Crashing the party

A new law has helped curtail nuisance parties, but some residents feel the same problems remain.

**BY LUKE HAROLD**

Through phone calls, letters and a neighborhood petition, Hollywood Hills resident Federico Fichtl spent nearly seven years imploring the LAPD, the city attorney’s office, his councilman and the mayor’s office to take a harder stance against the loud, extravagant parties on his street. He and his neighbors throughout the hills were happy the Los Angeles City Council finally passed a law last April that results in up to $8,000 fines for the 11 companies have filed permits to operate more than 37,000 bikes, scooters

**BY CAMERON KISZLA**

Los Angeles’s plan to regulate dockless bicycles and scooters is rolling along.

Eleven companies have filed applications with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation for the permits necessary to operate more than 37,000 bicycles, electric bikes and scooters.

Starting March 4, one-year permits can be awarded for bikes and scooters that transition from one user to another without needing to be returned to a central hub.

The companies – Lime, Bird, Lyft, CycleHop, Jump, Wheelz, Bolt, Cloud, Spin, Clever and Sherpa – could have each applied for enough permits to operate more than 37,000 bicycles, electric bikes and scooters.

Applications have been filed with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation for permits to operate more than 37,000 dockless bicycles and scooters in the city.

Each scooter or bike’s permit costs $130 – though discounts are available for vehicles that will be placed in disadvantaged communities – and each application costs $20,000.

Protesters outside the West Hollywood library’s public meeting room on Feb. 19 called for Mayor John Duran to resign.

**WeHo residents ask Duran to step down**

Council members will continue to discuss the allegations facing Duran and their options.

**BY LUKE HAROLD**

A group of about 15 protesters chanted “Duran must go,” and a procession of West Hollywood residents called for Mayor John Duran to step down during the City Council’s first meeting since public accusations of sexual harassment against him surfaced two weeks ago.

With Duran absent from the Feb. 19 meeting because of blood clots in his legs, according to a statement he prepared, the council voted to reduce his term as mayor by two months. Council members will elect the next mayor in April, instead of June, and the installation ceremony for the new mayor and mayor pro tem will be in May, instead of July.

That vote undid a previous decision on Feb. 4, hours before the Los Angeles Times reported sexual harassment accusations against Duran by three members of the Gay Men’s Chorus of Los Angeles, when the council granted those extra two months as part of the city’s transition to holding its municipal elections on November of even-numbered years.

BHUSD drops plan to rename Beverly Vista

School board decides to dissolve branding committee that had been exploring a change.

**BY LUKE HAROLD**

A name change is no longer on the table for Beverly Vista School, which will convert to a 6-8 middle school for 2019-20. School board members in Beverly Hills decided to disband a newly created Brand Identity Committee, consisting of parents and school board members, that had been tasked with considering a name change.

“The name Beverly Vista is historic,” said Robert Switzer, a member of the board of directors for Beverly Hills Heritage, one of several public speakers during the meeting on Feb. 19 called for Mayor John Duran to resign.

Last week, three council members posted calls on Facebook for Duran to step down as mayor, a title that rotates among the five of them. Councilman John Heilman, who hadn’t commented publicly or responded to a request for comment, was one of them.

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Volume 29  No. 8     Serving the Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, Hancock Park and Wilshire Communities      February 21, 2019

Parties drawing large crowds in the Hollywood Hills drew the ire of residents

More dockless devices hitting the streets

11 companies have filed permits to operate more than 37,000 bikes, scooters

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Female veterans recovery group

The Los Angeles County Department of Military & Veterans Affairs and the Procovery Institute are partnering to hold a self-help group for women veterans on Fridays, Feb. 22, from 3 to 4 p.m. at the Bob Hope Patriotic Hall. Participants are sought for a Procovery Circle, a 14-week group that offers a new vision of personal empowerment in which experience, culture and strengths are embraced. Kathleen Crowley, executive director of Procovery Institute and author of “The Power of Procovery,” will oversee a presentation and group discussion.

Classical concert

Conductor Jesús Uzcátegui leads the Los Angeles County Department of Cultural Affairs’ Los Angeles Philharmonic in “La Maltese Fanfara” on Friday, Feb. 22, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Westwood Branch Library. Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s “Rime of the Ancient Mariner” is a moving tale of an old seaman on a long journey of contin- ulation after a mindless act of violence as a younger man, who kills a benevolent Albatross and suffers the wrath of the sea. “The Ballad of Reading Gaol” is the last work of Oscar Wilde, written while in exile in Paris after his release from the bleak English prison in Reading where he witnessed the execu- tion of another prisoner. 1246 Glendon Ave. (310)474-1739, joepamli.com.

Western film

Film fans are invited to the Autry Museum of the American West’s “Weird West Film Series: Curse of the Undead” on Saturday, Feb. 23, at 1 p.m. at the Petersen Automotive Museum. Moderated by Pat Ganahl, the discussion will explore the interrela- tionship between art, automobiles and culture centered in Harlem. Composer William Grant Still made a big impact during the period, writing for jazz bands and radio shows before moving to Los Angeles to work in films. The performance is part of the LA Phil’s Toyota Symphonies for Youth series. Tickets start at $23. 111 S. Grand Ave. (323)667- 1525, fountaintheatre.com.

Auto art panel

“Forever Flamenco by Fanny Atra” returns to the Fountain Theatre on Sunday, Feb. 24, at 8 p.m. with an exciting evening of music and flamen- co dance. Artistic director and dancer Atra leads a cast of performers including dancers Reyes Barrios, Maria Elena and Timo Nutz; vocal- ists Antonio de Jerez; guitarist Gabriel Osuna; and percussionist Gerardo Morales. Tickets are $40; $30 for students and seniors. 5060 Fountain Ave. (323)663-1525, fountaintheatre.com.

LAMOTH teen bingo

Join the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust’s Teen Advisory Board for an afternoon of fun and bingo with Holocaust survivors on Sunday, Feb. 24, at 2 p.m. at the museum. Created by Teen Board member Rex Evans, the event connects teens with local Holocaust survivors for fun conversation and learning. The afternoon will include snacks, a photo booth and bingo. Admission is free. 10800 Wilshire Blvd. (323)851-3704, lamoah.org.

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WeHo seniors forum

West Hollywood is holding “Seniors in Action: Community + Connection + Conversation” on Tuesday, Feb. 26, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the West Hollywood Library Community Meeting Room. Refreshments will be served, admission is free. 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. (323)848-6403, weho.org.

Piano Spheres

Piano Spheres presents pianist Vicki Ray in concert with Flux Quartet founder and violist Tom Chiu with Baton dancers Ogni and Roxanne Steinberg on Tuesday, Feb. 26, at 8 p.m. at Zipper Hall. Tickets are $35. 200 S. Grand Ave. pianospheres.org.

Kristin Chenoweth

The Paley Center for Media presents Kristin Chenoweth in conversation with Bryan Fuller on Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. at the Paley Center. Tickets are $25. 465 N. Beverly Drive. paleycenter.org.

Mid City West Community Council (MCWCC)

Candidate filing

Open Feb. 17, 2019; Close March 19, 2019

A one-page candidate registration guide can be found at http://tiny.cc/NCcandidateRegGuide

Prospective Candidate 101

Information Session

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

NCJW, 54 N. Fairfax Ave., Room 103
Los Angeles, CA 90036
6:30pm-8:00pm

Mid City West is one of 99 councils throughout the city. The Neighborhood Council system was established in a June 1990 election to increase the voice of neighborhoods in city policy.
Koretz supports ban on exotic animals for entertainment

BY EDMOND FOLEV

Los Angeles City Councilman Paul Koretz joined state Sen. Ben Hueso (D-San Diego) and animal rights activists at a rally outside City Hall on Feb. 19 to support new state legislation that would ban the use of wild and exotic animals in traveling circuses and entertainment acts.

Hueso introduced SB 313 to address what he called safety concerns for both animals and humans. Koretz, a longtime animal rights supporter, said such a law is needed to protect animals from cruel treatment and exploitation.

“Since the time when we banned the elephant bull hook in 2012 in Los Angeles, there has been a shift of consciousness about the relationship between animal torture and entertainment dollars,” Koretz said. “This is an important next step in the effort to protect wild and exotic animals from being abused for entertainment purposes.”

Representatives of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Social Compassion in Legislation and Peace 4 Animals spoke at the rally and denounced the use of animals in circuses and entertainment acts. They said using animals for entertainment is unnatural.

“Seeing the world’s most endangered species under the big top, forced to perform to audiences around the world was a sad reality of centuries past, but finally the truth of circuses has been exposed. The public is now educated on the reality of how these animals are being treated because of many organizations working to end animal cruelty,” said actress and model Katie Cleary, founder of Peace 4 Animals. “The future of these threatened and endangered species is in our hands.”

“Wild and exotic animals aren’t photo props, they don’t belong on a carnivals midway, and they’re not willing participants in circuses,” PETA Senior Vice President Lisa Lange said. “When animals are used as props for so-called entertainment, their well-being will always be sacrificed. PETA proudly supports the Circus Cruelty Prevention Act, and looks forward to its passage, setting the stage for other states to follow suit.”

Koretz and Hueso said the new law is intended to be a model for other jurisdictions and will put California on par with Hawaii and New Jersey, which have already passed similar legislation. State Legislatures in Illinois, New York and Massachusetts are also currently considering bans on using exotic animals for entertainment. California cities including West Hollywood and Pasadena have approved restrictions on the use of animals in circuses and traveling acts.

The lawmakers acknowledged that the law would be largely symbolic as the largest circuses have discontinued the use of exotic animals in performances. Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, once known for its “Greatest Show on Earth” featuring tigers and elephants, permanently disbanded in 2017 after 146 years. Circus Vargas ended its use of animals in shows in 2017. Koretz and Hueso said some smaller circuses and private entertainment companies exist that still use animals but did not have names. Koretz cited Cirque du Soleil as a successful circus that does not use animals in its shows.

Los Angeles already has an ordinance banning the use of exotic animals in entertainment shows. The passage of that ordinance was spearheaded by Councilman David Ryu in 2017 to address exotic animals being used at parties in the Hollywood Hills, including elephants and giraffes.

“Wild and exotic animals have a long history of being exploited for public and private entertainment. Treating animals in this manner has taught generations of people that it is okay to view wild and exotic animals as toys,” Ryu, 4th District, said upon passage of the 2017 city ordinance. “Los Angeles must take action to make clear that exhibiting animals in this way is no longer in line with our city’s values.”

“The time is way overdue to stop torturing innocent animals for entertainment. Society is waking up to the reality behind this torture,” Koretz said at the rally. “We need to stop thinking that animal abuse is a necessity and start realizing animal exploitation is an atrocity. Creating positive change in animal welfare has long been a passion of mine.”

Hueso said he doesn’t expect opposition to the state law given public and governmental support for the fair treatment of animals.

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South on Rexford, right on Clifton, right on Crescent Drive

FROM SOUTH:

East/West on Wilshire, left/right (NORTH) on Crescent OR directly north on Crescent

Parking Available

Self Park (1-hour free)

Self Park (2-hours free)

Pay as You Go Parking

400 block of N. Crescent Dr. Closed Between N. & S. Santa Monica from February 12 - February 28, 2019

Schiff shares anti-vaccine concerns with Google, Facebook leaders

U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank), sent a letter to Sundar Pichai and Mark Zuckerberg, the CEOs of Google and Facebook, respectively, to express concern that the company’s platforms including YouTube, Facebook and Instagram, are surfacing and recommending information that discourages parents from vaccinating their children, contributing to declining vaccination rates which could reverse progress made in tackling vaccine-preventable diseases.

“As a member of Congress who is deeply concerned about declining vaccination rates, I am requesting additional information on the steps that you currently take to provide medically accurate information on vaccinations to your users, and to encourage you to consider additional steps you can take to address this growing problem,” Schiff wrote in the letter.

The scientific and medical communities are in overwhelming consensus that vaccines are both effective and safe. There is no evidence to suggest that vaccines cause life-threatening or disabling diseases, and the dissemination of unfounded and debunked theories about the dangers of vaccinations pose a great risk to public health.
Man convicted of stalking Rihanna

A Fullerton resident pleaded no contest on Feb. 7 to stalking singer Rihanna when he broke into her Hollywood Hills home last year.

Eduardo Leon, 28, entered the no contest plea to one felony count each of stalking and vandalism, and a misdemeanor count of resisting arrest. He was sentenced to five years of formal probation and placed on GPS monitoring for 90 days.

Leon was also ordered to participate in a program for mental health and drug treatment, and was ordered to stay away from the singer for 10 years. On May 9, Leon jumped over a fence and entered a house owned by Rihanna, who was not home.

Detectives are still trying to determine who fired the gun, Deputy Trena Schrader said. The gunfire was directed at the suspects’ vehicle, she added.

Deputies arrived and located the three robbery victims, who were treated for minor injuries. Authorities did not locate any gunshot victims.

