Gold’s term as mayor ends

■ John Mirisch becomes new Beverly Hills mayor, Les Friedman sworn in to first term as vice mayor

BY LUKE HAROLD

Following bans on flavored tobacco products and smoking in multiunit housing, Beverly Hills City Councilman Julian Gold’s one-year term as mayor ended Wednesday night as the city attempts to become the first in the U.S. to end tobacco sales. We did a whole lot of things for health,” said Gold, co-chairman of Cedars-Sinai’s Dept. of Anesthesiology, reflecting on the past year. “As a physician, that always feels good.”

Residents oppose Viper Room project

■ The 15-story structure would involve demolition of the iconic music venue

BY CAMERON KISZLA

On March 19, a contentious community meeting at the West Hollywood Library highlighted the public opposition to what some people say is an attempt to remove a piece of music history from West Hollywood.

West Hollywood-based Silver Creek Development has plans to tear down the Viper Room, which is known as a place to catch famous musicians in intimate shows and was once co-owned by Johnny Depp, and the other businesses on that block of Sunset Boulevard and build a hotel and apartment building in its place.

The 15-story structure by Morphosis Architects, which features one plant-adorned vertical tower and a crescent-shaped tower that join at the top and the bottom, will contain 115 hotel rooms, 31 market-rate residential units and 10 affordable housing units.

Proposed project near Park La Brea raises concern

BY CAMERON KISZLA

Park La Brea residents had a mixed reaction when they first heard of the Town and Country project, which aims to build a mixed-use building at the southeast corner of Third and Fairfax avenues, said retired Army Col. Donald Harris, secretary-treasurer of the Park La Brea Residents Association. The original idea was to build a tower that would reach more than 20 stories tall at the northwest corner of Park La Brea. “That massive building would’ve blocked light and air to a whole subdivision of our Park La Brea community,” Harris said.

But a variety of concerns led more than 50 people to the library’s community room to address Jennifer Alkire and Doug Vu, senior planners for the city of West Hollywood, and four representatives of the development team.

Plans for annual Pride in WeHo underway

■ Heilman replaces Duran on subcommittee that works with CSW

BY LUKE HAROLD

West Hollywood City Councilman John Heilman will replace Councilman John Duran on the council’s subcommittee that works with Christopher Street West on the annual Pride celebration.

Duran was removed from the subcommittee, which also includes Mayor John D’Amico, at the last meeting following accusations of sexual harassment against Duran from Gay Men’s Chorus members. City Attorney Mike Jenkins said a formal censure of Duran over the recent allegations will be on the council’s April 1 agenda.

Estevan Montemayor, the board president of Christopher Street West, said this year’s Pride, scheduled for June 8-9, with a free kick-off event on June 7, is “focusing on uniting our community.”

Ongoing construction at West Hollywood Park created problems fitting all the attendees last year, so a series of street closures are under consideration for this year’s event to increase the available space. Street closures under consideration include Santa Monica Boulevard, from La Cienega Boulevard to Doheny Drive; San Vicente Boulevard, from Melrose Avenue to Santa Monica Boulevard; and Robertson Boulevard, from Melrose Avenue to Santa Monica Boulevard.

“Moving to a full street closure is very expensive for the city, it’s very impactful for the residents and the businesses,” Heilman said. “I’m not necessarily convinced we should be doing this going forward, on a long-term basis, but certainly this year it makes sense since the park is still not going to be fully open.”

The configuration of the week-long Pride event, he said, will be under consideration at the council’s April 1 work session with input from the public.

Residents, who come from throughout the city, pay in taxes for the Pride event, “so we should be very thoughtful about how we use those dollars,” Heilman said.

Photo by John Viscott/courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Beverly Hills City Councilman Julian Gold began his second term as mayor last year, when he was sworn in by his wife with his daughter looking on.
'Cars & Fashion' Join the Petersen Automotive Museum for an evening of fall and winter apparel by fashion icons Neiman Khan and Nicolas Jebran at the new exhibit Winning Numbers: The First, The Fastest, The Famous on Friday, March 22, from 7 to 11 p.m. The event is part of the Cars & Fashion series and includes a cocktail reception, dinner, fashion show and party. Tickets start at $53 for members, $70 for nonmembers and $120 for VIP access. 6060 Wilshire Blvd. (323)364-6311, petersen.org.

The Wolves Enjoy the Los Angeles premiere of Sarah DeLappe’s "The Wolves" running Friday, March 22, through Sunday, March 24, at the Echo Theater Company. From the safety of their suburban stretch circle, a group of 16- and 17-year-old female indoor soccer players navigate big questions and wage tiny battles with the ferocity of a pack of adolescent warriors. Showtimes are 8 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday and Monday and 4 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are $34. 3269 Castias Ave. (310)807-3733, cachetheatrcympy.com.

Piano Spheres benefit Piano Spheres is holding a “Madhatter’s Tea Party” on Saturday, March 23, at 3 p.m. at a private location in Hancock Park. The benefit for Piano Spheres includes bus for sale from the personal collection of Catherine Unick, as well as vintage costume jewelry and collectibles. Location provided upon RSVP. (323)326-0326, or email pianospheres@gmail.com.

The Marriage Zone Playwright and director Jeff Gould’s “The Marriage Zone” has been extended from March 23, through Sunday, March 24, at the Alex Theatre. The play is the fourth in a series of comedies exploring the dynamics of relationships between men and women. Gould’s previous works in the series include “Troubled Waters,” “I’Ree Six After Marriage” and “It’s Hot Sex.” Showtimes are 8 p.m. Saturday; 3 p.m. Sunday; and 7 p.m. Tuesday. Tickets are $54. 1211 Fourth St., Santa Monica. (800)838-3006, brownpapertickets.com/event/3919665.

LACO to perform music of James Newton Howard Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra performs the world premiere of Grammy, Emmy and Academy Award-nominated composer James Newton Howard’s “Concerto for Orchestra and Cello” on Saturday, March 23, at 8 p.m. at the Alex Theatre, and Sunday, March 24, at 7 p.m. at UCLA’s Royce Hall. Newton Howard’s work, underwritten by and dedicated to Marcia Mariano, was written for and spotlights Principal Cello Andrew Shulman. Conductor Laureate Jeffrey Kahane will lead the orchestra, which will also perform Andrew Lloyd Webber’s “The Phantom of the Opera,” and Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 14, and Symphony No. 36, “Linz.” LACO Principal Timpani and Percussion Wade Culbreath takes center stage on marimba for Gabriella Smith’s “Riprap” for marimba and strings. Newton Howard, one of the most versatile and respected composers currently working in film, has composed scores for more than 120 movies during a 30-year career, including the Oscar-nominated scores for “Defiance,” “Michael Clayton,” “The Village,” “The Fugitive,” “The Prince of Persia” and “My Best Friend’s Wedding.” He also received Golden Globe nominations for his orchestral score for Peter Jackson’s blockbustermade of “King Kong,” his symphonic score for “Defiance,” and his songs from “Junior” and “One Fine Day.” He won the 2009 Grammy Award for his co-score with Hans Zimmer for “Dark Night,” and an Emmy for the theme to the Andre Braugher series “Gideon’s Crossing.” In 2008, World Soundtrack Award named Los Angeles" Newton Howard Film Composer of the Year for his work on the films “Wanted,” “The Pink Panther,” “Juno,” “Changeling,” and “I Am Legend,” and he has received BMI’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013. Newton Howard has also written for classical music artists and ensembles and has worked with popular music icons Elton John, Rod Stewart and Chaka Khan, among others.

