enjoy lunch favorites like the Cobb and Caesar salads, meatloaf, Lake Superior whitefish and oysters, lamb chop, and New York steak. Also explore the expansive wine and Champagne list. 9560 Dayton Way, Beverly Hills, (310)276-0615.

Somm’s immersive tasting experience

Somm’s Spanish cuisine by chef José Andrés recently debuted at the remodeled SLS Beverly Hills Hotel. Menu items include shiso tempura, dry-aged striploin tatar, frozen coconut custard, potatoes confit in clarified butter and more. Tickets for this incredible dining occasion go on sale the first Monday of each month and must be purchased ahead of time to visit the space. A selection of wine pairings, as well as seasonal supplements, are extra. Prepaid reservation for parties of 1-10 are $250 per person. Select from two seatings, Tuesday through Saturday at 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. 465 S. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, (310)426-5543.

Jesse Boy opens in Hollywood

Jesse Boy, a Korean fried chicken and Korean fried cauliflower restaurant that emerged from local farmers markets in Los Angeles, will celebrate the grand opening of its first location on Saturday, Jan. 26, from noon to 10 p.m. The eatery will be offering free Jesse Big Boy Sliders for the first 100 guests, with a choice between chicken or veggie, as well as hand-cut bread sticks or slices of sticky toffee pudding cake.

Since Porridge + Puffs opened a few months ago, it has already attracted quite a following. Head over now to try out the reasonably priced pan-Asian cuisine – it will leave you wanting more. $$

Restaurant News

From page 12

pre-dinner venue welcomes Broadway legend Betty Buckley as she stars in the Tony Award-winning show Hello, Dolly! Theatergoers can come in before the show and present their tickets for a complimentary appetizer. Chef Richard Sipovic will offer his new burgers to enjoy before or after the show, along with a nightcap: 6280 Hollywood Blvd., (323)334-3360.

The Grill on the Alley’s birthday

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Put on your Sunday clothes for ‘Hello, Dolly!’

The Los Angeles engagement of the Tony Award-winning “Hello, Dolly!” starring Broadway legend, Tony Award winner Betty Buckley, will play at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre from Jan. 29 to Feb. 17.

The musical follows matchmaker Dolly Gallagher Levi in “Hello, Dolly!” It’s a much larger game. To a degree, the film’s premise is clever, providing ample commentary on superhero media. But it’s all a middle-finger to David, Kevin and Price, who goes by Mr. Glass, his self-appointed supervillain name. This is far too clear during a story more interested in those larger philosophical questions, not the characters at hand.

From “The Happening” to “After Earth,” he knows his way around some duds. But “Split” was a surprising return to form, something far more enjoyable than it should be considering McAvoy’s outstanding performance. Even “The Visit” marked an upward turn. To degrees, McAvoy’s Kevin and Jackson’s Price are handled rather well, or at least better than Willis’ Dunn, a character underused for the sake of an expanding universe. That’s on brand with current superhero and sci-fi filmmaking. But plenty of other franchises more successfully plan the future acknowledge characters’ role in a grander narrative without sacrificing the story at hand.

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In front of a packed house and a live television audience, a 1965 Ford Shelby Mustang GT350R owned by Petersen Automotive Museum founding Chairman Bruce Meyer sold for charity at the Barrett-Jackson Scottsdale Auction on Friday, Jan. 18.

With 100 percent of the proceeds benefitting the Petersen and the Henry Ford Museum, the rare race spec Mustang hammered with a winning bid of $500,000 and was sold to celebrated collector and museum supporter Ron Pratte.

“The Petersen would not be the global force it is today without the help of Bruce Meyer,” said Petersen Automotive Museum Executive Director Terry L. Karges. “His tireless dedication and outstanding leadership over the past 25 years is unrivaled, and we are so thankful for his generous contribution to us through the sale of this extraordinary GT350R.”

Before crossing the block as Charity Lot #3006, Meyer’s GT350R showed less than 200 miles on the odometer. Since he took delivery of the car in 2015, Meyer prominently displayed it in his Beverly Hills Garage.

His decision to offer the car at auction for charity came from his steadfast support of the Henry Ford Museum and the Petersen, whom he serves as founding chairman of the board of directors and the founder of the Checkered Flag membership program.

Ford’s 1965 Shelby GT350R celebrated 50 years of the iconic Mustang by transforming it into an all-out, street-legal track star. Like the 1965 R-model, Ford only produced 37 units of the GT350R. Purchase, however, was restricted to Ford family and VIPs, making ownership an exclusive affair.

The car features a 5.2-liter V8 backed by a six-speed manual transmission, producing 526 peak horsepower at 7,500 rpm.

While the GT350R will no longer reside in Meyer’s world-renowned collection, a selection of his most important race cars will go on public display at the Petersen in the new exhibit “Winning Numbers: The First, The Fastest, The Famous” opening Saturday, Feb. 23.