Schrader declined to provide any further details because of the ongoing investigation. The suspects were described only as being black.

Schrader said anyone with information is encouraged to call (310)855-8805.

City to sue over president’s emergency declaration

The Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office is in the process of determining how best to proceed with a lawsuit challenging the emergency declaration. “My office will work closely with the council to determine the city’s most effective strategy for supporting challenges to the president’s unlawful emergency declaration,” Feuer said.

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The Notario Fraud Unit is staffed by two deputy district attorneys and an investigator. They conduct public outreach and education, participate in immigration task forces, draft legislation to better protect consumers and conduct training for prosecutors, law enforcement personnel and community advocates.

The district attorney’s office has obtained convictions in numerous major notario fraud and immigration scam cases in recent years. Defendants convicted include Romana Aida Zadorian, 49, who claimed to be an attorney or government worker and charged her victims for immigration services they never received; Gregory Chavez, 55, who posed as a law enforcement officer and promised the families of immigration detainees that he could get their loved ones out of custody for a price; and Augusto "Tito" Gonzalez De La Cruz, 58, who claimed to be an immigration attorney and promised clients that he could expedite the processing of visas, resident alien cards and citizenship petitions.

Anyone who believes they may be a victim of immigration fraud is encouraged to call the Notario Fraud Unit at (213)257-2450.

Sheriffs seek clues about robbery, shooting in West Hollywood

Sheriff’s department detectives are investigating a robbery and shooting in West Hollywood on Feb. 15 that occurred in the 7200 block of Santa Monica Boulevard.

Three men were in an alley behind businesses in the area at 3:13 p.m. when three male suspects approached and demanded their money and jewelry. The suspects also physically assaulted the three victims before fleeing.

As the suspects got into a car and drove away, a gunshot rang out.

The Los Angeles City Council unanimously approved a resolution on Feb. 19 asking City Attorney Mike Feuer to pursue a legal challenge against the Trump administration over its declaration of an emergency along the U.S. Mexico border.

The council directed Feuer to either join other entities such as the state of California in a lawsuit against the president or file a lawsuit on behalf of the city. The resolution was approved without discussion.

Trump issued the emergency declaration on Feb. 15 in what many view as an attempt to obtain billions in funding for a border wall that was not approved by Congress. The resolution stated that the emergency declaration would adversely affect the economy.

City Attorney Jackie Lacey recently recognized her office’s Notario Fraud Unit, which is dedicated to prosecuting immigration fraud and unlawful law practice.

“Our great diversity attracts more than our share of people seeking to manipulate and cheat some of our newest residents out of their hard-earned money,” Lacey said. “As a result, many of our neighbors may be more likely to become victims of fraud and other financial crimes due to their cultural backgrounds and economic situations.” Everyone, regardless of their immigration status, deserves to be protected against crime and to receive justice when they have been victimized. I will aggressively prosecute anyone who preys upon another person because of their language, cultural differences or their residency status.

The Notario Fraud Unit investigates cases involving immigration fraud and the unlicensed practice of law by people who often collect high fees from victims without delivering services. The term “notario” is often used interchangeably with “attorney” in Latin American countries. In California, it is illegal for immigration consultants to call themselves “notaries” because it implies that they are licensed attorneys.

The unit addresses issues affecting the Latino population as well as all other communities representing different cultures, languages and backgrounds.

The need for a specialized approach is particularly necessary because far more than one-third of the county’s 10 million-plus residents were born outside the United States, according to the latest U.S. Census Bureau estimates.

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D.A. touts efforts to address immigration fraud

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—Daniel Herman, Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic

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WeHo medical dispensaries get December extension

Without the ability to sell recreational cannabis after this year, they’re not sure if they can stay in business

BY LUKE HAROLD

The West Hollywood City Council voted to allow the city’s four existing medical cannabis dispensaries to keep their adult-use retail licenses through December 31.

The 3-1 vote during the council’s Feb. 19 meeting bypasses a potential situation that could have left West Hollywood without any recreational cannabis for sale for a short period of time.

When the city announced in December the eight businesses that had been selected to receive adult-use retail licenses, the four existing medical dispensaries learned they had been excluded.

With those extensions, there could be 12 dispensaries selling recreational cannabis until 2023, when the four medical dispensaries will lose their temporary permits.

They will be able to retain their medical licenses, but they don’t know if selling only medical cannabis will be a viable business model with the influx of new cannabis stores in West Hollywood and Los Angeles.

MedMen on Santa Monica Boulevard was among the first dispensaries in the state to sell recreational cannabis when the new cannabis law went into effect on Jan. 1, 2018, with a line down the street in the first few days.

“If MedMen West Hollywood were to lose the license, [58 employees] would no longer be able to work in West Hollywood and with the patients in our community they know best and have grown to love,” said Lauren Bannos, the store’s general manager.

The state law initially permitted medical dispensaries to maintain their temporary adult-use licenses through March. In West Hollywood, new cannabis licenses are not expected to be up and running before summer, creating a potential gap in the availability of recreational cannabis in West Hollywood. West Hollywood’s four medical dispensaries were then able to get an extension from the state to sell recreational cannabis through July.

The city and state agreed to terms that allow West Hollywood’s four existing medical dispensaries to maintain their temporary adult-use licenses for the rest of the calendar year.

“It is prudent for us to allow the existing licenses to continue at least until the end of the year,” Councilman John Heilman said. At a December City Council meeting, council members said they were surprised that none of the four medical dispensaries were selected to receive any of the eight available adult-use licenses the city is issuing, but they didn’t want to add a special exception to the ordinance to include them. They wanted to stand by the evaluation process and the results it produced. A five-member committee graded more than 300 applications based on criteria established by the City Council and eight licenses will be issued in each of five license categories.

“We’re also sympathetic that our four existing businesses did not make the top eight, we had a process,” Councilwoman Lauren Meister said. “Everyone seems to think the process was very fair.”

L.A. looks to train people in CPR

In celebration of National Heart Month, the Los Angeles County Departments of Public Health, Health Services, and Fire are partnering with the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross and the Los Angeles Fire Department to train 100,000 individuals in CPR, a fast, easy and effective way to learn a form of cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

The campaign, called “Heart Heroes,” draws attention to the role that each person can play in providing life-saving assistance in an emergency.

In Los Angeles County, 54,166 people die prematurely each year from heart disease, making heart disease the leading cause of death and premature death in Los Angeles County. If performed immediately, CPR can double or triple a victim’s chance of survival.

Hands-only CPR is performed by pushing hard and fast in the center of the chest, without using mouth-to-mouth breaths like traditional CPR. CPR focuses on the first few minutes following cardiac arrest. Frequent chest compressions move oxygen through the body to keep the brain and other vital organs alive, helping buy time until help arrives.

For information, visit publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/heart.
Potential ban on developer contributions advances

BY LUKE HAROLD

The unprecedented progress of a proposed ban on campaign contributions from developers continues.

The campaign finance reform supported by Los Angeles City Councilman David Ryu, 4th District, unanimously passed the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission Feb. 19.

Ryu attended the ethics commission meeting and released a statement afterward applauding the commission’s vote.

“I am grateful to the ethics commissioners and the commission staff for taking action to reform our campaign finance laws,” he said.

In the meeting, Ryu told the commission his ban on campaign contributions from developers and behested payments — such as donations to a politician’s favorite charity — would help create an even playing field for all.

“And most importantly, it would begin the crucial work of restoring trust in Los Angeles city government,” Ryu said.

That trust may be suffering due to an ongoing FBI investigation into Los Angeles City Hall.

Jill Stewart, executive director of the Coalition to Preserve LA and a supporter of reform at City Hall, said much of the recent momentum behind Ryu’s proposal began with an FBI raid on the home and office of Councilman Jose Huizar, 14th District.

Stewart, who attended the ethics commission meeting, said she couldn’t recall anyone mentioning Huizar by name, though the FBI investigation were referenced multiple times.

“[Huizar] is the giant elephant in the room. We should have engaged in his honor or something,” she said.

Huizar and other current and former city officials under federal investigation have not been arrested or charged with any crime.

But the optics of the November raid alone may have been enough to spur action on a project that has languished for a long time, Stewart said.

This is the third time Ryu has pushed for a ban on campaign contributions and other forms of behested payments from developers, but it’s the first time he has had so much City Council support.

Last month, he was joined by five council members in proposing the ban, and Ryu’s motion was seconded by Council President Herb Wesson, 10th District.

Ryu told the commission his proposal would help Los Angeles with its optics problem while preventing developers and others from gaining an unfair advantage.

“A well-crafted ban on developer donations and behested payments would free the city’s decisions from a perception of bias,” he said.

Under Ryu’s proposed ban, corporations would be prohibited from making campaign contributions to council candidates, and individual developers wouldn’t be allowed to make campaign contributions from the time their project application is submitted until 12 months after the application is voted on.

Behested payments would be similarly banned, though there are four proposed exceptions for donations made due to a state of emergency, if the official asked the general public for donations, for requests of services instead of money and if the official is involved in a grant application for the city.

Stewart said the exceptions were intended to protect nonprofits from becoming unintentional victims of a potential ban on behested payments.

“You have nonprofits who have come to rely on this murky system of behested payments and it’s not their fault,” she said.

The next step for Ryu’s proposal is to go before the City Council’s rules committee, where Stewart said the potential ban might get watered down. She plans to attend key meetings to advocate for the new rules.

“I look forward to seeing this item through City Council,” Ryu said.

“A well-crafted ban on developer donations and behested payments would free the city’s decisions from a perception of bias.”

-Councilman David Ryu, 4th District

Beverly Hills teacher awarded by fellowship program

At the end of January, Kris Milliken, a fifth grade teacher at Beverly Vista, was nominated by one of his former students for the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth’s Sarah D. Barder Fellowship Program.

This program is designed to honor and support outstanding teachers for the work they do with their students. Although he is unable to attend the conference in March, the Beverly Hills Unified School District announced that it is grateful that he has been recognized for his work with students.

The conference will be held at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland, on March 1-2.

The theme of this year’s conference is “How to Build an Educator: Tough Issues in Teacher Training.”

Schools of education are under fire due to growing concerns about effective teacher training. The rise of alternative certification and the broadening landscape of what it means to educate open the door for a deep exploration of what pre-service and in-service training should look like in the 21st century.

The event will bring in experts from the education world, broadly defined, to engage fellows in meaningful discussions about best practices in building strong educators.

For information, visit educationworld.jhu.edu/news/events/barder/about.html.

Model continuation high schools for 2019 announced

More than 51,000 students attended 435 continuation high schools in California

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced that 31 schools were newly designated as model continuation high schools for 2019.

These schools are recognized for their innovative approach to instruction and helping students who have faced many challenges, including behavior issues, chronic absenteeism, and truancy — get back on the pathway to learning.

All the schools honored offer strategic and specialized programs. For example, Columbus High School in Downey has created a successful collaboration between staff and students where students receive targeted support and individualized instruction to overcome academic challenges.

The school has increased its attendance rate from 75 percent to between 85-90 percent over the past three years. Continuation schools provide a high school diploma program for students ages 16-18 who have not graduated from high school, are required to attend school, and are at risk of not completing their education.

More than 51,000 students attended the state’s 435 continuation high schools during the 2018 school year. The 31 schools selected as model continuation high schools retain their designation for three years and will be recognized at the 2019 CCEA State Conference in Fresno on April 26-28.

For information, visit cde.ca.gov.
The Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office has filed numerous charges against the owner of Playhouse Nightclub on Hollywood Boulevard alleging repeated violations such as overserving patrons, selling alcohol after hours and failing to provide security.

"Candidate filing open for Mid City West Community Council elections"

Filing is open for anyone who wants to run in the Mid City West Community Council’s 2019 elections. The deadline to file is March 19.

All 35 board seats will be up for election, including eight seats for at-large representatives, three seats for homeowners, six seats for nonprofit representatives, five seats for renters, six seats for business representatives and seven seats for geographic zones.

The winners will serve two-year terms.

To be eligible to run for the seven geographic zone seats, candidates need to be 18 years or older and live in the zone they’re running to represent. A zone map is available at midcitywest.org/about-us/boundaries-of-mid-city-west/.

All Mid City West stakeholders, not just residents, are eligible for the 28 non-zone seats as long as they are 18 years or older and are stakeholders who live, work or own real property in the neighborhood or if they “declare a stake in the neighborhood as a community interest stakeholder, defined as a person who affirms a substantial and ongoing participation within the Neighborhood Council’s boundaries.”

A list of candidates who have filed thus far is at the candidateaffichelections.org/mcccan-

City attorney files criminal charges against Hollywood nightclub owners

Six counts arise from allegedly overserving drinks to patrons who were visibly intoxicated, in some cases having blood alcohol levels of over two and a half times the legal limit. Between May and October of 2018, three women reported being victims of alcohol-induced sexual assault and one woman was sexually assaulted and molested.