Newton Howard’s performance at the Odyssey Theatre will be presented by the Los Angeles Philharmonic as part of its 2019-2020 season. For information and tickets, visit laphil.com. The Odyssey Theatre is located at 1925 Sunland Ave., 90026.

'Faith Healer' “Faith Healer,” playwright Brian Friel’s mysterious, humorous and unforgettable work about the life and times of an itinerant Irish healer, runs through Saturday, March 23, through Sunday, May 12, at the Odyssey Theatre. The play examines whether Fantastic Francis Hardy was a miracle worker or a showman in search of a dollar. Showtimes are 4 p.m. Wednesday; 8 p.m. Thursday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets start at $32. 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd. (310)855-5555 ext. 2, odysseytheatre.com.

Los Angeles Business News
2 March 2019
2019 Calendar

LA Philharmonic presents "Oscar, With Love," a tribute to pianist Oscar Peterson, on Saturday, March 23, at 8 p.m. at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Peterson, considered one of the greatest pianists of the 20th century, was beloved by jazz and classical audiences for his virtuosity, influenced by his classical training and jazz icon Art Tatum. The man Duke Ellington called “the magician of the keyboard” was also a prolific composer and will be remembered as a true line-up of great performing Peterson’s compositions and selections from the album, “Jazz at the spanish apalace.” Tickets start at $57. 111 S. Grand Ave, laphil.com.

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Carroll Park News/Beverly Press
March 21, 2019

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Hollywood history Hollywood Heritage’s Richard Adams will present a program on the life and career of theater, film and couturier designer Gilbert Adrian on Sunday, March 24, from 2 to 4 p.m. Adrian created costumes and apparel for “The Wizard of Oz,” including the famed ruby slippers, as well as hundreds of other Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer films from 1928-41. The presentation is part of the Afternoon 46th the Barn series. General admission is $15. Hollywood Heritage, 2100 N. Highland Ave. hollywoodheritage.org.

Learn to speak Japanese Learn to speak Japanese through acting during a workshop on Tuesday, March 26, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles. Through role playing, students acquire language skills and to speak spontaneously using basic Japanese phrases. He will also share his cross-cultural experiences as a Japanese actor working in movies and theatrical productions in the United States. Admission is free. 5700 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 100. (323)761-7510, jflak.org.
Formosa becomes WeHo’s newest local landmark

BY LUKE HAROLD

The Formosa Cafe, scheduled to reopen this May or June, has been designated a local cultural resource by the city of West Hollywood.

“Please do what’s right for the place,” Bobby Green, a partner in 1933 Group, which owns the Formosa, told the council before it unanimously approved the designation. “Let’s save it for future generations.”

The Formosa is looking for a general manager and other staff members as it prepares for its reopening. There will be a hiring event at the restaurant on March 5 from 1-3 p.m.

The cafe was frequented over the years by singers, actors and mobsters during Hollywood’s Golden Age, but closed suddenly in December 2016. Following some uncertainty about the building’s fate, 1933 Group, which owns the Formosa, told the council before it unanimously approved the designation in January. The council recognized it as one of nearly 60 properties throughout the city that could be eligible for historic designation at the local, state or national level. The city’s Historic Preservation Commission recommended the designation in January, and local residents and preservation enthusiasts have long supported it.

“The iconic Formosa Cafe on Historic Route 66 played an important role in West Hollywood’s commercial development, especially in the growing film industry,” said Victor Omelczenko, board president of the nonprofit West Hollywood Preservation Alliance, after the commission approval in January. Omelczenko and another member of the alliance were not available for comment before press time.

Several key details of Formosa’s origins are unknown, including its architect and builder, according to the city of West Hollywood’s historic preservation records. The construction date is estimated between 1920-29. Elvis Presley, John Wayne, Marilyn Monroe and Frank Sinatra were among its regulars. Christopher Lloyd and John Cusack, who advocated for landmark designation when the cafe faced the threat of demolition in the early 1990s, were two of the Formosa’s contemporary regulars. It has also made several memorable cameos appearances in “L.A. Confidential” and other movies and TV shows.

The interior was renovated in mid-2015, a little more than one year before the Formosa closed. 1933 Group is working with the grandson of former owner Lem Quon to decorate the cafe with some of the same autographed celebrity photos and other artifacts that used to be on display, and the menu will have a “modern twist” on the Mongolian beef, Beijing chicken and other favorite dishes from the past.

A total of 762 places in West Hollywood have been designated as cultural resources, including 15 that have a national designation.

Feinstein, Harris, Schiff introduce bill to protect Rim of the Valley

U.S. Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris and Rep. Adam Schiff introduced the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act, a bill to add more than 191,000 acres of the Rim of the Valley Corridor to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

“Protecting natural places like the Rim of the Valley Corridor from urban expansion is essential for improving the quality of life in the Los Angeles basin,” Feinstein said. “Our legislation would connect more Southern California residents to the trails and vast open spaces in the foothills of the surrounding mountains. It would also protect sensitive habitat for California wildlife including mountain lions, bobcats and golden eagles. The foothills surrounding the Los Angeles basin are a truly special place worthy of stronger protection.”

“The Rim of the Valley is the critical bridge between our urban city centers, suburbs in the Los Angeles basin and the spectacular wilderness that surrounds us—our bill would help protect these lands for generations to come,” Schiff said. “As more of this area is developed and open space diminishes, the wildlife it supports is increasingly at risk. Congress must preserve the Rim of the Valley for the next generations, but we must act quickly on a bipartisan basis or this once-in-a-century opportunity will be gone forever.”

The expansion would allow the National Park Service and the local community to work together to better protect natural resources and habitat in the corridor and improve access for recreational and educational purposes.

The legislation gives the park service the authority to implement capital improvements, including new trails, roads and public facilities; monitor and study wildlife and ecosystems; participate in cooperative conservation and recreation planning; provide technical assistance for resource protection and recreation planning; contribute financially to projects that protect important natural resources; and acquire land through donation, exchange or purchase.

The proposed expansion respects existing private property rights and local land-use authorities. It would not require a landowner to participate in any conservation or recreation activities or place additional restrictions on property owners. The legislation does not allow for land acquisition through eminent domain.
Pedestrian struck and killed on Robertson Boulevard

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A 75-year-old man was struck and killed by a vehicle on March 17 in the 100 block of South Robertson Boulevard, near the intersection of Wilshire Boulevard.

The Los Angeles County coroner's department identified the victim as Los Angeles resident Philip Difranco. He was struck by a 2006 Toyota Corolla at approximately 8:30 p.m. while crossing Robertson Boulevard outside of a marked crosswalk.

The driver pulled over and waited for police to arrive. Alcohol or drugs were not a factor, and authorities did not cite or arrest the unidentified driver.

No body was found. The victim was pronounced by paramedics and later pronounced dead by coroners at the scene.

The collision remains under investigation. Anyone with information is urged to contact the LAPD's West Traffic Division.

By Edwin Folven

4 March 21, 2019 Park Labrea News/Beverly Press

Man downed from crane after more than three hours

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A man who authorities said was experiencing a psychiatric emergency climbed approximately 80 feet up a crane in Koreatown Monday evening, prompting a large police and fire department response.

Los Angeles Fire Department personnel were notified about the man climbing up the crane in the 3000 block of W. Eighth Street at approximately 4:45 p.m. Police responded to a request from a security guard.

Preciado said the man was in his 20s and was distraught over family and financial issues. He was taken to a hospital for a psychiatric evaluation and was to be held for 72 hours.

By Edwin Folven

A large amount of blood and bloody graffiti was found near the playground and recreation center at Pan Pacific Park in early March.

The Los Angeles Police Department is searching for four items of original furniture from the Samuel Freeman House in Hollywood.