The exhibit will feature a curated selection of Meyer’s most important motorsport icons, including the first production Shelby Cobra, the Porsche 935 K3 that won Le Mans, the Greer-Black-Prudhomme dragster, two Le Mans-winning Corvettes separated by more than half a century and more. The Petersen is located at 6060 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit petersen.org.
The government shutdown has left many working families and individu- al workers temporarily at risk for food insecurity and malnutrition. The Los Angeles Regional Food Bank, however, is offering support for furloughed federal employees.

Matt, 35, is an air traffic controller in the greater Los Angeles area and one of the many federal employees who may have to rely on the Los Angeles Food Bank. ‘He’s been working in his current job for more than eight years, so this is not the first time he’s weathered a partial government shutdown. However, he says this time is different.

‘The length definitely differentiates this shutdown from the previous shut downs,’ he said.

Matt said his spending behavior has had to change drastically, and while he has some emergency savings, it’s not enough if the shutdown continues. His main concern is paying his mortgage.

‘It’s something I continually worry about,’ he said. ‘I have a car payment that I had to call my credit union and defer because the amount was too great to try to couple with my mort- gage payment. Thankfully they were able to do that, but I don’t know that everyone has that option.’

Single, Matt said it’s not so difficult for him to cut corners when it comes to meals, supplementing his diet with ramen noodles, but he said he is con- cerned for his co-workers who have children.

‘It’s very easy for me to dip into unhealthy eating habits for myself and to bounce back when this time period is over,’ he said. ‘But I have a fear for my co-workers who have children. One of them is a single mother. I actu- ally called her earlier today and we were discussing what she’s planning on doing for food.’

He’s never had to visit a food pantry in the past, but Matt is familiar with some agencies in his community from when he used to volunteer. Matt said he has been researching his options, hoping that some food assist- ance can provide a cushion to allow him to pay other bills.

As an air traffic controller, Matt is required to continue to go to work, making it very difficult to supplement his income with odd jobs or other work. Matt said he is grateful for all those who are donating and volunteer- ing to provide relief during this time.

The Los Angeles Regional Food Bank is located at 1734 E. 41st St. For information, visit latinofoodbank.org, or call 211.
U.S. Rep. Julia Brownley (D-Westlake Village) introduced the Student Loan Repayment Assistance Act, legislation to help college graduates more easily repay their student loan debts by incentivizing more employers to offer student loan repayment assistance.

“Student loans have now surpassed credit cards as the second largest debt category behind mortgage in the United States, and that’s simply unacceptable,” Brownley said. “Student loan debt can follow a student their entire life, limiting career growth, and making it more difficult to raise a family, start a business, buy a home or save for retirement. By helping college graduates repay their student loan debts, this bill will help alleviate the financial and emotional burden this debt can have. This bill will also help employers to attract and retain skilled, qualified employees, so it’s a win-win for all.”

Brownley’s bill would encourage more employers to offer student loan repayment assistance by offering employers a tax deduction of 10 percent for qualified student loan repayments up to $500 per month, or $6,000 annually. To qualify, employers must make the student loan repayment program widely available to all employees, not just for senior executives. To ensure that small businesses can participate, the bill allows small employers – those with 100 full-time employees or fewer and with $55 million or less in gross receipts for the preceding taxable year – to take a tax credit in lieu of a tax deduction.

Brownley bill to provide help with student loans

U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-San Jose) introduced legislation to shield farmworkers from deportation and put them on a path toward earned legal status and eventual citizenship.

Under the Agricultural Worker Program Act, farmworkers who have worked in agriculture for at least 100 days in the past two years may earn “blue card” status that allows them to continue to legally work in the United States. Farmworkers who maintain blue card status for the next three years or five years – depending on hours worked in agriculture – would be eligible to adjust to lawful permanent residence (green card).

Agriculture is a $47 billion industry in California, and UC Davis estimates that up to 60 percent of California’s 421,000 farmworkers (approximately 253,000 people) are undocumented. Under the Trump administration’s immigration enforcement guidelines, undocumented farmworkers are all priorities for deportation.

“Farmers throughout California struggle mightily to find workers, and we all know that breaking farm labor is performed largely by undocumented immigrants,” Feinstein said. “By protecting farmworkers from deportation, our bill would ensure that hard-working immigrants don’t live in fear and that California’s agriculture industry has the workforce it needs to succeed. Despite their significant contributions to California’s economy and communities, farmworkers are a priority for deportation under the Trump administration’s policies. We must protect the families who help food on our tables.”

In addition to Feinstein, the Senate bill is cosponsored by Sens. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.).
The Ebell of Los Angeles welcomes Robert Lee Watt, the first black French horn player hired by a major symphony in the United States, as the guest speaker at its meeting on Monday, Feb. 4, at 11:30 a.m. at 743 S. Lucerne Blvd.