Two counts stem from allegedly failing to keep unguarded rear doors shut and locked and one count alleges a minor was allowed on the premises. In the incidents, her humiliating was found to be in possession of a firearm, she was observed using an unsecured door, thereby preventing security, which would have theoretically prevented the attack.

Vinokur faces more than two and a half years in jail, as well as thousands of dollars in in civility Enviro

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Los Angeles Council members spend Presidents Day opposing Trump

With the administration of President Donald Trump pushing back on those who want to claim asylum in the United States, thousands of people seeking to enter the country have been forced to wait in Mexico.

Advocacy groups like the American Civil Liberties Union and Southern Poverty Law Center have sued the administration for the crackdown on asylum seekers, but local leaders are fighting Trump as well.

Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, and Councilman Curren Price Jr., 9th District, joined with humanitarian and legal aid groups in a journey to Tijuana, to help asylum seekers over Presidents Day weekend.

O’Farrell said the Trump administration, which he accused of using racist language to describe asylum seekers, has slowed the number of hearings for people looking for refuge in the U.S. from several hundred hearings per day down to approximately 30.

In the meantime, the asylum seekers are living in shelters, some of which are overcrowded and lack necessities like hot water and working refrigerators to store food, O’Farrell said.

“Because of the backlog, there are more people who are kept in deplorable conditions and the service providers need all the help they can get,” O’Farrell said.

In a statement, Price said people hoping for asylum are suffering “unimaginable injustices and indignities.”

“People’s lives are on the line, and this is not the time to do nothing … Inaction is complicity. Inaction is inhumane,” he said.

In Mexico, O’Farrell and Price joined the Salvadoran American Leadership Educational Fund, Clinica Monseñor Romero, the Central American Resource Center’s Los Angeles office, St. John’s Well Child & Family Center and the National Lawyers Guild in providing healthcare, legal aid and food for migrants.

Martha Arevalo, executive director of CARECEN-LA, said in a statement her group and the rest of the coalition were there to help a “growing refugee crisis.”

“As governments turn their backs on people fleeing violence [and] persecution, we must ensure that our community responds with solidarity and compassion,” she said.

O’Farrell said the delegation visited eight shelters, some of which lacked basics like glass in the windows to protect people from chilly nights.

“It’s cold in Tijuana. At night, when the wind blows through, all they have are blankets and mats on the floor so they can sleep,” O’Farrell said.

On the trip, the aid groups bought food, clothes, supplies and kitchen equipment for the shelters and the asylum seekers they house. O’Farrell said he personally bought a refrigerator for a shelter that lacked one and a stove for a safe house for LGBTQ people, who often face prejudice and bias on their journey to the U.S.

“Anything we can do to make life a little more tolerable,” he said.

Even though many asylum seekers are running from struggles beyond anything experienced by the average American, including abject poverty, persecution and unstable governments, O’Farrell said he saw signs of hope.

“Everywhere we went, virtually everyone we met still had a little bit of sparkle and even joy exhibited by their spirit of hopefulness. I think that’s really impressive,” O’Farrell said.

O’Farrell also encouraged Angelenos and all Americans to do what they can to help asylum seekers.

“Everyone can contribute, if they can’t get down there in person themselves, they can contribute to the nonprofits that are providing services that are helping people who are in these circumstances,” O’Farrell said.

Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, traveled to Tijuana over Presidents’ Day Weekend with Councilman Curren Price Jr., 9th District, to help people who are seeking asylum in the U.S.
Golden Hollywood night leads to transit changes

The 91st Academy Awards will be held Sunday, Feb. 24, at the Dolby Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard. To accommodate setup for the Oscars and red carpet, a stretch of Hollywood Boulevard between Highland Avenue and Orange Drive was closed Feb. 17. It will remain blocked off until 6 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27.

Sections of Orange Drive, Highland Avenue, Hawthorn Alley, Hollywood Avenue, Orchard Street, Orchid Alley and some of the sidewalks alongside those streets will be closed leading up to the Oscars.

In addition, subway trains will not stop at the Hollywood and Highland station Feb. 24. Service will resume at 6 a.m. Feb. 25.

For information, visit oscars.org/closures.

Cityline, the city’s free shuttle for neighborhood destinations, will also see some changes. Cityline will relocate its Hollywood and Highland stop to the front of the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel on Orange Drive, just south of Hollywood Boulevard, from Tuesday, Feb. 19, through Tuesday, Feb. 26.

In addition, the Cityline West Hollywood Library stop will be out of service after 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 26.

Riders can board Cityline at the next closest stop located at the southeast corner of Santa Monica and San Vicente boulevards to reach intended destinations.

For information, including a Cityline route map, visit weho.org/cityline or call (800)447-2189.

For additional information, call the city of West Hollywood’s Transit Program Administrator Perri Sloume Goodman at (323)948-6370 or email pgoodman@weho.org.

Cedars-Sinai again ranked No. 1 in adult heart transplants for 2018

The Smidt Heart Institute at Cedars-Sinai once again ranked first in the country for completing more adult heart transplants in 2018 than any other U.S. medical center.

The Smidt Heart Institute transplant team completed 122 heart transplants during the calendar year, including two heart and kidney transplants.

The year’s transplant statistics were compiled by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), a non-profit organization that manages the U.S. organ transplant system and collects data on every transplant performed in the nation.

“Behind every heart transplant patient is a donor who gave the ultimate gift – life,” said Dr. Eduardo Marbán, director of the Smidt Heart Institute. “On average each week we are able to give two or three patients more time and moments with their families and friends. It’s both an honor and privilege we take great pride in.”

Every year since 2010, the Smidt Heart Institute has performed more adult heart transplants than any other U.S. medical center. Despite Cedars-Sinai’s transplant achievements, the need for organs remains great. According to UNOS, more than 114,000 people in the U.S. are waiting to receive a life-saving organ transplant.

“No transplant procedure is merely a surgery,” said Dr. Farzad Esmailian, surgical director of the heart transplant program. “We realize each procedure as a gift of life for the recipient and a selfless act made by a willing donor.”

The achievement also is accompanied by outstanding patient outcomes that surpass the national average, as reported recently by the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients.

“These prestigious achievements could not happen without the dedication and outstanding care provided by our multidisciplinary team, of surgeons, physicians, pharmacists, nurses and other health professionals,” said Dr. Jon Kobashigawa, director of the heart transplant program at the Smidt Heart Institute at Cedars-Sinai.

“We are grateful for the steadfast trust our patients put in us, knowing our ultimate goal is to provide life-saving, excellent care to every patient we come across.”

County to look at creating department for older adults

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on Feb. 5 to approve a proposal by Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th District, and Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, 3rd District, to explore the creation of a new Los Angeles County department focused solely on serving the county’s older adult population.

“Right now, older adults are served in some way or another by most if not all of our county departments,” Hahn said. “All of these efforts are important but they are fragmented and there’s no coordination. We can and we must do better for our growing population of older adults, a population I am proud to belong to.”

Los Angeles County’s population of older adults ages 65-plus is skyrocketing, she said. The county is home to 17 percent of the state’s older adult population and is expected to reach 3.6 million individuals by 2030.

Currently, there is no singular county department tasked with caring for older adults. The fragmented approach makes the development of an overarching vision or strategy impossible, and makes it harder for older adults to access all of the diverse services they need, Hahn added.

“No one would count a county department dedicated to older adults allow us to coordinate our work, it would also give us the ability to be proactive rather than reactive in addressing these populations’ needs,” Hahn said. “I want L.A. County to be a place where if you have to grow old, you’ll want to grow old in L.A. County.”

The motion requested the county’s chief executive officer to report back in nine months after studying the feasibility of creating a department for older adults, as well as determining what programs and services for older adults currently being performed by the county could be consolidated into a single department. The motion also proposes working with the city of Los Angeles City Department of Aging to determine whether Los Angeles’ Area Agencies on Aging could be incorporated in the proposed county department. Laura Trejo, who testified at the board meeting on behalf of the city of Los Angeles, expressed Mayor Garcetti’s support of the proposal.

The 91st Academy Awards are Sunday, and several streets and sidewalks in Hollywood will be closed for setup and the Oscars. Cityline, the city’s free shuttle for neighborhood destinations, will also see some changes.

For additional information, visit weho.org/cityline or call (800)447-2189.
Student entries sought for Metro naming contest

Metro is acquiring two additional tunnel boring machines for Phase 2 of the Purple Line Extension subway project that will dig subway tunnels from Century City to Beverly Hills.

Students in grades K-12 are encouraged to participate in an art and naming contest for the new tunnel boring machines. March 15 is the deadline for submissions.

The new machines will join two tunnel boring machines currently digging tunnels from La Brea to Western avenues as part of Phase 1 of the project. Fairfax High School student Marianne Gutierrez won the naming contest for those tunneling machines last year, with Elise and Soyon. The word Soyon means bright and beautiful in Korean and was chosen in honor of Yi Soyon, a female astronaut and mechanical engineer. Elise was selected in honor of female engineer Elise Eavees, the first woman to be elected as a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Lauren Park, a student at Palm Crest Elementary School in La Cañada, won last year’s art contest.

This year’s competition is divided into two categories. Students in K-5 grades will illustrate the ideal community in the area served by the Purple Line Extension, which will run between Western Avenue and Westwood. Students in 6-12 grades will choose two names, one for each of the machines.

Students must submit drawings for the art contest. For the naming contest, students must submit a 200-word essay or a two-minute video. The winning artwork and names will be displayed on the side of the tunnel boring machines during an unveiling ceremony, which is anticipated to be held this summer. For contest information, visit metro.net/purple.

Updates offered about Purple Line Extension project work

Metro is holding a meeting on the Purple Line Extension’s Wilshire/Rodeo and Century City/Constellation subway stations this evening, Feb. 21, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Century Park Plaza, 2029-2049 Century Park East, Conference Level D, Conference Room A.

An additional meeting with updates on the Wilshire/Rodeo and Wilshire/La Cienega subway stations will be held Wednesday, March 13, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the second floor municipal gallery at Beverly Hills City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive.

Metro is also offering updates about construction of Phase 1 of the project from Western Avenue to La Cienega Boulevard, and Phase 2 from La Cienega Boulevard to the Avenue of the Stars in Century City.

At the western end of the project in Century City, advance utility relocation work is occurring through 2020 around the future Century City/Constellation subway. In Beverly Hills near the Wilshire/Rodeo station, construction continues at a staging yard at 9383-9393 and 9395-9399 Wilshire Blvd. The work includes the demolition of existing buildings and the installation of a sound wall. An adjacent sidewalk will be closed, through March, and temporary lane closures will be necessary on Wilshire Boulevard.

At Wilshire and La Cienega boulevards, excavation, hauling, instrumentation and street restoration continues. Gale Drive will be intermittently closed at Wilshire Boulevard to support excavation. Intermittent lane reductions, turn restrictions and sidewalk closures may be in place during non-rush hour periods from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. for instrumentation work, road and utility maintenance.

Near Wilshire Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue, excavation and hauling is ongoing. Intermittent lane reductions on Wilshire Boulevard and side streets around the station construction near Ogden Drive to support deck panel maintenance may be necessary.

Tunneling preparation and support is also ongoing near Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue, and from a staging area in the middle of Wilshire Boulevard east of Sycamore Avenue. Intermittent closures of Sycamore Avenue at Wilshire Boulevard are necessary to support concrete deliveries to the center work zones.

At Wilshire Boulevard and Western Avenue, excavation, concrete work and street maintenance is occurring. Northbound Manhattan Place will be closed intermittently just north of Wilshire Boulevard. Intermittent single lane closures will also be necessary on Wilshire Boulevard between Western Avenue and Manhattan Place.

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.

County issues benefits on March 1

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services has announced that the full amount of CalFresh benefits for the coming month will be issued on March 1 to eligible households.

The single-day, early issuance is intended to shorten the period between February’s early issuance, which resulted in a gap in food assistance for many low-income individuals.

Providing nearly four million individuals (including 10 Calfoundians, including two million children) with food benefits each month, the CalFresh Program is the nation’s largest nutrition assistance program. DPSS administers CalFresh to over one million residents in Los Angeles County.

The Department of Social Services will issue March benefits on the first day of the month, rather than the normal staggered issuance cycle through March 10. DPSS is alerting CalFresh households that the early issuances are not additional benefits, and urges them to budget accordingly.

Families are also reminded that if their required Semi-Annual Reports (SAR 7) or recertifications are due this month, all eligibility verification must be received by Feb. 22. Households with a recertification due must participate in a required interview. Households that submit a SAR 7 and recertification after Feb. 22 will receive benefits on the normal issuance date. CalFresh benefits for April will be issued in the usual staggered cycle of April 1-10. For information, call (866)613-3777.