The house was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, and the furniture was removed and placed in storage after the 1994 Northridge earthquake. The four pieces of furniture disappeared from a locked storage facility sometime between July 5 and Sept. 17, 2012.

There were no signs of forced entry.

The Los Angeles Fire Department was notified about the man around 8 p.m.

Preciado said the man was in his 20s and was distraught over family and financial issues. He was taken to a hospital for a psychiatric evaluation and was to be held for 72 hours.

By Edwin Folven

 Symbols originally thought to be anti-Semitic in park no longer considered a hate incident

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Wilshire Division detectives are no longer investigating a case in which bloody symbols were scratched on a bench in Pan Pacific Park as a hate incident after authorities determined the symbols resembling swastikas were actually Hindu symbols.

The incident drew widespread attention on March 4 after park employees found a large amount of blood in and around a restroom near the park’s recreation center, and the symbols marked on a concrete bench near the playground. Because the symbols were initially believed to be swastikas, they closely resembled, and there was a large amount of blood found, the LAPD launched an extensive investigation that involved using a bloodhound to follow a scent and blood trail leading away from the area. The dog followed the trail south through the park and east on Third until it went cold.

Nearly 72 hours later, the man who had been making a pattern on the park’s northbound side of the street was arrested. He was linked to the incident by DNA analysis.

Delgado added that investigators are determined to get to the bottom of the situation.

“His crime is unusual to find a substantial amount of blood in a bathroom and that’s why we got the blood hounds,” Delgado added. “If anyone out there knows anything about it, we would like them to call us.”

Anyone with information is urged to call Wilshire Division detectives at (213)922-8205.

Missing furniture from Freeman House sought

The Beverly Hills City Council joined the many voices condemning the horrific murders of dozens of innocent civilians in New Zealand.

“Our hearts break for the people of New Zealand,” Councilman Julian Gold said. “Once again, an unimaginable tragedy has left lives senseless, and we can only pray for the day when we can live in peace.”

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West Hollywood paves way for digital advertisements on the Sunset Strip

Up to 20 signs could be built in next 15 years

BY CAMERON KISZLA

In the 1960s and 1970s, the Sunset Strip was known for its large billboards and tall wall signs that advertised the newest records from musicians who now fall into the classic rock category. Through the years, the content of those billboards changed -- now advertisements encourage passersby to check out the newest television shows -- but the allure remains for large outdoor advertisements in West Hollywood.

Along Sunset Boulevard, many of the billboards are static, meaning they only show one advertisement, but there may soon be more digital signs that can show multiple ads and serve the public good as well.

On March 19, the West Hollywood City Council voted unanimously to approve an amendment to the zoning ordinance and an amendment to the Sunset Specific Plan.

By doing so, the council “adopted the rules that will guide the future of advertising on the Strip,” said Biana Siegel, long-range planning manager for the city. Up to 20 new billboards could come to the Strip over the next 15 years.

Through the billboards and tall wall signs can be static or digital, market trends show the new advertising spaces are likely to all be digital, Siegel said.

The billboards will also display civic announcements and art, moving and still imagery, 17.5 percent of the time.

One of artists are now working in digital media, and we think this is a great opportunity to create almost an outdoor museum of digital art for people to enjoy while on the Strip,” Siegel said.

Councilman John Heilman called the policy a “win-win.”

“It’s a win for the sign companies and the property owners, but it’s also a win for the community. Ultimately, this is a good compromise between the businesses and the city,” he said.

The exact amount of time the art and civic announcements will be shown will be the subject of some disagreement among public comment, but everyone seemed to agree that the art will add to the atmosphere on the Sunset Strip.

“This would make West Hollywood a world leader in presenting digital artwork on this magnificent scale,” said Catherine Lee, who spoke during public comment.

The city plans to retain a curator to select the art that will be displayed and will host quarterly meetings with the billboard owners to get their input about the art that’s chosen.

Then, the West Hollywood Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission will make the final decisions on which artwork will be shown and when it will be exhibited.

The city will schedule the art a year in advance so billboard owners can have an idea of what will run alongside their advertisements.

Though the motion passed unanimously, several council members raised concerns, especially concerning the scoring system that will be developed to choose which billboards and wall signs will get brought to the council for the necessary approval.

Councilman John Duran said he wanted to be sure the scoring system rewarded creativity, not mediocrity, and Heilman and Mayor Pro Tem Lindsey Horvath said the application that has already been filed should receive some sort of bonus to give them priority.

Some concerns were also raised about the digital displays themselves.

Councilwoman Lauren Meister said she was worried that the light from digital billboards would adversely affect residents and businesses, such as hotels, where incoming light could cause problems.

“I don’t want us to look like Vegas. I really don’t, and that’s my fear,” she said.

Siegel said the next step will be for West Hollywood to decide how to score the criteria for applicants, and she said she expects a call for billboard project proposals to go out this summer.

The city will probably begin with about 12 billboards over the next couple of years, which will allow the city to see how the program is progressing and save some billboard space for future applicants, Siegel said.

County seeks study of weed killer’s effect on health and environment

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion on March 19 directing county departments to stop using the herbicide glyphosate while an investigation is conducted to examine whether the chemical has potential for negative impacts on human, animal and environmental health.

Glyphosate is a main ingredient in the herbicide “Roundup,” which is used by many public agencies and private companies for weed abatement. There is a growing body of scientific study about the safety of using herbicides and the potential for negative impacts on human, animal and environmental health, said Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th District, who co-authored the motion.

“…in 2015 study led by 17 experts from 11 countries the World Health Agency’s International Agency for Research on Cancer concluded that glyphosate should be classified as ‘probably carcinogenic to humans’,” Barger said.

Siegel added, “That’s exactly what this motion calls for.”

The motion directs the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, in conjunction with the department of Public Health, Harbors and the Agricultural Commission, to study the chemical’s use and report back to the board within 30 days.

As part of the City’s new organics waste program, the City will be providing green waste containers for multifamily residential buildings to dispose of green waste. Qualifying commercial businesses will get a site visit and a green waste container for their organic waste.

Businesses and multi-family properties of five units or more that generate 4 or more cubic yards of solid waste per week will be required to recycle its organic waste. Organic waste includes items like food scraps and landscape waste.

This is part of the City’s ongoing efforts in working with residents and businesses toward achieving the State’s sustainability goal and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Third Street Tour Bus Station & Restroom Facility Project

Construction on the public right-of-way along the south side of West Third Street is underway. The project will enhance the overall City visitor experience, as well as the aesthetics of this location.

The improvements entail a replacement of the existing paveway with a new sidewalk and new landscaping against the Edison yard wall. Features of the project will be comprised of seating alcoves in bus shelter, and an information kiosk. Improvements will also include replacement of concrete curb and gutter and reconstruction of three curb ramps at the intersection of Fourth St. and Third St.

A new restroom facility will be constructed on the northeast corner of Civic Center Dr. and Third Street within the Public Works warehouse yard area.

If you would be impacted by the above-mentioned projects, you will receive a project notice separately.
Hollywood Hills residents urged to be prepared if disaster strikes

BY LUKE HAROLD

Months removed from the devastating Woolsey fire, the Los Angeles Fire Department and other local agencies hosted an emergency preparation and evacuation town hall for Hollywood Hills residents on March 16.

“We need folks to be ready and start thinking ahead,” said Barbara Mariscal, a disaster program manager for the American Red Cross. “This is a great opportunity to kick off the year with a focus on safety.”

Many residents have a series of “disaster denials,” including “it won’t happen to me” and “it’s going to be so bad, it doesn’t matter what I do,” Mariscal said. But having the foresight to make sure you have your phone charger, medicines you might require and other necessities will come in handy in a shelter following an evacuation when help from government agencies could be at least a few days away.