Watt became the assistant first French horn for the Los Angeles Philharmonic in 1970. He performed with the orchestra for 37 years.

The Ebell is also celebrating Black History Month with an art exhibit by George Evans on Thursday, Feb. 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. Evans’ watercolor portraits and composite photographs will be on display. Additionally, singer, songwriter and producer Sweet Baby J’ai will perform an evening of jazz on Thursday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. as part of the Ebell’s Live in the Lounge series.

Admission is $30 for members; $40 for nonmembers. Jazz night tickets start at $35. Reservations are required. For information, call (323) 931-1277, ext. 131, or email tickets@ebelloflosangeles.com.

The Ebell of Los Angeles will host a music event featuring Robert Lee Watt, a notable French horn player. The event is part of the Ebell's Black History Month celebrations, with an art exhibit and a jazz performance by Sweet Baby J’ai. For more information, visit their website or call the provided number.
State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced that the California Department of Education was awarded a federal Preschool Development Grant to encourage strong early learning and care programs by supporting the availability of high-quality early learning and care options for low-income and disadvantage families. This follows a $6 million California state grant for the same purpose announced in December 2018.

The federal grant of $4.3 million over three years will be used to support state-level efforts to expand and improve early childhood education programs. The grant will be used to support the implementation of the California Early Learning and Development (ELD) framework, which was adopted by the state in 2019. The framework guides the development of high-quality early learning and care programs for children from birth through age five.

The grant will focus on increasing the availability of high-quality early learning and care options for low-income and disadvantaged families. This includes expanding access to high-quality early learning programs, increasing teacher preparation and professional development, and improving family engagement.

The grant will also support the development of a comprehensive early education and care system that is aligned with the state's ELD framework and that ensures every child has access to high-quality early learning and care.

“California is at a pivotal moment in our history as we work to ensure that every child in California has access to high-quality early learning and care,” said Thurmond. “This federal grant will help us to build on the good work that we have done to date and to ensure that every child has the opportunity to succeed.”

The California Department of Education will work closely with stakeholders, including early childhood educators, family members, and community organizations, to develop and implement the grant activities.

The grant will be available to eligible recipients, including local educational agencies, community organizations, and partnerships of two or more entities. Recipients will be required to match the federal funds with at least 15% of their own funds, and to use the grant funds to support the implementation of the California Early Learning and Development framework.

For more information, visit the California Department of Education website at cde.ca.gov/spcd/der.
The Dodgers will hold their seventh annual offseason FanFest on Saturday, Jan. 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with free admission, entertainment, fun and games for fans of all ages.

FanFest is free and open to the public, but digital tickets are required. Tickets for player autographs, player meet and greets, the opportunity to take a selfie with a player, catch a throw with a pro, behind-the-scenes tours and other VIP experiences are on sale at dodgers.com/fanfest. All photo and autograph tickets benefit the programs of the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation.

Fans must also download the mlb.com Ballpark App on their smartphones, which is the exclusive way of presenting their digital tickets for admission at the stadium gates (left or right field plaza). Parking is free, and parking gates will open for the event at 9:30 a.m.

FanFest features appearances and autograph opportunities from Dodgers players, coaches and alumni in addition to a live stage program, the Dodgers Foundation’s Mystery Bag Fundraiser and Yard Sale – featuring past promotional items, t-shirts and more – and family-friendly activities such as batting cages, the Beer Garden, a rock wall, carnival games, video games, live music, photo opportunities, food and beverages. In addition, season tickets, premium tickets, individual and group tickets will be on sale during the event.

To allow fans the opportunity to maximize their time at FanFest, the Dodgers will offer a priority pass to give fans access to faster moving lines at select popular activities. While supplies last, priority passes will be available for purchase at dodgers.com/fanfest.

In addition to Coca-Cola and San Manuel Casino, FanFest will also feature fan-friendly activities, including a rock wall, carnival games, video games, live music, photo opportunities, food and beverages. In addition, season tickets, premium tickets, individual and group tickets will be on sale during the event.

For information, visit dodgers.com/fanfest.
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DUMPLING MAKING DEMO ................................................................. 3-3:30pm Plaza
TRADITIONAL ACROBATICS - FOOT JUGGLING ..................................... 3-3:05pm Gilmore Lane
TRADITIONAL ACROBATICS - HAND BALANCING ............................... 3:05-3:10pm Gilmore Lane
KOREAN FAN DANCE ................................................................................ 3:25-3:45pm Gilmore Lane
THE MAGIC OF JOSEPH TRAN ............................................................... 4-4:30pm Plaza
LION DANCE ............................................................................................. 4:45-5pm Gilmore Lane

Additional performances and crafts will take place on Gilmore Lane throughout the afternoon.

*Schedule subject to change.

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