Student entries sought for Metro naming contest

No matter how you frame it, we have been the fastest growing framer in Southern California for the past 34 years. We are proud of our reputation as both a framer and an employer. We support the ideals of above average wages and health care for all. We consistently give back to the community, such as supporting schools, churches, temples and charitable organizations. Built on an old-fashioned foundation of honesty and trust, we stand proud and look forward to continuing to serve you and the community now and for the future.

Allan Jeffries Framing
8301 W. Third St. • Los Angeles, CA 90048 • 323.655.1296 • www.allanjeffries.com
Assemblyman Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) introduced legislation on Feb. 19 to require health insurance policies and plans to cover hearing aids for children. The bill was co-authored by Assemblymen Kevin Mullin (D-South San Francisco) and James Gallagher (R-Yuba City).

“We are here because we believe that a child’s ability to hear should not be based on their family’s income,” Bloom said. “Yet here in California, thousands of families have to pay for their child’s hearing aids out of pocket. Some are forced to forego hearing aids altogether while others have to delay maintenance or replacements. I introduced AB 598 because I believe that needs to change."

All children in California receive a hearing screening through the California Newborn Hearing Screening Program. Yet upon finding out their child’s hearing status, parents of deaf and hard of hearing children often learn that interventions and related services are not covered by health insurance. Only one in 10 children in privately funded plans has coverage for hearing aids and hearing aid services, leaving over 8,000 children without any kind of health insurance coverage for their devices, Bloom added.

Thousands of families are forced to pay the full cost of hearing aids, on average between $1,500 and $4,000 per ear, out of pocket. Hearing aids are replaced frequently when children grow, with replacements needed every three to five years. According to the California Health Benefits Review Program, an estimated 195 children in need of hearing aids do not have them because families cannot afford the costs. For many other families, lack of insurance coverage may mean they have to postpone their child’s hearing aid maintenance, fittings, adjustments or audiologist visits, Bloom said.

Access to hearing aids is not just a health access issue, but one of education equity as well, the assemblyman said. Deaf or hard of hearing children often benefit the most from multisensory approaches to learning that incorporate visual and spoken language. Without access to hearing aids, children are deprived of an important tool for language development Bloom said. Additionally, classrooms can often be equipped with assistive learning device systems, but if a child does not have a hearing aid, they cannot benefit, he said.

More than 20 states that currently require insurance coverage for children’s hearing aids. For information, visit asm.ca.gov/bloom.
Board ends use of pepper spray in juvenile halls

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion on Feb. 19 authored by Supervisors Sheila Kuehl, 3rd District, and Mark Ridley-Thomas, 2nd District, to phase out the use of pepper spray in juvenile facilities.

Pepper spray can cause intense eye irritation, temporary blindness, burning in the throat, blistering of the skin and an inability to breathe. The motion indicates that the use of pepper spray on young people can also cause psychological trauma, and many juvenile justice experts have determined that its use is needlessly punitive and can be counter-productive, Kuehl and Ridley-Thomas said. California is one of only 15 states that continues to permit the use of pepper spray.

“We have a responsibility for the safety and well-being of the young people in our custody, and research that we’ve made it clear that the use of pepper spray can cause lasting harm,” Kuehl said. “We need to use better alternatives to manage discipline issues such as verbal de-escalation and cognitive behavioral therapy. This motion will lay the groundwork for the safety of our young people and our probation staff in juvenile facilities.”

The motion calls for a plan to be developed within 60 days that considers best practice alternatives to pepper spray, and phases out its use in a deliberate and progressive manner.

“Problems with pepper spray have been longstanding, dating back to at least 2003, according to federal monitors. The Office of the Inspector General’s recent report found many of the same issues we’ve seen before: misuse, overuse and inappropriate, under-scoring a crisis in culture within the Probation Department,” Ridley-Thomas said. “Other jurisdictions across the nation have thoughtfully and incrementally phased out pepper spray, and both youth and staff have felt the benefits. With [this] vote, the board is committing to create a safer and more rehabilitative environment in our juvenile halls and camps.”

Mayor Eric Garcetti recently launched a campaign to provide low to moderate income households with free tax preparation services, and help more taxpayers claim their earned credits.

Free Tax Prep LA connects volunteers offering cost-free assistance to individuals and households making less than $54,884 a year, to help them qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit. Families may be able to receive up to $9,310 back in combined federal and state EITC refunds.

“I serve one of the most under-served communities in Los Angeles County. A good portion of communities have median personal incomes below $28,000. Too many families throughout the county lack economic security, which is why I am encouraging county residents to use the IRS VITA Program,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, 1st District. "VITA will help L.A. County residents safely and quickly receive tax refunds, and it will help them save hundreds of dollars in tax preparation fees. This tax season, we want to make sure L.A. County residents are clear as to whether they find out if they qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit, one of the most effective policy tools in our arsenal to help lift families out of poverty.”

All 16 of the city’s FamilySource Centers, including a center at 1075 N. Western Ave. in Hollywood, will be open throughout the tax season and assist families with preparing their taxes and claiming refunds. The services are also available to non-taxpayers filing as individuals with an individual taxpayer identification number. Last year, 20,000 L.A. County residents were served through the campaign.

To ensure that students take advantage of the state EITC, which is available for the first time to people who are 18 years of age and older has partnered with the Los Angeles Community College District to provide eligible students with free tax prep services at select FamilySource Centers.

"Problems with pepper spray have been longstanding, dating back to at least 2003, according to federal monitors. The Office of the Inspector General’s recent report found many of the same issues we’ve seen before: misuse, overuse and inappropriate, under-scoring a crisis in culture within the Probation Department,” Ridley-Thomas said. “Other jurisdictions across the nation have thoughtfully and incrementally phased out pepper spray, and both youth and staff have felt the benefits. With [this] vote, the board is committing to create a safer and more rehabilitative environment in our juvenile halls and camps.”

Questions face about renaming of Beverly Vista school

Re “Beverly Vista could see name change as part of reconfigur-ation,” Feb. 14 issue

I attended Beverly Vista from the fifth through the eighth grade (1961-1965). I have several questions regarding the Beverly Hills Board of Education about news that it is considering changing Beverly Vista’s name.

Does the board have a clear purpose in making the change? If the names are going to be changed, why do the community and former students have an option to vote on the matter? and former students have an option to vote on the matter?

On a purely emotional level, I associate “Beverly Vista” with wonderful memories (as well as a few sad ones, such as the assas-ination of our resident Kennedy). It seems a shame to “mess with that zeitgeist” unless the board has a truly compelling reason.

Patrick Warner

Beverly Vista alumna

Leave BV’s name Beverly Vista! It’s a great name and belongs to the community.

By rebranding it, do you hope to increase enroll-ment? What will increase enroll-ment are taught by cur-riculum needs and the attendance of the student body. Teachers that will instill positive social values, kindness, integrity and fairness. An active PTA, without any political or religious bias, and most importantly an atmos-phere that helps us educate the young people who are considering accepting people from all around the world is encouraged, will allow these young people to gain a better understanding of the blessings they have as Americans, with accurate reports to make the world a better place for every-one.

Catherine Nagel
Beverly Vista alumna

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the West Hollywood Planning Coordinating Commission will hold a Public Hearing to consider the following item:

LOCATIONS:
5655 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD,
West Hollywood, California

REQUEST:
Applicant is requesting to demolish three commercial buildings, a surface parking lot and three single-family dwelling units on five contiguous parcels, and construct a new, four and five story, mixed-use building with commercial area (including 12 live/work units) and 97 apartment units including affordable housing, over subterranean parking.

PERMIT(S):
Demolition Permit, Development Permit, Lot Line Adjustment, and any other required permits.

APPLICANT(S):
Jeffrey Seymour, Seymour Con-sulting Group

TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:
Thursday, March 7, 2019
at 6:30 p.m.
West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers
625 N. San Vicente Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069

ZONES:
CC1 (Commercial, Community 1 – with Mixed-Use Overlay Zone) (Residential, Multi-Family High Density)

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:
Environmental Impact Report prepared.

The staff report will be available on Thursday, February 28, 2019, at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, the W.H. Library, 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard, and on-line at www.weho.org

IF YOU CHALLENGE this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice. Your written correspondence delivered to the West Hollywood Planning Commission, via the Planning & Development Services Department at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

To comply with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990, Assistive Listening Devices (ALD) will be available for checkout at the meeting. If you require special assistance to participate in this meeting (e.g., a signer for the hearing impaired), you must call, or submit your request in writing to the Office of the City Clerk at (323) 848-6409 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Special meeting related accommodations (e.g., transporta-tion) may be provided upon written request to the Office of the City Clerk at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. For information on public transportation, call 1-323-GO-METRO (323/466-3876) or go to www.metro.net

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are invited to attend said Public Hearing to express their opinion in this matter.

For further information contact Laurie Yelton, Associate Planner, in the Planning & Development Services Depart-ment at (323) 848-6475; or via email at: lyelton@weho.org

Yvonne Quarker, City Clerk
Lunar New Year at Wolfgang’s WP24

Ride up The Ritz-Carlton, Los Angeles elevator to the 24th floor on Friday, Feb. 22, for an evening celebrating Lunar New Year. The restaurant hosts a special Night Market starting at 6:30 p.m. Interactive food stations will feature steamed dumplings, roasted Peking duck garnished with golden pineapples and Santa Barbara sea bass steamed in lotus leaf. The event will also include traditional Chinese tea ceremonies, calligraphy, lion dancers and a red envelope giveaway to share blessings with guests. Order the special Year of the Pig cocktail, and finish with a mochi avocado dessert. This pop-up celebration is $65 per person. 900 W. Olympic Blvd., (213)743-8824.

National Margarita Day at Te’kila

On Feb. 22, celebrate the classic margarita drink at Te’kila’s Hollywood and Sherman Oaks locations. The restaurant features family-owned, small-batch tequila brands as well as renowned distilleries such as Tequila Avión, Coze Tequila, Tres Generaciones and Patrón. Try the smooth and creamy avocado margarita, sweet and tangy mango tango, or refreshing cucumber melon. The Hemchata is a fun cocktail made with house-made horchata and Hennessy VS. Enjoy it with the restaurant’s smoky and tangy roasted corn esquites, plan-tain tostones with guacamole and Cotija cheese; and homemade quesadilla dip with tomato and poblano pepper. 6541 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, (323)960-2404. 13817 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, (818)986-4623.

Award-winning Loews cocktails

On Sunday, Feb. 24, sip an Oscar-worthy cocktail at Loews Hollywood and Loews Santa Monica hotels in honor of the 91st Academy Awards. The mixologists at Loews have created eight movie-inspired cocktails at $15, including the All American Apple Pie, inspired by the Academy Award-nominated “Vice,” and La Vie En Rose, from the nominated “A Star is Born.” These specialty drinks feature premium spirits, muddled blueberries, edible hibiscus flowers and more. Extra touches include St-Germain foam and house-spun cotton candy. The drinks are available now through Sunday, March 3. 1755 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, (323)856-1200. 1700 Ocean Ave., Santa Monica, (310)458-6700.

BOA Steakhouse’s Sunday Supper

Sunday is Wine Lover’s Night at BOA Steakhouse with half-priced bottles of wine and a prix-fixe Sunday Supper for $45 per person. Start with a BOA salad, and choose from four different entrées, including Pepper’s fried chicken served with garlic and herb mac and cheese and a house-made biscuit; Memphis bar-b-que ribs with house-made mac and cheese and a house-made biscuit; and a lobster pot pie. Finish with a BOA ice cream sundae. 9200 Sunset Blvd., 6505 West Hollywood, (310)278-2050. 101 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica, (310)889-4466.

It’s COLD Outside! Warm your soul with Pot Roast $5.98 per lb.

Pork Butt/Shoulder Roast $2.98 per lb.

By Jill Weinlein

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What a Catch

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THOUSANDS OF PRODUCTS TO BE DISCOVERED IN OUR GOURMET MARKET!
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Cheeses, Caviar, Seafood,
pizzas and much more!

FARMERS MARKET

by Jill Weinlein
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It’s COLD Outside! Warm your soul with Pot Roast $5.98 per lb.

Pork Butt/Shoulder Roast $2.98 per lb.

By Jill Weinlein

continues next page
Bold new Italian cuisine at Heroic Deli and Heroic Wine Bar

At Heroic Deli and Heroic Wine Bar, heroic refers to both the deli’s signature Italian hero sandwiches and the ambitions of the wine bar and kitchen. At this intimate Italian eatery and bar in downtown Santa Monica, Umarji Burger’s Adam Fleischman and Xtrema Foodies’ Jeffrey Merritne have reinvented the classic Italian sandwich for adventurous eaters.

The duo offers eight different sandwiches made with the finest imported Italian premium meat and cheese cuts and served on freshly toasted, crunchy ciabatta bread. The kitchen also features the Le Cordon Bleu-trained executive chef Barbara Pollastrini mixing a modern California approach with new Italian cuisine.