“All those basic items are important to hold you down at a shelter for at least three days,” Mariscal said.

During the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, many residents flocked to park areas for safety because the open space provided a sense of security. With Los Angeles overdue for another big earthquake, city officials are expecting residents to make their way to open spaces, including city parks, in the immediate aftermath.

“Our job will be to just bring resources to those areas and help people in those areas,” said Sonya Jimenez, emergency management coordinator for the city of Los Angeles.

Excessive rain can also pose a risk. Los Angeles City Councilman David Ryu, 4th District, recalled the heavy rainfall that was expecting from the El Nino a few years ago. In November 2015, Mayor Eric Garcetti created an El Nino task force to make sure the city was adequately prepared. The heavy rains ended up missing Los Angeles, but the relatively mild downpour did create a few safety hazards.

“Even with a mini El Nino, there were so many mudslides, so much rain,” Ryu said.

A year later, a concrete slab of the foundation of a house in Laurel Canyon slid down a hill and blocked a roadway due to rain.

“We knew back then, I knew it was going to be so bad, it doesn’t matter what I do,” Mariscal said. But having the foresight to make sure you have your phone charger, medicines you might require and other necessities will come in handy in a shelter following an evacuation when help from government agencies could be at least a few days away.

“No one will think you’re a wimp for bringing a blanket or pillow,” Ryu said. “We need folks to be ready and start thinking ahead.”

Hollywood Hills residents are urged to be prepared if disaster strikes.

Brownley introduces bills to fix VA funding process

U.S. Rep. Julia Brownley (D-Westlake Village), chairwoman of the House Veterans’ Affairs Health Subcommittee, introduced two bills to ensure that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has the resources it needs to care for America’s heroes.

The “Veterans Healthcare Improvement Act” would require the Government Accountability Office to conduct an independent audit of VA’s medical care budget so that Congress can ensure there are enough resources for veterans to get the care they’ve earned and deserve. The “Build a Better VA Act” would fix a bureaucratic budgeting rule that is an unnecessary roadblock to quickly expanding veterans’ access to VA care in underserved communities across the nation.

“President Trump released limited details on his proposal for next year’s budget, and there are many unanswered questions about whether his VA healthcare budget is adequate to uphold the promises we have made to our nation’s heroes,” Brownley said. “It is imperative that VA’s budget is sufficient to meet the healthcare needs of our veterans and that it provides sufficient funds to upgrade and replace outdated facilities. VA must also be nimble and have the legal authority necessary to open new community clinics in areas of greatest need. That’s why I introduced legislation that will help us better ensure VA has the funds it needs to serve our veterans and to cut through bureaucratic red tape that is making it harder to get care to some of our most vulnerable and underserved veterans. We have a responsibility to the men and women who served our nation, and these bills will help us uphold our commitments.”

In 2006, 2007 and 2008, VA ran out of money, requiring emergency supplemental appropriations, because VA’s budget underestimated the influx of new veterans needing care. To ensure this never happened again, Congress passed a law in 2009 requiring GAO to provide an independent analysis of the department’s health care funding needs. That requirement expired in 2013, and in the years since, VA has again run low on funds—threatening access to care for many veterans. The Veterans Healthcare Improvement Act would bring back this neutral GAO assessment so that Congress can better ensure VA has the resources necessary to support the care America’s veterans have earned and deserve. Every major VA medical facility lease — those with yearly rental costs over $1 million — must be authorized by Congress, and for many years, this was done routinely. However, bureaucratic budget battles in Congress have prevented these routine authorizations from moving forward in recent years. The Build a Better VA Act would eliminate this roadblock, allowing major medical facility leases to be authorized by resolution rather than legislation — the same process currently used for other agency leases that are executed by the General Services Administration. By cutting through the bureaucracy that holds up new leases, this bill will help ensure that veterans can access the care they need, especially in underserved communities.

Brownley introduces bills to fix VA funding process.

Brownley introduces bills to fix VA funding process.
Jeffrey Prang finds and donates decades-old journals to Natural History Museum

BY CAMERON KISZLA

When D.G. Cathcart, Los Angeles County’s former chief personal property appraiser, wasjournaling about his life, his job and anything that caught his fancy, he could never have guessed how many people would show interest.

But 20 of Cathcart’s journals dating from 1934 to 1951 were discovered in the basement of the Los Angeles County Hall of Administration by Los Angeles County Assessor Jeffrey Prang, a self-described “history buff” who realized how important such documents could become.

“He was just keeping track of what’s going on that day, and now it has become history,” Prang said.

On March 18, Prang donated the journals to the Seaver Center for Western History Research at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

“I’m glad we could give it to the museum, where it can be appreciated and maybe provide some valuable insights and research opportunities for people in the future,” Prang said.

The journals contain a wide variety of information and documents.

For instance, Cathcart recorded information relating to work, like notes about “escaped assessments” – missed tax liens overlooked by the assessor – and a promotion he didn’t get. Just a few pages away, he placed newspaper clippings, like articles discussing the then-burgeoning World War II, advertisements for pianos and anything else he found interesting.

When Prang brought the journals, Betty Uyeda, a collections manager for the Seaver Center, thanked him for the donation and showed him some of the other assessor-related documents the museum already has, including fire insurance maps and the property records of famous Angelinos like Pico Pico, the last Mexican governor of Alta California and namesake of Pico Boulevard, and his brother Andrés Pico, a general state assemblyman and state senator.

Uyeda said the photographs, clippings and other papers in the journals will be preserved, scanned and cataloged for future research.

“Thank you for not throwing these materials away. It’s due to visionaries such as yourself that the museum is able to save and preserve a lot of these documents, especially these government documents,” she said.

John Caboon, another collections manager for the Seaver Center, said the journals have a lot of value because they can shed light on local government of the past, making them an ideal fit for the Seaver Center’s collection and interested in the kind of stuff that this place is about,” he said.

Prang said he was happy to be able to help, and finding the journals allowed him to pursue another of his passions: genealogy. He said he’s traced his family history back more than 1,000 years, and Prang put some of his skills to work researching Cathcart and other former assessor’s office employees on Ancestry.com.

Prang also wasn’t afraid to put his assessor skills to the test, and he took a stab at estimating the value of the journals.

“Pricelss,” he said.

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

LOCATIONS: CITYWIDE, West Hollywood, California

REQUEST: Amendment to the General Plan to incorporate the recently revised Earthquake Fault Zone Map into the Safety and Noise Element of the General Plan, and the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan as an Appendix of the General Plan.

PERMIT(S): General Plan Amendment, and any other required permits.

APPLICANT(S): City of West Hollywood

TIME/PLACE OF HEARING:
Thursday, April 4, 2019
at 6:30 p.m.
West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers
625 N. San Vicente Boulevard
West Hollywood, California 90069

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS:
Categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section §15061 (Review for Exemption)

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

For further information contact Tara Worden, Assistant Planner, in the Planning & Development Services Department at (323) 848-6409 or via email at tworden@weho.org

Yvonne Quarker, City Clerk

We сообщаем вам об обсуждении проекта. Для дополнительной информации на русском языке звоните: 323-848-6826
WeHo adding revamped bikeshare pilot program

BY LUKE HAROLD

A few months after deciding to end WeHo Pedals, a bikeshare program that was losing money and never met ridership expectations, the West Hollywood City Council voted to launch a new dockless electric bikeshare program that it hopes will be more popular with residents and visitors.

An 18-month pilot program will be established. The council considers the program to be dockless, but bicycles would have to be returned to docking stations, locked at a rack, remain on private properties with owners’ consent or left in other designated areas to avoid fines left askew on public rights of way. One company will be selected to operate the program, and bicycles will be available to users via smartphone app.

The city’s contract with CycleHop for operation of WeHo Pedals expires at the end of August, but the city can exercise a 30-day termination clause if the pilot program is ready to launch before then.

“I’m for getting rid of what we have now because we’re losing so much money on it, but I also think that we need to have infrastructure in place before we do anything,” said Councilwoman Lauren Meister, one of two votes against the proposal.

When the City Council voted to end WeHo Pedals, which operated on an approximately $200,000 deficit in its first year, a lack of bicycle lanes throughout the city was mentioned by council members as one of the obstacles. WeHo Pedals riders also struggled riding up West Hollywood’s hilly terrain, an issue the council hopes electric bicycles will solve.

Councilman John Duran was the other no vote. He said it’s unlikely that riders will return bicycles to designated areas. He also supported a Transportation Commission recommendation to include electric scooters in the pilot program. There is currently a citywide ban that prohibits scooter companies from leaving their devices within the city, with an exception for private property owners who choose to allow them.

“Enough time has passed by and it looks like, as a passing fad, that the novelty is wearing down,” Duran said. “But there are still people who are utilizing the scooters and I’d like to at least get an understanding through a pilot program of whether or not we can successfully regulate them, rather than a complete no.”

Since hitting the streets late in 2017, many Angelenos have embraced scooters as a first-mile/last-mile solution and for being environmentally friendly. But many other residents and local leaders have been worried about the safety concerns, including riders using the devices without helmets and on sidewalks within close proximity to pedestrians.

“Are we going to stop progress on a new industry that is not only here to stay but actually represents the solution, or at least a big part of a larger solution for mobility in Los Angeles and getting cars off the road?” Genevieve Morrill, president of the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, said about the scooters.

The city’s contract with CycleHop expires at the end of August, but the city can exercise a 30-day termination clause if the pilot program is ready to launch, or until the city’s contract with CycleHop expires in August.

WeHo Pedals will continue in West Hollywood until the new pilot program is ready to launch, or until the city’s contract with CycleHop expires in August.

County seeks public comment on Vision Zero plan for traffic

Los Angeles County is launching its draft Vision Zero Action Plan to guide the first five years of its effort to eliminate fatalities on roadways. It’s a plan with a mile for everyone.

Throughout March, the public is encouraged to help review and provide comments to the Vision Zero Plan that is intended to be applied to unincorporated communities where local streets and roadways are managed by the county of Los Angeles.

With Vision Zero, traffic deaths and severe injuries are looked at through the lens of actions and behaviors that can be changed through engineering, education and enforcement. Vision Zero is nothing new. It’s a traffic safety initiative that began in Sweden in the 1990s that has grown to U.S. cities and counties over the past decade.

In 2017, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors embraced bringing Vision Zero to unincorporated communities and roadways, where about 80 of those deaths and 500 of those injuries occur each year.

The draft plan identifies actions aimed at enhancing county processes, trainings and practices.

Traffic deaths are on the rise in unincorporated Los Angeles County. Between 2013-17, traffic-related deaths increased by nearly 28 percent on unincorporated county roadways. During this time, 385 people died and 1,648 people were severely injured.

Motor vehicle collisions are the leading cause of death for children 5 to 14 years old, and the third leading cause of premature death overall. About 10 percent of all fatal and severe injury collisions on unincorporated county roadways were hit and run collisions, meaning that the driver did not stop to render aid or report the collision.

Although people walking were only involved in 9 percent of all collisions (including those resulting in minor, severe, and fatal injuries) on unincorporated county roadways from 2013-17, they were involved in 20 percent of the fatal and severe injury collisions.
“I don’t remember a day I haven’t run in the last 50 years.”

- Dr. Zab Mosenifar, professor and executive vice chair of the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Department of Medicine

Mosenifar laces up his Hokas by 5 a.m. each day, then he’s out the door running in the Santa Monica Mountains. Monday through Thursday he runs six miles. On Fridays, he’s alongside a group of men he’s trained with for years and runs eight miles. On the weekends, he goes 11 to 12 miles — a total of 50 miles per week.

After each run, Mosenifar enjoys a cup of black coffee and half a bagel. He’s in his office at Cedars-Sinai by 7 a.m., and by noon he’s sipping on vegetable soup for lunch. Without fail, he takes an espresso break at 3 p.m., using the same yellow mug his daughter — now 30 — made for him as a young child. And for dinner every night, Mosenifar enjoys a dinner of pasta, with pesto and a salad with his wife of 35 years, though she eats a different meal altogether.

“I use running not just for my own solitude, but as a tremendous release of stress from work, because there can be some really tough, sad days,” said Mosenifar. “I’m disciplined. I am not someone who will have a few drinks. I go home and go for a 10-mile run, even if I already ran in the morning. That’s my bar. That’s how I try to get over some of these stresses of my life.”

Before Saturday’s race, Mosenifar said he wasn’t focused on the milestone number of 100 completed marathons. “I’m more impressed that I’ve been able to run all of these years,” said Mosenifar.

The West Hollywood closures are: Doheny Drive from North Santa Monica Boulevard to Burton Way, Burton Way from Doheny Drive to South Santa Monica Boulevard, South Santa Monica Boulevard from Rodeo Drive to Doheny Drive, Doheny Drive from South Santa Monica Boulevard to Wilshire Boulevard, Wilshire Boulevard from Rodeo Drive to South Santa Monica Boulevard, and South Santa Monica Boulevard from Wilshire Boulevard to Moreno Drive.

For more information, visit lamarathon.com.
Bridge housing to bring 72 homeless individuals indoors in Hollywood

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

More than 100 people gathered on March 19 at an open house at a new temporary homeless shelter scheduled to open next Tuesday in Hollywood.

The facility at 1533 S. Schrader Blvd. was purpose-built to house 72 men and women, and will provide on-site services to help residents transition into permanent housing. It will be run by People Assisting the Homeless and The Center at Blessed Sacrament.

The shelter is part of the mayor’s “A Bridge Home” program, which provides extra funding for resources to City Council districts where temporary homeless shelters are created.

“Homelessness is the number one crisis facing our city,” Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District. “No doubt this is a long time,” said Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, 3rd District. “We have written this ordinance so that the rules protect each time, we have written this specifically update our ordinances new ways to smoke, and rather than cancer causes more than 7,300 lung Disease Control, secondhand establishments, beaches and parks.

Museums, bus stops, outdoor dining and smoking at hospitals, libraries, parks. Every day, Hollywood has recognized the critical importance of working together to bring this resource to the area. This facility was built with a collaborative approach that is reflective and emblematic of the Hollywood community.”

O’Farrell spearheaded the project, meeting with community groups and building support on the City Council. It is the second “A Bridge Home” facility to open, following the first at El Pueblo in downtown Los Angeles.

Stephen Fletcher, regional director for PATH’s LA Metro Program, said the new shelter will make a difference in many people's lives.

“We will be providing programs and support services for people coming off the streets and being connected to permanent supportive programs where they will, as soon as possible, be moved into permanent homes,” Fletcher said. “The outreach teams have been working in collaboration with LAHSA’s (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority) coordinated entry system for the past few months to generate a list of people who are experiencing homelessness in the Hollywood community and all those are the ones who will be coming into the shelter next Tuesday.”

The new facility has separate dorms for men and women with individual cubicles for each resident. It also has restrooms, showers and a laundry facility, as well as office space for case workers. Full-time security will be stationed at the site and the city will oversee maintenance. A small outdoor area for pets is also included.