Heroic Wine Bar offers a soothing atmosphere with a Roman garden scene on the walls by Alexis Readinger of Preem Inc. and an indigo-colored ceiling depicting zodiac symbols and stars. My friends and I sat the 16-foot-long bowtie-shaped communal table, but the restaurant also has intimate leather booths with window seating and a private dining area upstairs for 12 guests.

The night we dined, one of the hero deli sandwich makers serenaded us with a beautiful operatic aria. Besides singing opera, he makes an incredible OMG sandwich layered with imported Italian prosciutto, capocollo, porchetta, salami, mortadella, smoked mozzarella, artichokes, roasted tomatoes, and a spread of truffle mayo and mustard. Guarnieri, a house-made Italian pickle relish, gives the sandwich an extra zing. It’s a mix of chopped bell peppers, celery, carrots, cauliflower, and garlic in oil and vinegar.

Other sandwiches that will have you smiling include chicken tetrazzini, Pizzandwich and The Vegan. They all feature bread that is made in the Sun Fernando Valley and only partially baked before delivery to Heroic. Just before serving, the sandwich makers bake the ciabatta a little longer to give the bread that snap of crunch on the outside and light and porous inside. The sandwich pairs with the deli’s handful of salads, homemade potato chips and Italian corn soufflé.

For something beyond sandwich-makers, guests can order a $50 prix-fixe meal at the wine bar and choose one item from the primi, pasta, secondo and dessert sections. Pollastrini’s signature dish for $145 per person is a house-made pasta topped with a trio of sea urchin, lobster and caviar, all sourced from Santa Barbara and topped with an ethereal butter sauce.

My favorite dish of the evening, however, was the heavenly tomato Soufflé in the primi section. It’s a thick, seasoned tomato soup, almost like a stew, that is topped with burrata, sliced tomatoes and fresh pesto. I also enjoyed the lamb ragùtoni balanced with crispy artichokes, as well as the hearty roasted pork topped with fresh rosemary, sun-dried king oyster mushrooms and garlic cream sauce.

Other menu choices include a seared steak tartare; giant eggplant Parmesan ravioli; and coq au vin filled with calaminari, octopus, clams, mushrooms, fresh tomato, garlic and parsley.

For dessert, I tried the sweet and creamy Bardo panna cotta – and after one bite, I asked for a second serving. The gelatin dessert was sweet and creamy, but what made it really stand out was coulis of intensely flavorful amarena cherries and crunchy biscotti cookie sprinkled on top.

For drinks, wines are, of course, easy to order here, and there is an array of high-quality California and Italian wines to select. Order a glass of white wine for $12 or a bottle for $40. Red wines are $14 by the glass or $50 a bottle. I enjoyed a flight of the bubbly Canella Valdobbiadene prosecco and a lovely savagnin Blanc from Heritance Taub Family Vineyards with my four-course prix-fixe. The white wine carried notes of melon and Asian pear with good acidity and crispness, and left a smooth lingering finish.

With his new split-restaurant concept, Fleischman has another unique gastronomic winner. Visit Heroic Deli to pick up picnic fare for a day at the beach, and return in the evening to enjoy a romantic, flavorful Italian dinner with reasonably priced wines at Heroic Wine Bar. Heroic Deli is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Heroic Wine Bar is open Tuesday through Saturday from 5 to 9 p.m. 516 Santa Monica Blvd. and 514 Santa Monica Blvd., (310)490-0202.

By Jill Weinlein

The OMG sandwich is layered with imported Italian prosciutto, capocollo, porchetta, salami, mortadella, smoked mozzarella, artichokes, roasted tomatoes, and a spread of truffle mayo and mustard.

Restaurant News

From page 14

National Clam Chowder Day

On Feb. 25, cozy up at Prawn & Cod to enjoy chef Mark Peck’s classic clam chowder made with clams, bacon and potatoes in a creamy broth swirled with kohoba squash purée. For the ultimate chowder experience, order the sour-dough bread bowl. Make sure to get there by 5 p.m. to enjoy the happy hour two-for-one drink special. 317 S. Broadway, Los Angeles. (213)628-3400. (616) Alley, Pasadena, (626)219-6115.

Connie and Ted’s wine dinner

On Tuesday, Feb. 26, West Hollywood’s New England-inspired seafood eatery partners with the centuries-old French wine producer Hugel & Fils. Executive chef Samuel Baxter will serve a $110 four-course dinner with wine pairings by Jean-Frédéric Hugel. These classic dry Alsace wines will be served with spot prawn tartare; Nancy’s scallops, grilled black cod and coconut panna cotta. The seatings are at 6 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. 8171 Santa Monica Blvd. (323)484-2722.

Meet at Jalapeño Pete’s for tacos and margaritas

Enjoy a buy one, get one free drink special seven days a week from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Jalapeño Pete’s. Come on in on Tuesdays and order any taco for only $2. Options include butternut squash, fried avocado, grilled chicken, al pastor, grilled shrimp, canaas, short rib, asada and pescado. The restaurant also offers games for diners to play, including Jenga, Connect Four and backgammon, while eating and drinking. 11618 Ventura Blvd., Studio City. (818)879-4264.

Happy times at The Woodman

Pull out a stool and order a bacon burger with an unfiltered local ale or sour beer at lively gastropub The Woodman. From 4:30 to 8 p.m., order a well cocktail, glass of wine or select craft beer for $4 each. On Sundays, enjoy $15 bottomless mimosas during brunch. Mimosa flavors include orange, cranberry, peach and lemon. Every Wednesday at 7 p.m., the restaurant hosts Wine Art, an event that combines art instruction and wine drinking. Everything you need is provided – aprons, easels, paint, brushes and canvas. A professional art instructor will guide you during the two-hour instruction. 13615 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, (818)363-9401.

Children’s Tea

Peanut Butter & Jelly Triangles on Wheats
Chicken Salad Stan’s Raisin bread
Mini Fruit Tarts and Scones
Fresh Fruit Skewers
Preserves, Crème Fraîche
Milk, Hot Chocolate, Apple Cider
$19.50
per person

In the Original Farmers Market
3rd & Fairfax
(323) 933-8446 • (323) 933-8440

Please Call for Reservations Saturdays in February:
2:00pm to 4:00pm
All ages welcome!
Feb. 1
At 10:30 p.m., an unknown sus-pect committed a petty theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

Feb. 2
An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 200 block of Reeves Drive at 5:22 a.m.

Feb. 3
At 8:30 a.m., an unknown male suspect assaulted a victim in the 100 block of S. Robertson Boulevard.

Feb. 4
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 600 block of S. Robertson.

Feb. 5
At 11:39 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 200 block of S. Robertson.

Feb. 6
At 11:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1300 block of N. Larrabee.

Feb. 7
An unknown suspect committed a grand theft near the corner of Hollywood and Madison at 11:07 a.m.

Feb. 8
At 12:00 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 500 block of Wilshire.

Feb. 9
At 4:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 700 block of Wilshire.

Feb. 10
At 3:50 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 100 block of S. Robertson.

Feb. 11
At 1:59 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 900 block of Wilshire.

Feb. 12
An unknown suspect committed a petty theft at the 200 block of N. Larchmont.

Feb. 13
At 12:01 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 800 block of Santa Monica.

Feb. 14
At 1:14 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 500 block of Doheny Dr.

Feb. 15
An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of Santa Monica at 4 p.m.

Feb. 16
A suspect assaulted a victim during a domestic violence incident in the 800 block of Westbourne at 2:46 a.m.

Feb. 17
At 7:05 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near the corner of Sunset and Fuller.

Feb. 18
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Beverly and Poisnetta at 8:15 a.m.

Feb. 19
At 8:10 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Sunset and Gordon.

Feb. 20
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Selma and Cherokee at 10:30 a.m.

Feb. 21
At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of S. Flores.

Feb. 22
An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 700 block of Wiltshire.

Feb. 23
At 6:45 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 800 block of Vine.

Feb. 24
An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of Vine at 8:40 a.m.

Feb. 25
An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 700 block of Sunset at 11:45 p.m.

Feb. 26
At 5:20 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of S. Robertson.

Feb. 27
An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Westmore and York at 4:20 p.m.

Feb. 28
An unknown suspect stolen a vehicle in the 100 block of S. Robertson.

Feb. 29
An unknown suspect committed a grand theft near the corner of Santa Monica and Wilshire at 1:15 p.m.

Feb. 30
At 2:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 100 block of S. Robertson.

Feb. 31
An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 300 block of S. Robertson.
The Original Farmers Market and The Grove held a lively Lunar New Year festival on Feb. 17 featuring traditional dancers, like those pictured, right, musical performances with traditional Chinese instruments, a kung fu demonstration, traditional acrobatics and Beijing Opera’s Monkey King. The Year of the Pig celebration also included an unveiling of a 400-pound handmade pig statue, activities such as Chinese calligraphy and fan making workshops, and performances by K-pop groups and more.

For information, visit farmersmarketla.com and thegrovela.com.

Celebrity chef oversees Grammy, Oscar parties

Chef Wayne Elias (right) and Crumble Catering partner Chris Diamond (left) recently prepared thousands of dishes at the Steven Tyler Grammy Awards 2019 Viewing Party at Raleigh Studios in Hollywood. Elias and Diamond were joined by Tyler and his girlfriend, Aimee Preston. The party raised $2.8 million for the Janie’s Fund’s programs helping girls who have suffered abuse and neglect. The benefit was hosted by Jane Lynch. Next up for chef Elias and his team of 180 waiters, cooks, servers and bartenders is the Elton John AIDS Foundation Oscar Viewing Party on Sunday, Feb. 24, in West Hollywood.

Pasadena Playhouse, the state theater of California, is extending its new version of “Ragtime: The Musical” through Saturday, March 9. Six more performances have been added March 3-9. Nominated for 13 Tony Awards including Best Musical, “Ragtime: The Musical” tells the story of three families at the turn of the 20th century in pursuit of the American dream. The award-winning score uses ragtime rhythms to paint a portrait of the people who built this country with the hopes for a brighter tomorrow.

This production marks the return of “Ragtime” to Los Angeles more than two decades after its premiere at the Shubert Theatre. With 21 actors and a 16-piece orchestra, this is one of the most ambitious productions in the playhouse’s recent history.

“We are so excited to be announcing an extension of ‘Ragtime: The Musical,’” said Danny Feldman, Pasadena Playhouse producing artistic director. “We are thrilled to have found a large enthusiastic audience for the show, and to be able to create the opportunity for even more people to join us.”

Tickets start at $25. Performances are at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. On Saturdays, performances are at 2 and 8 p.m., and 2 and 7 p.m. on Sundays. The Pasadena Playhouse is located at 39 S. El Molino Ave. For tickets, visit pasadenaplayhouse.org.

MARCH AT THE EBELL

Women’s History Month Luncheon

Beginning with the women abolitionist groups of the 1830s, through ratification of the 19th Amendment and beyond, activists changed society. Honor Women’s History Month with the National Women’s History Museum! Monday, March 4 | 11:30 am

Leadership with a Twist of Yoga Workshop

Join Shar McBee for an evening of leadership training based on yin and yang principles. You will learn how to create cooperation, how to motivate people to listen to you, and how to win support. Thursday, March 14 | 7:00-9:00 pm

Pasta Making Workshop with Chef Dan Cincis

Ebell Executive Chef Dan Cincis will show us how to create the perfect pasta dough! We’ll taste his handcrafted noodles with flavorful, complementary sauces, together with wine specially chosen for the occasion. Wednesday, March 20 | 3:00-5:00 pm

Catch ‘Ragtime’ at Pasadena Playhouse

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Please call us for a private showing of this stunning 1930’s upper duplex unit featuring a grand living room with picture window and fireplace, a formal dining room, kitchen with stainless steel appliances, separate breakfast room, and laundry room with washer and dryer. There are two private balconies with fabulous city views. Additional features include original hardwood floors, central AC and an automatic two car garage.
LAUSD helps design materials for English learners

The Los Angeles Unified School District and the Council of the Great City Schools, the nation’s primary coalition of large city public school systems, have established a nationwide initiative to improve the quality of math materials for English-language learners in middle school.

With its experience and expertise in educating English-learners, LAUSD took the lead in the development of math materials that drew interest from more than 100 publishing groups. Three publishers were selected to provide high-quality instructional materials: Curriculum Associates LLC, Imagine Learning Inc. and Open Up Resources.

Any school district can purchase the materials, and 15 major city school systems have expressed interest. There are no fees or conditions for use of the materials.

“Los Angeles Unified remains committed to finding new ways to better support every student and to make sure they get the best possible education,” Superintendent Austin Beutner said. “L.A. Unified serves the largest number of English-language learners and over 130,000 reclassified students who enrich our schools and communities with their home language and culture,” said Hilda Maldonado, senior executive director of diversity, learning and instruction for Los Angeles Unified, said the initiative underscores the district’s commitment to providing equitable opportunities for all students.