“This innovative bridge housing program is a way to provide immediate assistance where it’s needed most,” said Miriam Gonzalez, of the social service agency The People Concern. “Having a shelter in the community where homeless individuals reside is paramount, and that will get people moving into permanent housing.”

Additional city resources will be dedicated to the area around the facility including enhanced outreach, sanitation and public safety personnel. Capt. Cory Palka, commanding officer of the Hollywood Division, said the new shelter will be a benefit for Hollywood.

“I think this is a major step for the city and the Hollywood community to address this crisis called homelessness,” Palka added. “We are in desperate need of this alternative and we owe it to the community and the taxpayers who paid for this to give it everything we’ve got to see this turn into a huge success. It’s a solution to bridging the gap between homelessness and permanent housing.”

Others added that the facility has a welcoming layout, including a communal courtyard, that offers homeless individuals a dignified place to stay until they are placed in permanent housing.

“When I was homeless, I was in an old shelter model with a dorm-style room that was like jail,” said Shanee Cannon, who is now an outreach worker in Hollywood for LAHSA. “The new shelters give back more dignity and respect to people. Residents will have their own cubicle and more space and the service providers are more aware. We’re bringing more lived experience staff like me to better connect with the people we’re serving.”

County updates smoking codes

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted on March 19 to update codes to better address threats to public health posed by cigarettes, electronic cigarettes and cannabis smoking.

The new codes apply to unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and the approximately 5,000 county-owned facilities. They require a 50-foot buffer for smoking near windows and doors, and prohibit smoking in county parking lots. Previously, county code required a 25-foot buffer for smoking near buildings.

Anticipating the development of future technologies, the ordinance also defines smoking so that it covers yet to be invented technologies using nicotine, tobacco and cannabis.

“Rules regarding cigarettes and cigarette-like products have not been significantly updated in a very long time,” said Supervisor Sherryl Kuehl, 3rd District. “No doubt future entrepreneurs will invent new ways to smoke, and rather than specifically update our ordinances each time, we have written this ordinance so that the rules protect public health should not need updating again.”

The new codes also prohibit smoking at hospitals, libraries, museums, bus stops, outdoor dining establishments, beaches and parks.

“According to the Centers for Disease Control, secondhand smoke causes more than 7,300 lung cancer deaths and nearly 34,000 premature deaths from heart disease among U.S. nonsmokers each year,” said Barbara Ferrer, director of Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. “These changes will help save lives.”

For information, visit supervi sorsoea.com.

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The shelter is part of the mayor’s “A Bridge Home” program, which provides extra funding for resources to City Council districts where temporary homeless shelters are created. This is for the shelter to be in place for three years while permanent housing is built.

Mayor Eric Garcetti and Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, toured the new facility and said it will help alleviate the homeless crisis.

“We are investing billions of dollars in permanent housing and services to end this crisis for good, but our homeless neighbors can’t wait,” Garcetti said. “They need a place to sleep tonight, and that’s what ‘A Bridge Home’ brings to our communities. I’m grateful to Councilmember O’Farrell for his hard work and leadership, as well as the many partners that have made [this] possible. This site in the heart of Hollywood is another important step forward, and we won’t stop working until we bring every homeless Angeleno indoors.”

O’Farrell said the shelter is a model to be replicated throughout the city. The structure was built with over 20 overhead frames so the building can withstand the elements but can be easily removed. It was built on the site of a city-owned parking lot.

“Homelessness is the number one crisis facing our city, and nothing less than an ‘all hands on deck’ approach will bring relief to our challenges,” O’Farrell said. “From day one, Hollywood has recognized the critical importance of working together to bring this resource to the area. This facility was built with a collaborative approach that is reflective and emblematic of the Hollywood community.”

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Dr. Susan Cheng, one of the nation’s leading cardiologists specializing in population health sciences, has been named the Erika J. Glazer Chair in Women’s Cardiovascular Health and Population Science at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

Cheng, who joined the Smidt Heart Institute at Cedars-Sinai in 2018 as director of Cardiovascular Population Sciences in the Barbra Streisand Women’s Heart Center and director of public health research, is a cardiologist, echocardiographer and clinician-scientist, who leads research programs aimed at uncovering the drivers of cardiovascular aging in women and men.

“This endowment is an incredible honor and privilege,” said Cheng, who came to Cedars-Sinai from Harvard Medical School, where she was assistant professor of medicine. She also served as an associate physician at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, as well as associate director of its Cardiovascular Imaging Core Laboratory. “This recognition represents Cedars-Sinai’s exceptionally strong commitment to advancing precision medicine in ways that are meaningful to both patients in the clinic and to public health.”

Cheng’s work is focused on unraveling how and why women and men experience the aging process differently and how this leads to different types of heart disease, as well as diseases affecting other organ systems. Cheng also works on pinpointing predictors of healthy aging that may be specific to women or men by analyzing large volumes of population data, with the goal of developing rigorous, data-driven approaches to maintaining health over the course of life.

“We need to better understand why we see persistent population level differences between women and men in heart health, as well as overall health over the lifespan,” said Dr. C. Noel Bairey Merz, director of the Barbra Streisand Women’s Heart Center. “Dr. Cheng’s research will help us develop new strategies for improving long-term health and outcomes for both women and men worldwide.”

Cheng has served on the editorial boards of major cardiovascular and imaging journals and on leadership committees for the American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology. She has chaired and contributed to American Heart Association scientific statements on research methods, heart disease statistics and the cardiovascular care of older adults. She has authored more than 170 publications, and her work has been recognized with multiple awards and supported by continuous funding from the National Institutes of Health.

“Endowed chairs enable Cedars-Sinai to attract and retain highly distinguished scholar-researcher physicians. Since the first in 1983, 70 chairs have been established at Cedars-Sinai, generating continuing resources to support research and teaching efforts. Cedars-Sinai is located at 8700 Beverly Blvd. For information, visit cedars-sinai.org.”

Population health sciences expert to chair women’s cardiovascular health at Cedars

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority will hold four community meetings in March to evaluate the options to extend the Crenshaw/LAX Line to the north with connections to the Metro Expo, Purple and Red lines, as well as numerous bus lines.

The first three meetings will be in Los Angeles: from 6 to 8 p.m. on March 21 at the Westside Jewish Community Center, 5870 W. Olympic Blvd.; from 10 a.m. to noon on March 23 at Virginia Road Elementary School, 2925 Virginia Road; and from 6 to 8 p.m. on March 26 at United Teachers Los Angeles, 3303 Wilshire Blvd.

The final meeting will be in West Hollywood from 6 to 8 p.m. on March 28 at the West Hollywood Library, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd.

The Crenshaw/LAX Line is currently under construction and runs between the Metro Green and Expo lines. With a scheduled opening in 2020, the light rail line will provide service to the Crenshaw Corridor, Inglewood and LAX communities.

The Crenshaw Northern Extension will continue the line north and will serve portions of the cities of Los Angeles, Beverly Hills and West Hollywood. The project will ultimately provide a rail connection between the South Bay, LAX area, South Los Angeles, Inglewood, Crenshaw Corridor, Mid-City, Central Los Angeles, West Hollywood and Hollywood communities.

There are five potential alignment options under review. Metro is conducting technical analysis of the alignments and gathering public input to determine which alternatives will be studied further during the subsequent environmental review process.

“The Crenshaw Northern Extension project is one of several new rail projects with funding from Measure M, a countywide sales tax measure approved by 71 percent of Los Angeles County voters in November 2016. Based on the current Measure M schedule, this project is planned to start construction in 2041 and begin operations in 2047. Metro is conducting this study now so as there are efforts underway to identify funding to accelerate this schedule.

Information from this study will be used to help determine which alignment options will be studied further in a formal environmental review process that is anticipated to begin in early 2020.