“Our excellent educators are challenged with closing achievement gaps and supporting students who many believe should be relegated to less-rigorous courses with less-rigorous materials because they lack English-language skills, but nothing could be further from the truth,” Maldonado said. “Many of our greatest mathematical minds spoke more than one language, and our schools are committed to ensuring that our dual-language learners can speak the universal language of mathematics. This groundbreaking project is a step forward in that commitment.”

For information, visit lausd.org.

Photo courtesy of LAUSD
TAG Gallery opens new exhibits

TAG Gallery presents “New! Money,” a series of paintings by artist Dwayne Wilbert, and “Soul Money,” a series of paintings by artist Toni Reinis, both on view through March 16.

TAG Gallery is located at 5458 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit taggallery.net.

**The Broad Stage hosts program with explorer and mountaineer**

The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage in Santa Monica presents “Point of No Return,” the third event of the National Geographic Live series during The Broad Stage’s 2018-19 season, with Hilaree Nelson, a National Geographic explorer and mountaineer, on Feb. 28 and March 1 at 7:30 p.m. The event includes a post-show Q&A with Nelson.

As the recipient of a National Geographic Explorers grant, Nelson led a team of alpinists, photographers and filmmakers to attempt a first ascent of Hikakabo Razi in northern Myanmar in 2014. The film about their adventure and well-publicized feuding, “Down to Nothing,” won the Best Cinematography Award at the Telluride Mountainfilm Festival in 2015. Nelson is also the first woman to have climbed both Everest and its neighbor, Lhotse, in a single 24-hour period.

**Mingle with the flamingos at the L.A. Zoo**

The Los Angeles Zoo has launched a new up-close animal encounter where guests can come face to feather with one of the zoo’s most colorful residents.

Mingle allows a group of up to six guests to step into the flamingo habitat and become one of the flock during a 15-minute interactive experience with greater flamingos, which are known for their friendliness and ability to create strong bonds.

During the encounter, guests will gather in a designated area of the flamingo habitat for safe viewing and interaction to learn about their care and special adaptations, along with the importance of conservation.

While a highlight of the experience is the chance to hand-feed the birds krill—a tiny, shrimp-like crustacean that gives flamingos their brilliant pink hue—guests shouldn’t be surprised if they are groomed by the birds, providing an unforgettable up-close-and-personal experience.

**Play includes discussion with Holocaust survivor**

Stan Zimmerman, director of the Latino production of “The Diary of Anne Frank,” will moderate a discussion with the cast and special guest Holocaust survivor Gabriela Karin immediately following the Friday, Feb. 22, performance at 8 p.m. at the Dorie Theatre at The Complex Hollywood.

Before the Nazis invaded Czechoslovakia, Karin had a normal life living with her parents and her grandmother. In 1938, after hearing about the violence of Kristallnacht, Karin’s mother wanted to emigrate, but the family did not have the financial means to do so. Shortly after the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1939, Slovakia was granted independence under a Nazi-approved government. During this time, Karin’s mother began working for the underground resistance movement.

Today, Karin is dedicated to educating young people in schools and at the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust and the Museum of Tolerance.

After a sold-out run last fall, the recent revival of “The Diary of Anne Frank” by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, and newly adapted by Wendy Kesselman, returns for a limited engagement through Feb. 24. Zimmerman continues as director, with the original cast, which is predominantly Latino, including Alis Alvarado, Keith Coogan, Tasha Dixon, David Gurrola, Heather Olt and Genesis Ochoa.

Tickets start at $25. The Dorie Theatre is located at 6476 Santa Monica Blvd. For information and tickets, visit complexhollywood.com or bit.ly/2n08gf.

**Flamingo Mingle is $25 per person and is offered at 11 a.m. and noon each day except for the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Participants must be two years or older.**

**The Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens is located at 5333 Zoo Drive. For information, visit lazoo.org/flamingomingle.**

**Sick & Physicals**

**Kids and Teens does not charge a facility fee**

**Changing the Way You Think About Children’s Health**

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H.P. Lovecraft short story inspires new art show

Art gallery Lowell Ryan Projects presents “Color Out of Space,” a group exhibition inspired by the eponymous short story by H.P. Lovecraft that brings together works by Mark Flood, Nasim Hantehzadeh, Kysa Johnson, Laurie Nye and Galen Trezise, on view from March 2 to April 6. An opening reception will be held on March 2 from 7 to 9 p.m.

In Lovecraft’s story, a meteorite crashes in a remote farm and, as it shrinks, releases globules of “impossible to describe” colors that have mutative effects on the surrounding plants, animals and humans. No solution is found. No motive is uncovered.

Written in 1927, the story has been adapted and reinterpreted for nearly a century – in the cult classic “The Blob,” Stephen King’s novel “Tommyknockers” and most recently in the movie “Annihilation.”

Gala, new collaborations and festivals to ring in LA Phil’s second century

The Los Angeles Philharmonic Music and Artistic Director Gustavo Dudamel and CEO Simon Woods have announced the 2019-20 Walt Disney Concert Hall season, ushering the LA Phil into its second century of music-making and inaugurating Dudamel’s second decade as the orchestra’s leader.

“This season, we bring together the extraordinary, multifaceted artistic personality of Gustavo Dudamel, the superb quality of our orchestra and the unsurpassed brilliance of the artists we gather around us week after week, into a thrilling landscape of the familiar, the new and the familiar looked at in new ways.”

Woods said. “The LA Phil continues to step boldly into the future with intensely thought-provoking programming that brings people together not only around music, but also around ideas and issues of deep human relevance.”

A gala on Oct. 24 will mark the turning of the century, as Dudamel, Conductor Laureate Esa-Pekka Salonen and Conductor Emeritus Zubin Mehta take turns leading the LA Phil in repertoire closely identified with each, then join forces on the podium for the world premiere of a Daniel Bjarnason composition for orchestra with three conductors.

As part of the grand finale to the centennial, and launch of the second century, all three music directors will perform their own individual concerts with signature programs: Mehta with Mahler, Salonen with Sibelius, and Dudamel with a program of Beethoven’s Ninth.

Dudamel will conduct 17 different programs throughout the 2019-20 season, in a musical spectrum that ranges from Mozart, Adams and Ginastera to Schoenberg’s vast, late-Romantic “Gurrelieder,” and a fully staged version of Sondheim’s “Sunday in the Park with George.”

John Adams, the LA Phil’s creative chair, will once again organize the forward-looking Green Umbrella series, including the annual Noon to Midnight new music marathon, culminating this season with a collaboration between composer Steve Reich and visual artist Gerhard Richter. Principal Guest Conductor Susanna Mälkki will return with performances of LA Phil commissions paired with historic repertoire and collaborations with star violinist Leila Josefowicz.

Carrying forward the LA Phil’s commitment to contemporary music, the 2019-20 season will include premieres of 22 LA Phil commissions. Six LA Phil commissions from past seasons will also return, solidifying their place in today’s orchestral repertoire.

The LA Phil will continue to expand into the many communities of Los Angeles, including a series of three pre-season concerts conducted by LA Phil Assistant Conductor Paolo Bortolameotti. A Power to the People! festival, curated by Dudamel and William Powers & Carolyn Powers Creative Chair for Jazz Herbie Hancock, will also explore the concern for humanitarian issues that animates so much music.

“As the LA Phil begins its second century, and my second decade, you can see that we have reaffirmed our commitment to recognizing and respecting the past and redefining the future of classical music,” Dudamel said. “I couldn’t be prouder of this season, which is as beautiful, diverse, inclusive and eclectic as Los Angeles itself.”

The Walt Disney Concert Hall is located at 111 S. Grand Ave. For information, visit laphil.com.

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The Walt Disney Concert Hall is located at 111 S. Grand Ave. For information, visit laphil.com.

CMay Gallery presents “ISLANDS,” a solo exhibition of new paintings and drawings by Los Angeles-based artist Brian Rea, on view from March 8 to April 13. For information, visit cmaygallery.com, or contact info@cmaygallery.com.

The CMay Gallery is located at 5828 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit cmaygallery.com, or contact info@cmaygallery.com.

Each larger work contains hundreds of word bubbles, simulating the overwhelming experience of consciousness.

The show will also be the inaugural exhibit at the gallery’s new space in the Miracle Mile. Rea’s list-based paintings unfurl as Postmodern poetry mosaics, expressing the human impulse to parse and catalog experiences. This kind of observational, existential stock-taking is both meditative and a performative act generating a bricolage of free-association storytelling that is both accessible and universal.

Beyond the hand-lettered words and phrases that form the fractal vignettes of Rea’s micro-narratives, his paintings also serve as physical and semiotic exercises in mark-making and the nuanced relationships between image and object.

For Rea, islands represent places where people are alone – with their thoughts, their pasts and themselves. Each larger work contains hundreds of word bubbles, simulating the overwhelming experience of consciousness.

Rea lives and works in Los Angeles and is the former art director of the Op-Ed page of The New York Times. His award-winning, emotionally charged drawings can be seen each week alongside the paper’s Modern Love column.

For Rea, each large work is an island of experience that reflects the overwhelming experience of consciousness. Each larger work contains hundreds of word bubbles, simulating the overwhelming experience of consciousness.

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The Chinese Theatre honors Rock Hudson's legacy with screenings

The TCL Chinese Theatre celebrates the 70th anniversary of Rock Hudson in Hollywood with special showings of "All That Heaven Allows: A Tribute to Rock Hudson" on Wednesday, Feb. 27. The event will also include a book signing for "All That Heaven Allows" with author Mark Griffin. The book signing will begin at approximately 7:30 p.m. park labrea news/beverly press. More than 31 inches of rain fell in downtown L.A. in 1997-98, making it one of the wettest seasons on record in the city. The highest rainfall totals in Los Angeles occurred in 1883-84, when 38.18 inches of rain fell, according to L.A. Almanac. This year’s winter season has already produced 10.21 inches of rain has fallen statewide this month, with more showers expected today. Los Angeles’ average rainfall from July through June is 14.64 inches, and rainfall totals are expected to surpass that amount when the February totals are announced at the end of the month.

Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

When are you going to do your estate planning?

The performances Tuesday through Friday are at 8 p.m. On Saturdays, showtime is at 3 and 8 p.m., and 2 and 7 p.m. on Sundays. The Gil Cates Theater at the Geffen Playhouse is located at 10880 Le Conte Ave. For information and tickets, visit geffenplayhouse.org, or call (310)208-5454.

Proper estate planning allows you to make your own decisions about these matters while you can, rather than someone else making decisions when you cannot.

The TCL Chinese Theatre is located at 6925 Hollywood Blvd. For information and tickets, visit tclchinesetheatres.com.
The Fowler Museum at UCLA presents “Inheritance: Recent Video Art from Africa,” on view through July 28. The exhibition features time-based work by Kudzanai Chiurai, Zina Saro-Wiwa and Michael Subotzky, three contemporary African artists whose works address the political, social and environmental realities of the post-colonial era in their respective home countries.

Every generation inherits intractable historical legacies, the artists aim to dismantle colonial constructions perpetuated by the social and political powers that be. “Inheritance” provides an opportunity to introduce three young artists whose works offer timely and penetrating views into the ongoing struggles of the postcolonial period in Africa,” said Marla C. Berns, Shirley & Ralph Shapiro director of the Fowler Museum. “The museum is committed to presenting the fresh perspectives of these young artists who disrupt the status quo and who bravely dramatize through their art their very personal and political challenges.”

The Fowler Museum is located at 10200 Wilshire Blvd., Young Drive N. For information, visit Fowler.ucla.edu.

In her video series, Zina Saro-Wiwa highlights the environmental predicaments of her Ogoni culture by filming local diners eating traditional dishes.

Composer and conductor Matthias Pintschter curates Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra’s next season concert in collaboration with Four Larks on Thursday, Feb. 28, at 8 p.m. at Mack Sennett Studios in Silverlake. Designed to explore classical music’s cutting-edge sounds and challenge traditional concert-going expectations, the evening features two works by Pintschter’s former teacher Royce Hall’s. “Three Poèmes de l’Enfant” and “Berg’s Four pieces for clarinet and piano,” Grisey’s Stèle for two percussionists and Xenakis’s Rebons A.

“Session provides an ideal platform for spotlighting Matthias Pintschter’s remarkably eclectic and compelling musical aesthetic,” said LACO Executive Director Scott Harrison. “A forward-thinking artist who is highly regarded in new music circles globally, he imbues his work with meticulous detail and a element of surprise. And Mack Sennett Studios, a decidedly unex- pected setting for chamber music, offers a unique backdrop for his creative vision.”

In addition to curating Session, Pintschter guest conducts on LACO’s Orchestra Series on March 2 at 8 p.m. at the Alex Theatre and March 3 at 7 p.m. at Royce Hall.

Tickets start at $25. Session, whose programs test ideas about the relationship between performers and audiences, continues on April 4 with conductor and composer and wild Up director Christopher Rountree, whose work stands at the intersection of classical music, new music, performance art and pop.