The public is encouraged to attend and participate in the planning of the transit project. The information at all four community meetings will be identical. All Metro meetings are held at ADA accessible facilities. Spanish translation will be provided for all meetings. Korean translation will be provided for the March 26 meeting at United Teachers Los Angeles. Russian translation will be provided for the March 28 meeting at the West Hollywood Library. Other ADA accommodations and translations will be available by calling (323) 466-3876 or California Relay Service at 711 at least 72 hours in advance.

For information, call (213) 485-3939 or email crenshawnorth@metro.net or visit metrolink/crenshawnorth.
Leaders look for new ways to address homelessness

More than 100 county, city, and community leaders gathered recently to highlight racial disparities and address systemic racism in public policy affecting black residents and the experiences of homelessness in Los Angeles County.

Black residents make up 9 percent of the county’s population, but more than one-third of its population experiencing homelessness. A growing chorus of reports highlights concerning factors and points forth broad sets of recommendations.

“This report puts the spotlight where it needs to be, and helps us focus our efforts on the individuals, families and communities that need the most help.”

-Mayer Eric Garcetti

The report, a culmination of nine years of work by the 26-member Ad Hoc Committee includes 67 recommendations to create a framework that will advance equity and eliminate disparities that impact black residents experiencing homelessness. The report is the first step of a collaboration between stakeholders to implement recommendations, which include intervening racial equity throughout homelessness policy, service delivery, and in public, private and philanthropic institutions.

A theme that was present throughout the committee’s work was that racism, discrimination and unequal treatment in public systems and institutions has contributed to, and remains intertwined with, ending homelessness.

Ending homelessness will require a collective commitment to dismantling racism and addressing racial disparities, and sustained support from funders, policymakers, mainstream systems of care, service providers and community partners, according to the report.

The report highlights persistent cases of systemic bias in policies affecting housing, employment, criminal justice and care, and identifies ways to advance racial equity in the homeless services system.

“This report is a critical first step to address the collective failings of our systems and institutions that – de facto and de jure – have been designed to deliver the painful disparities that affect so many of our brothers and sisters,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, 2nd District.

“Hard work lies ahead to counter this powerful inheritance. If our region is to prosper, it is not only a moral imperative, it is an absolute economic imperative that all who call Los Angeles home are able to attain their full measure of dignity and self-worth.”

“We have long understood the painful reality that a disproportionate number of African-Americans are caught in the grip of homeless-ness, and we have to be more intentional about how to counter and end this crisis,” Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti said. “This work is urgent and thoughtful work needs to be, and helps us focus our efforts on the individuals, families and communities that need the most help.”

The report offered methodologies, included 67 gies for improvement. They include improving data collection, analysis and collaborative research to better understand and track issues affecting black individuals experiencing homelessness; advancing racially equitable policies, programs and funding to institutions, including LAHSA, homeless service providers, and city and county agencies; and enhancing the homeless system’s collaborative partnerships to more effectively prevent and reduce homelessness.

Additional recommendations are to expand training opportunities to ensure service providers understand the impact of institutional racism; target investments and funding enhancements to initiatives aimed at reducing disparities; and ensure sufficient funding is provided for services and programs supporting black people experiencing homelessness.

For information and to read the report, visit labwash.org.

Potholing work underway at future Beverly Hills subway station site

Metro has started potholing in Beverly Hills at the site of the future Wilshire/Rodeo subway sta-
tion, which will be located on the southwest corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Artesia Avenue.

Potholing, which is necessary to determine if there are any underground structures such as utility wires and pipes, is anticipated to continue through April 15.

All work will be completed from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lane closures and turn restrictions will be required, with two eastbound and west- bound lanes maintained on Wilshire Boulevard.

A reconstruction will likely begin in April on North Canon Drive at Wilshire Boulevard so trucks can access the construction staging yard. Canon Drive will be reconfigured as a cul-de-sac north of Wilshire Boulevard.

Excavation, excavation, hauling, instrumentation and street restoration is also occurring on South La Cienega boulevards. North Gale Drive will be intermittently closed at West Wilshire Boulevard for excavation in the Gale Drive staging yard.

Wilshire Boulevard to be reduced to one lane in each direc-
tion between the Gale Drive and San Diego Way through March 22.

Excavation and hauling is also occurring near Wilshire Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue. Ogden Drive will be closed intermittently at Wilshire Boulevard from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday, to support hauling.

Intermittent lane closures may also occur on nearby La Cienega boulevards.

Near Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue, excavation and dust management issues may result in some delays during stages.

Potholing, which is necessary to determine if there are any underground structures such as utility wires and pipes, is anticipated to continue through April 15.

All work will be completed from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lane closures and turn restrictions will be required, with two eastbound and west- bound lanes maintained on Wilshire Boulevard. Crews excavating the future Wilshire/Fairfax subway station have reached the floor of the subway station box.

County joins L.A. Sparks to help female veterans

The Los Angeles County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has partnered with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and the Los Angeles Sparks in the largest community-based partnership of its kind in the country.

The year-long campaign, titled “Spark the True You,” highlights the unique needs of female veteran families and their goals with the help of basketball stars to achieve career goals.

The program will be launched at an event in West Hollywood on March 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Bob Hope Patriotic Hall, 1816 S. Figueroa St., to include Johnson, Sparks Head Coach Derek Fisher and Sparks Guard Karlie Samuelson.

The Los Angeles County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs provides advocacy, duty service members and veterans help with obtaining benefits and resources.

For information, visit mva.lacounty.gov.

Letters to the Editor

Tom Bergin’s building has outlived its usefulness

Re “Tom Bergin’s on verge of landmark status,” March 14 issue

I had always automatically been in favor of any proposal to designate a building as a historic-cultural monument, until I read Cameron Kizsla’s article. What made me see the light was that once a prestigious bar named Tom Bergin’s, which opened some 70 years ago and was once frequented by many celebrities, has become unfavorable for its occupants.

The city of West Hollywood is partnering with Ring to provide discounts for residents wishing to purchase home security devices.

Launched in early 2019 for households in the city’s east side neighborhood watch areas, the West Hollywood City Council recently expanded the program citywide. Funded by the city of West Hollywood and Ring, the expanded program will enable 300 households to receive $100 promotional rebates toward Ring products. The program is part of the WeHo Smart City Initiative with the goal of creating a citywide security network for residents. To verify eligibility and to learn more, visit weho.org/smartyciti.

Central Hollywood Council to conduct candidates forum

The Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council is holding a candidates forum for the upcoming election, Monday, March 25, at 6 p.m. at the Hollywood City Hall building, 6500 Hollywood Blvd.

The candidates are Louis Abramson, Eman Al-Hassan, William Anabel, Patricia Andrews, Elvira Beck, Alexander Masich, Daniel Perez, Barry Priester, Francis Shivers, Ferris Welbe, Melvin Weiss and Natalie Werner.

Attendees can meet the candidates and learn how they want to change the Hollywood community.

Voting will take place on Sunday, March 31, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Hollywood City Hall.

For information, visit chcn.org.

WeHo and Ring partner on doorbell security initiative

The rebate program provides incentives when purchasing Ring video doorbells and security devices that connect to users’ mobile devices using the free Ring app. Ring is also offering $30 dis-
counts on additional security devices. For more information, call (877) 585-4664, email kkgiongo@weho.org.
Make March Matter at Terranea Resort

Come eat and drink at Terranea to support patients at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. Now through March 31, order a Guinness at Nelson’s or the sea beans café, and Terranea will donate $1 from the sale to CHLA. Order a glass of ONEHOPE Wine or specialty Tito’s cocktail at any of the resort’s venues, and Terranea will donate $1 from each sale to CHLA, plus ONEHOPE Wine and Tito’s will match the resort’s contributions for the month. Additionally, at sea beans, purchase one of the CHLA blue butterfly cookies, vegan croissants or s’mores kits, and Terranea will donate 50 cents each. Dine at catalina kitchen, and Terranea will donate $5 to CHLA from every order of kid’s brunch. The fundraising campaign culminates on March 31 in the Lobby Bar of the resort’s venues, and Terranea will donate $1 from every order of kid’s brunch.