Mack Sennett Studios is located at 1215 Bates Ave. in Hollywood. For information and tickets, visit laco.org, or call (213)562-7001, ext. 1.
Avoid the awards allure of ‘A Star is Born’

“The film’s a story, and not just that piece,” Portman said. “If you watch “Roma,” it’s a god of country music, but a drinking problem and deteriorating hearing reveal a tried soul, one prone to outburst and generosity. Enter Ally (Gaga), a fresh talent with a terrible love story. But she shines as a performer at a local drag bar – a head nod to Lady Gaga’s another life. Our country boy sees something in her and does what he can to make her shine. This is for real, this is for you. Like T-Swift before, Ally quickly evolves past those twangy roots and enters the pop scene with full force. Jack might shower her with compliments and encouragement, but she’s slowly, well, not really, affects their relationship and Ally’s professional prospects. “Star” functions as a bit of a mending balm for both Cooper and Gaga’s performances and a purchase-worthy soundtrack, including a nominated song written and performed by the Gaga herself. And to the screenwriters’ credit, the story progresses wonderfully, and everything wraps up with a one-two punch to the tear ducts. The film’s brave enough to accomplish its goals without a clean conclusion that explains everything.

Next to the other contenders for top honors this awards season, “Star” surpasses the mediocre noms like “Bohemian Rhapsody” and “Green Book,” ranking somewhere along the middle. That’s a huge win, for a film that didn’t need and shouldn’t work at all. Again, fourth remake performance should no longer be the gold-standard for best of the year. Certainly, as Bradley Cooper’s Jack Maine (Cooper) is a god of country music, but a drinking problem and deteriorating hearing reveal a tried soul, one prone to outburst and generosity. Enter Ally (Gaga), a fresh talent with a terrible love story. But she shines as a performer at a local drag bar – a head nod to Lady Gaga’s another life. Our country boy sees something in her and does what he can to make her shine. This is for real, this is for you. Like T-Swift before, Ally quickly evolves past those twangy roots and enters the pop scene with full force. Jack might shower her with compliments and encouragement, but she’s slowly, well, not really, affects their relationship and Ally’s professional prospects. “Star” functions as a bit of a mending balm for both Cooper and Gaga’s performances and a purchase-worthy soundtrack, including a nominated song written and performed by the Gaga herself. And to the screenwriters’ credit, the story progresses wonderfully, and everything wraps up with a one-two punch to the tear ducts. The film’s brave enough to accomplish its goals without a clean conclusion that explains everything.

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Frankly, “A Star is Born” should walk away with at most one win for original song. It would certainly be an obvious choice, not necessarily daunting though. On other awards, Gaga proves she can perform, but this is not the making of the top performance of the year. The character feels like an empty vessel on many points, never quite figuring out her purpose beyond the stage. She’s a newborn film star, following a successful run on FX’s “American Horror Story,” and that should be enough.

As for Cooper, well, he practiced his mumbling in “American Sniper” already, so a win for this seems a bit dated, especially when the chemistry between Jack and Ally never actually works. And the otherwise compelling pic to sound editing to Sam Elliott for supporting, are lip service. This all should not overestimate the quality of “A Star is Born” but place it in a broader perspective. For all its delightful and emotionally jolting moments, it might be time for the best pic category to move beyond such self-indulgent stories. Enjoyable, competent filmmaking should no longer be the gold-standard for best of the year.

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Domestic workers group to host Oscar-night event for ‘Roma’

The National Domestic Workers Alliance is hosting a red carpet event on Oscar night, Feb. 24, at the Jane Club, a new and innovative women-centric venue in Los Angeles, to honor domestic workers as the true “Heroes in Our Homes.”

Inspired by the film “Roma,” which has been nominated for 10 Academy Awards, event attendees will celebrate the success of the film in shining a light on and sparking a conversation about domestic workers in the country.

They will be joined by co-hosts in attendance Tarana Burke, Diane Guerrero, Rashida Jones, Eva Longoria, Olga Segura and Karla Souza.

The event will have the support of Alfonso Cuaron as honorary host for this special event, as well as Laura Brown, Laura Dera and Natalie Portman.

“Domestic workers are the unseen heroes of our families and of our economy, yet they have been written out of our labor laws and overlooked in our culture,” said Ai-jen Poo, director of the NDWA.

“With this awards night event and support of so many brilliant actors, activists and Hollywood luminaries, we will celebrate domestic workers with the humanity and dignity they deserve. And we will celebrate “Roma” – a film that so poignantly centers on the story of an indigenous domestic worker.”

ALAC’s Time’s Up: To “Roma,” one of the greatest fights of our society today is making sure that all working women are treated with dignity and respect,” Dem said. “‘Roma’ has truly inspired audiences to reflect on the people who care for them. Domestic workers like Cleo are in the center of our lives but too often at the bottom of our economy and society. We must do our part to ensure they have the respect and recognition they deserve.”

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Art fair brings crowd to Barker Hangar

Art Los Angeles Contemporary welcomed over 15,000 international visitors to its 10th anniversary edition, which took place over five days from March 9 to 17 at the historic Barker Hangar in Santa Monica.

This fair, which has been a vital contributor in establishing Los Angeles as a major art city, presented more than 100 exhibitors from 19 countries and expanded its footprint by 12 percent, with a purchase-worthy in situ architectural design by Seattle-based firm Olson Kundig and a new visual identity by Willo Perron & Associates. The fair also added a new salon and publishing sections.

“Over the past decade, we have helped expand a dynamic and vital collector base that has contributed to its status as the major international art center,” said Tim Fleming, founder and director of ALAC.

Collector and art patron Beth DeWoody said ALAC, which she’s attended for the past six years, has galvanized the Los Angeles collector community. “It’s ever-evolving and fine presentation of international work has made it a must-go-to fair for me,” DeWoody said.

The Barker Hangar is located at 3021 Airport Ave. For information, visit romacommunicators.org.

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The film’s brave enough to accomplish its goals without a clean conclusion that explains everything.

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Bradley Cooper stars as Jack and Lady Gaga appears as Ally in “A Star is Born,” a contender for Best Picture at this Sunday’s Academy Awards.

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Rosalie Roselle is the arts editor at ParkLabrea News. She can be reached at rroselle@parklabrea.com.
Film offers virtual tour of Nazi death camp hosted by survivor

The Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, in conjunction with The Institute for Visual History and Education, also known as the USC Shoah Foundation, presents the West Coast premiere and exclusive limited engagement of USC Shoah Foundation’s award-winning virtual reality film “The Last Goodbye.”

The film features survivor Pinchas Gutter’s visit to the site of the Nazi death camp Majdanek in Poland. Gutter is the only member of his family of four to have survived the Holocaust. The precedent-setting, fully immersive experience enables viewers to virtually visit the site with Gutter as he travels in life-sized projections through the railway car, gas chamber, shower room and barracks of Majdanek seven decades later.

First screened at the 2017 Tribeca Film Festival, the 17-minute film is now available to visitors to Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust during regular hours. After putting on an audio-visual headset, viewers virtually accompany Gutter through the concentration camp while listening to his narration. Room scale virtual reality allows users to walk around and explore the virtual environment.

“We rely heavily on survivor oral testimonies in teaching Holocaust history throughout our galleries,” said Beth Kean, executive director of Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust. “Now, our visitors’ experience will be further enhanced by the opportunity to virtually accompany Pinchas Gutter on his journey through Majdanek and be confronted with the remains of a concentration camp.”

“Every generation needs to bear witness to these atrocities, but our tools for learning and preserving and understanding the nature of the Nazi concentration camp system were limited. And if we would engage audiences understanding the nature of the Nazi concentration camp system where the SS authorities could murder targeted groups,” said USC Shoah Foundation Finci-Viterbi Executive Director Stephen Smith, who is also one of the film’s producers. “The ramifications of such human behavior continue today, and one way to counter that devolution is to understand it by gazing upon it.”

The film has received numerous awards, including two Webby Awards, the Creative Arts Award, VR Documentary Jury Prize at the 2018 Lumiere Awards, and the Shotts Gold Award, selected by an international panel of judges, for best new use of emerging technology.

The museum, located at 600 The Grove Drive, is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday-Thursday; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday. Museum admission is free. Tickets for the film are $15 and can be purchased at the door or in advance by visiting bookwhen.com/the-lastgoodbye. For information, visit lamoth.org.

Join the fight to end genocide at upcoming 5K walk

Jewish World Watch, an organization that assists survivors of genocide and mass atrocities around the world, is seeking participants for its 13th annual Walk to End Genocide on March 31 in Pan Pacific Park.

More than 1,000 people of all ages and religious backgrounds are expected to participate in the Walk to End Genocide. The family-friendly event also includes an Advocacy Festival from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., calling attention to genocide and mass atrocities worldwide and raising money to help survivors.

Participants will learn about ongoing global conflicts and solutions through educational exhibits on projects supporting survivors from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

“In every generation, it is our obligation to answer the inhumanity of genocide and the vile forces of prejudice and anti-Semitism with action and compassion,” Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said. “Through the annual Walk to End Genocide, thousands of Angelenos refuse to stand idly. Instead, we pray with our feet, reminding the world that we will never again turn our backs when the world’s most vulnerable people are persecuted for who they are, who they love, or what they believe.”

Highlights of the Advocacy Festival, which will be open before and after the 5K walk, include a free hate speech workshop; the Red Hands Brigade art-based advocacy workshop; a “Jump-A-Thon for Justice” for children; and opportunities to speak with genocide survivors. Learn about the struggle to deliver medical aid behind enemy lines in Syria using guerrilla humanitarian aid, and send emails urging elected officials to protect Myanmar’s Rohingya minority.

Performances by local musicians, children’s choirs, art exhibits and Jewish World Watch’s “I CARE” video campaign will take place throughout the day. For information and to register, visit jww.org.

WeHo rent stabilization ordinance forum offers details for landlords

The city of West Hollywood is inviting property owners to an upcoming Rent Stabilization Ordinance workshop on Tuesday, Feb. 26.

The RSO Building Blocks workshops are part of a series held throughout the year to educate property owners, managers, tenants and community members about the city’s Rent Stabilization Ordinance. All workshops are in Room 5 at the West Hollywood Community Center at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.

A “Landlord Advanced” workshop on Feb. 26 at 7 p.m., will focus on just cause and no-fault evictions; prohibition against tenant harassment and mediation services; service dogs and therapy animals; personal property; social services for low-income seniors; home security; shared use assistance; boarding and bedbugs; reasonable accommodations under the Fair Housing Act; unit transfers for mobility impaired tenants; and the Aging in Place/Aging in Community 2020 Strategic Plan.

Attendance is free; reservations are recommended. For information, visit weho.org/rent.
From page 1

comment before Tuesday's meet- ing, joined his colleagues in ask- ing for an agenda that included a upcoming meeting to discuss options for “moving forward.”

“I believe it is important for us to move forward with something else in a different manner,” he said.

The council can revoke the mayoral title from Duran, or take other measures to address concerns over travel budget. Duran said he will not resign. A voter-initiated recall is another way to remove him from council.

In a statement read at the coun- cil meeting by West Hollywood resident Marco Colantonio on Duran’s behalf, Duran continued to deny the sexual harassment allegations from Gay Men’s Chorus members. One accuser who spoke on Duran’s behalf said the accuser’s waistband was independently investigated and not substantiated.

Another chorus member made a similar claim, but two chorus leaders said no report of that inci- dent was made internally as far as they knew. A third accuser said Duran made a sexually vulgar comment during a 2015 Gay Men’s Chorus performance, but Duran said he recalled making an offensive joke to that member before leaving the stage.

“I flirt I crack dirty jokes. I often say things that make some people blush,” the statement read. “But I do not threaten physically or assault anyone. Not ever. It is not in my DNA. I will own my human flaws for being and saying inappropriate things. But I will never admit conduct that never occurred. That would be dishonest and done for expediency without truth.

Three years ago, the city of West Hollywood paid a $500,000 settlement to late Los Angeles City Council deputy who worked under Duran, to settle allegations of sexual harassment he made against Duran. The harass- ment claims were not of a physi- cal nature, but Duran denied any wrongdoing in that case.

Duran was re-elected in 2017. In two phone interviews last week, the mayor said the #MeToo culture is partly re- sponsible for what he feels has been a rush to judgement after accusations that have not been proven. He quoted the queen in “Alice in Wonderland,” who said “sentence first, verdict after- wards.”

Councilwoman Lauren Meister also said she encouraged due process. But many of the coun- cil’s constituents said they felt multiple accusations were unbe- fitting an elected leader and war- rant Duran’s removal.

Dennis Gleason, a policy direc- tor for Los Angeles City Councilman Joe Buscaino, said he received “unwanted sexual advances” and comments from Duran via Grande during the National League of Cities Conference in Washington, D.C., last year.

“How would you respond when someone you respect, a mentor, a leader, will take no action for an answer?” said Gleason, whose boyfriend, Mike Gele, works for the city of West Hollywood.

“I also thought once he knew who I was, who I work for and who my boyfriend was, that he would do something. But he did not act. Multiple witnesses and perhaps apologize for the actions he committed, and move he continued. “But he did not stop, he continued to make sexual com- ments and continued to make unwanted sexual advances toward me.”

Duran made a sexually vulgar joke to that member, though riders can pass the city’s rules will allow scooter riders to pass other scooters and impounded the vehi- cles it found, prompting Bird to call the right of way or are oth- ers, including some people who were stopped.

Local coalition launches ‘Everyone Works’ campaign

At a breakfast forum at the L.A. County Downtown Homeless Coalition, a collective commit- ment to provide employment to 15,000 people experiencing homelessness in the Los Angeles region by 2022.

“Everyone in need deserves a paying job over the next three years,” Mayor Eric Garcetti said. “Our work together will be the difference between someone stay- ing on the street and starting anew.”

The collaborative and its part- ners will be engaging housing and workforce providers, as well as securing commitments from labor and other key stake- holders.

For information, visit goodwill- soc.org.

Answers from page 21

WeHo mayor under scrutiny following sexual harassment allegations in Gay Men’s Chorus

WeHo series hosts ‘Defending Civil Rights in the Trump Era’

The city of West Hollywood’s Human Rights Speakers Series and the UCLA School of Law’s David J. Epstein Program will host “Defending Civil Rights in the Trump Era,” a conversation with Vanita Gupta, the president and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and Karin Wang, the executive director of the David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy at the UCLA School of Law.

The event will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 26, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the West Hollywood library’s council chambers.

Gupta is a long-time civil rights lawyer who heads the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, one of the nation’s leading organizations fighting the current administration. She will be in con- versation with Wang, a former civil rights lawyer at Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles.

From 2014-17, Gupta served as principal deputy assistant attorney general and head of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division, overseeing high-profile matters such as the investigations of the Ferguson, Baltimore and Chicago police departments; the challenge to North Carolina’s HB2 law and other transgender rights lit- igation; and enforcement of educa- tion, law, hate crimes and other statutes to combat religious discrimi- nation. Prior to joining the DOJ, Gupta litigated detention, mass incarcer- ation, wrongful conviction and other criminal justice issues at the ACLU and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

The West Hollywood library is located at 625 N. San Vicente Blvd. A reception will immediately follow the event. The event is free, but se- curing is limited; RSVP is required at btny.blrs/Feb2019.

Scooters, bikes, other dockless devices coming to L.A. as part of the city’s plan for regulation

The bike and scooter compa- nies have to carry insurance and reach out to the public through websites or other means, among other requirements.

They also will keep track of their vehicles to make sure they comply with the law, including rules that ban the scooters and bikes from being left in leading zones or in places that impede pedestrian traffic or sidewalks for users.

WeHo’s new leader David Ryu said the law “will guide the way for scooters and bikes to be used as a complement to public transportation.”

Many folks love the new option to leave the car at home and get around town, but I also know some community members are frustrated with dockless scooters that are illegally or irre- sponsibly parked,” he said.

Ryu, who introduced a motion to regulate dockless transportation to the City Council in 2017, said he thinks the city’s rules will allow the bike and scooter compa- nies to succeed while protecting neighborhoods and finding a way for everyone to use the road.

What happens to the vehicles when users are done is a partic- ular focus, Ryu said.

Under the new law, dockless companies are required to collect illegally parked bikes and scooters and create fliers for people to report scooters and bikes that block the right of way or are oth- erwise illegally parked,” he said.

Concerns aside, Ryu said the scooters and bikes can also help L.A.’s notoriously congested traf- fic by helping people get to and get home from public transit cent- ers.

Oliver Hou, a transportation engineering associate for LADOT, said the scooters and bikes might help with street traf- fic.

“They take up less space. If you were to replace a car trip with a bicycle trip or a scooter trip, it has the potential to relieve congestion in places that are very congested,” Hou said.

Ryu said tens of thousands of dockless vehicles sounds like a lot, but when compared to the area being served, it’s “really not that much - especially compared to the 7.7 million cars on the road in L.A. every day.”

Other cities, however, haven’t been so accepting.

West Hollywood has banned scooters from parking in city lim- its, though riders can pass through on their way to some- where else. Beverly Hills banned scooters and impounded the vehi- cles it found, prompting Bird to sue the city late last year. The lawsuit is pending.

“Everyone in need deserves a chance to rebuild their lives – that’s why our administration is committing to connect 5,000 homeless Angelenos with the opportunity for a good- paying job over the next three years,” Mayor Eric Garcetti said. “Our work together will be the difference between someone stay- ing on the street and starting anew.”

The collaborative and its part- ners will be engaging housing and workforce providers, as well as securing commitments from large employers and other key stake- holders.

For information, visit goodwill- soc.org.

WeHo series hosts ‘Defending Civil Rights in the Trump Era’

Vanita Gupta and Karin Wang will host a conversation as part of the speaker series

The city of West Hollywood’s Human Rights Speakers Series and the UCLA School of Law’s David J. Epstein Program will host “Defending Civil Rights in the Trump Era,” a conversation with Vanita Gupta, the president and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and Karin Wang, the executive director of the David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy at the UCLA School of Law.

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Beverly Hills Unified continues reconfiguration

From page 1

board’s Feb. 19 meeting who want- ed to keep the name. “It is the last remaining vestige of the tract of land upon which the school was built,” she said. Deputized as a spokesperson and given its name to the then-new elementary school built to serve the students who resided in that section of Beverly Hills.”

With a study session scheduled for March 6, the councilman said there were a few houses in the Hollywood Hills area that frequenters describe as being loud and unruly gatherings. “It’s not just about the middle school,” Breyg said. “There are incredible enhancements to our ele- mentary schools, including the instrumental music, choir music, art, we have makerspaces and sci- ence labs.”

Under the new configuration, K- 5 students at El Rodeo School, which will close in June for two years of construction, will move to Hawthorne School; K-5 students at Beverly Vista will move to Horace Mann School. All 6-8 grade stu- dents will move to the former Beverly Vista School. District administration is going to assemble a series of sub- committees to assist in the process, and the change, which will take effect in the 2019-20 school year.

The councilman said there were a few houses in the Hollywood Hills for sale after the ordinance went into effect, with owners realizing they would have a harder time using their properties as de facto nightclubs. For the issues that per- sist, Ryu said he would be “more aggressive” in any revisions to the law that LAPD or the city attor- ney’s office might recommend. But the law is still in place and there are still learning the ins and outs.

Officer Brian White, one of the senior lead officers in Hollywood Division assigned to the Hollywood Hills, said it took sev- eral months for police to establish enforcement policy after the ordi- nance was passed. A few officers were trained for a pilot program before the training was extended to officers throughout the depart- ment.

One of the challenges in the first year of enforcing the new law, said, include Airbnb guests who rent properties and throw parties with no knowledge of, or no regard for, the law.

“For them, a first time fine of $100 isn’t that big of a deal,” White said, referring to the initial penalty of $100. “It’s not just about the middle school.”

LAPD’s Discovery Section pro- duced a list of two citations issued under the new Order in 2015-18. White said in addition to “at least seven” citations issued under the new law, at least a couple more have been issued and then reclassified under a dif- ferent noise ordinance section, “part of the learning process,” he said.

Parties in Hollywood Hills still causing problems, but new law shows signs of helping curb the problem

From page 1

Almost one year since its pas- sage, the law has helped police and the city attorney’s office to curb the loud music, congested streets, public drunkenness and other symptoms of nuisance parties, but the same issues continue to linger for some residents throughout the hills.

“This is going to continue,” said Fichl, who has lived on North Caruso Avenue for 45 years. “It goes away for awhile and then comes back.”

Anastasia Mann, president of the Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council, said the ordinance had been “extremely effective” in some cases, but for others “the party houses are as bad as ever, frankly.” She said an Uber driver told her that he had recently been asked to park his car for a house party he heard about on social media.

LAPD logs show 1,618 calls to police about parties in 2018, with the number of calls made each year. To date, approximately seven cita- tions have been issued by LAPD under the new Party House Ordinance. Based off citations from LAPD Hollywood Division from 2015-18, the city attorney’s office has handled six cases that resulted in misdemeanor filings, three cases that are currently under review and six cases sent to hear- ing. Twenty-two nuisance letters were issued.

“We noticed a drop in some of the infamous party houses throughout the Hollywood Hills,” said L.A. City Councilman Gil Ryu, 4th District, who authored the law. The councilman said there were a few houses in the Hollywood Hills for sale after the ordinance went into effect, with owners realizing they would have a harder time using their properties as de facto nightclubs. For the issues that per- sist, Ryu said he would be “more aggressive” in any revisions to the law that LAPD or the city attor- ney’s office might recommend. But the law is still in place and there are still learning the ins and outs.

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Statewide changes to funding for public schools have contributed to the budget deficit, over- staffing of teachers and projected budget deficits the district has faced in recent years.

Kevin Allen, who will be the new middle school’s principal, was the facilitator on the Brand Identity committee. He said Beverly Vista Middle School and Beverly Hills High School will have two iron- trunners, and polling students, staff and parents might have factor into the decision. The committee held what turned out to be its last meeting on Friday morning, closed the votes and announced its decision.

Student Transition and Athletic coommittee were also formed, and Extra-Curricular committees will be formed in the coming months.

Supervisors vote to develop diversion road map

In addition to its rejection of the proposed women’s jail at Mirza Loma and approval of a mental health treatment center for inmates, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion, authored by Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, that directs the county to step up the process of developing a road map for scaling up county diversion efforts so that men and women who will be better served by com- munity-based diversion programs instead of a series of sentences for them.

The motion establishes an Alternatives to Incarceration Working Group that will compile a report in the next nine months to outline how to increase the avail- ability of treatment options and alternatives to custody; the kind of programs and facilities needed to scale diversion, and a plan for how to establish such facilities; staffing and funding recommendations and recommendations for legisla- tive or policy changes needed to support the development and operation of these facilities.

The County’s Office of Diversion and Reentry, estab- lished in 2015, has succeeded in diverting 3,000 justice-involved men and women into communi- ty-based funding recommendations for supportive housing, and with additional resources these and other diversion programs could be expanded.

Each of the supervisors made clear that our ultimate goal is to reduce the jail population, increase diversion, and provide a continuum of care that guides patients through needed health services at whatever level of care is most appropriate at that time,” Kuehl said. “This is the next step. With this motion, we are committing ourselves toward that goal by developing a road map for identifying much-needed services and facilities, as well as the resources to fund them as quickly as possible. Too often care is most appropriate for a sub- stance abuse or mental health diagnosis have gone without the support they need to recover, rehabilitate and re-integrate into society. We intend to change that.”

Beverly Hills launches nurse practitioner program

The city of Beverly Hills Fire Department is launching a nurse practitioner program, an unparal- leled model in Los Angeles County.

Through a unique and innova- tive emergency medical service model, the program is designed to deliver advanced, efficient and effective healthcare in the pre- hospital setting. BHFD’s vehicle, Nurse Practitioner 1, will respond to calls for service in the field. Staffed with both a nurse practitioner and firefighting para- medic with oversight from a board certified emergency medi- cine physician, NPI is equipped with an array of medications, select laboratory diagnostics and technical medical equipment.

Whether responding to 911 calls or following up on at home patient referrals, NPI will provide mobile urgent care while helping to determine the best treatments for long-term care.

For information, visit beverly- hills.org/citygovernment/depart- ment/firedepartment.

Jay Leno to be honored at Friends of United Hatzalah gala

Friends of United Hatzalah of Israel announced that Jay Leno, former host of “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno,” will be the recipient of the Humanitarian Award for his support and work with Hatzalah at the inaugural Los Angeles Gala, taking place on Thursday, Feb. 28, at the Beverly Hilton, featuring a performance by Israeli recording artist Dudi Ahaton and hosted by Israeli model Esti Ginzburg.

More than 1,000 people are expected to attend the philan- thropic event, including elected officials, civic figures and community leaders. The evening will pay tribute to the 5,000 volun- teers around the country that are the core of United Hatzalah of Israel and the organization’s capabilities of providing service to an entire country around the clock – 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

“We are very excited to be holding our first gala in Los Angeles,” said Eli Beer, presi- dent and founder of United Hatzalah of Israel. “The commu- nity that we have been serving in supporting the lifesaving work that we do in Israel and we are happy to be able to provide them with this chance to partner with us and get more involved with saving lives in Israel.”

United Hatzalah is the largest independent, nonprofit, fully volunteer emergency medical service organization that provides the fastest and free emergency medical first response throughout Israel. United Hatzalah’s service is available to all people regard- less of race, religion or national origin. With the help of the unique GPS technology and iconic ambulances, the average response time is less than three minutes across the country and 90 seconds in metropolitan areas.

For information, visit israelhe- cue.org or uhatzalah.com.

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