Gabi James craft beer dinner

Gabi James hosts an anniversary celebration on March 25 at 7 p.m. with a special five-course craft beer dinner and tap takeover with Smog City Brewing Co. Guests can enjoy a glass of Little Bo Pils with a trio of pinnixos, a Spanish bar snack. A white peach saison follows with a citrus quince salad. A pour of Wow Pop! American pale ale is paired with Fideo’s Picante while the Infinite Wishes bourbon barrel-aged stout comes with braised short ribs Française. Finished with a glass of Sabre-Toothed Squirrel amber with Valencia orange upside-down cake and house-made whipped cream. A special cash ale, created just for Gabi James, will also be presented at the dinner. Jonathan and Laurie Porter, the owners of Smog City, will join Sara Gabriele, owner of Gabi James, to present each course.

Tasting are limited and can be purchased by calling the restaurant. Gabi James also offers 22 gins, from the traditional genever and sweeter Old Tom gin, to classic London dry gins. The restaurant features 10 tonics on the menu, and offers over 200 gin and tonic combinations. Specials on gin and tonics will be available March 25-31. Guests who get the restaurant’s gin passport and purchase tickets, visit mastersoftaste.com. 1001 Rose Bowl Drive, Pasadena, (626)791-6677.

Masters of Taste food & drink festival

The fourth annual Masters of Taste will be held on Sunday, April 7, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the iconic Rose Bowl Stadium. This year, executive chef Michael Hung from Frank’sTacos in Pasadena will serve as the event’s host chef and ambassador. All proceeds from the Masters of Taste will directly benefit Union Station Homeless Services.

Ticket holders can enjoy unlimited tasting from Los Angeles’ top master chefs, restaurants, craft cocktail bars, wineries and local breweries. This year’s featured restaurants include Preux & Proper, Salazar, The Raymond 1886, Faith & Flower, The Pizza Plant, Patina, Maple Restaurant at Descanso Gardens, Eagle Rock Public House, La Boheme and Loquita. Sweet treats will be provided by Lark Cake Shop, Mignon Chocolate, Lady M Confections, Porto’s Bakery, Nomad Ice Pops, Supercool Creamery and more. Beverages will be offered by San Antonios Winery, Boxed Water, American Born Moonshine, Califia Farms, Humm Kombucha, Indie Brewing Company, Iron Triangle Brewery, Lincoln Beer Company and Ototo, among others. Attendees must be 21 years and older. General admission tickets are $105, and VIP tickets, which allow entrance at 3 p.m., are $165. Both tickets include unlimited tastings of all food and beverages. Parking is free, however, guests are encouraged to use taxis or ride-shares. To purchase tickets, visit mastersof-taste.com. 1001 Rose Bowl Drive, Pasadena, (626)791-6677.

T-Bone Sale!

Good through 3/27/19

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MGM Resorts partners with LACMA for Art Basel in Hong Kong

MGM Resorts International continues its partnership with Art Basel in Hong Kong, an art show running from March 29 to 31, through its multifaceted arts program MGM Resorts Art & Culture. MGM Resorts Art & Culture will host the MGM Resorts Lounge in the Art Basel Collectors Lounge, in addition to presenting special events on-site at Art Basel in Hong Kong and at MGM COTAI in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the UCCA Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing. The events highlight MGM Resorts’ engagement with art institutions around the world.

“Art Basel in Hong Kong is always an exciting time of the year because of all the opportunities to participate in initiatives and projects surrounding the fair and the region,” said Tarissa Tiberti, executive director of MGM Resorts Art & Culture. “We look forward to working in tandem with our counterparts at MGM China – MGM MACAU and MGM COTAI – and are thrilled to support their second annual Symposium [at MGM COTAI] focusing on art and innovation.”

MGM Resorts Art & Culture continues its support of the Encounters sector of the Art Basel show in Hong Kong. Titled “Still We Rise,” Encounters will consist of 12 institutional-scale installations, with eight works premiering at this year’s show.

Additionally, MGM COTAI will host its second annual “Transforming Art with Technology” symposium on Sunday, March 24. The recently completed, large-scale Spectacle installation at MGM COTAI is the world’s largest concentrated area of interconnected LED screens. It displays digital content from around the world and will be the basis of a discussion on innovation and art.

Royal Academy of Arts Artistic Director Tim Marlow will moderate a discussion on the complex role of technology in the artistic process and how it affects the future of digital media. Panelists include Michael Govan, CEO and Wallis Annenberg director at LACMA; Jeffrey Shaw, chair professor of media art at City University of Hong Kong; Bas van Beek, a multi-disciplinary contemporary artist from the Netherlands; and contemporary artist Yang Yongliang.

MGM Resorts Art & Culture will also celebrate its partnership with LACMA and UCCA at a private party on Thursday, March 28. Titled “The Endless Voyage of the Grand Nomad,” the event will be hosted by Princess Alia Al-Senussi and Dino Sadhwani at The Mills, a revitalization project of formerly defunct cotton-spinning mills. Guests will embark on an exciting adventure through different realms in a maritime exploration.

For information, visit mgmresorts.com.
POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between March 1 and March 16. The information was compiled from www.crimemapping.com. To report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies: Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (213)473-0476, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department West Hollywood Station (310)985-5855, and the Beverly Hills Police Department, (310)278-4951.

Beverly Hills Police Department

March 1
At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim near the corner of Charleville and S. Doheny.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Beverly at 8:45 p.m.

At 11:14 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 600 block of Alta.

March 2
At midnight, an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Dayton and North Almond.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 400 block of N. Bedford at 7:10 p.m.

March 4
At 2:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 1000 block of Benedict Canyon.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of Spaulding at 3 p.m.

March 5
At 1:50 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 200 block of S. Swall.

March 6
An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 100 block of S. Elm at 2 a.m.

At 4:45 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9600 block of Brighton.

March 7
An unknown suspect burglarized a commercial burglary in the 9200 block of Civic Center at 5 p.m.

March 8
At 10:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9700 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9400 block of Brighton at 8:30 p.m.

At 8:15 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9400 block of Brighton.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9800 block of South Santa Monica at 6:05 p.m.

At 10:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9500 block of South Santa Monica.

March 9
At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 12600 block of El Camino.

At 12:05 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of N. Beverly.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 100 block of S. Roxbury at 4:20 a.m.

At 4:53 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 9500 block of Wilshire.

March 10
At 2:15 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of Rodeo.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 300 block of S. McCarty at 2:28 p.m.

At 7:08 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of N. Camden.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of N. Maple at 10 p.m.

March 11
At 2:56 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of N. Rodeo.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of N. Canon at 9 p.m.

March 13
At midnight, an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 9100 block of Alden.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 400 block of N. Doheny at 2:30 a.m.

At 9:01 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 400 block of Cambon.

An unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 9400 block of S. Doheny at 1:39 p.m.

March 15
At 7:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of S. Elm.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9600 block of South Santa Monica at 10 p.m.

March 16
At 12:53 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of N. Canon.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9500 block of Brighton at 3:39 p.m.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of S. Rexford.

West Hollywood Police

March 11
At midnight, an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8400 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 900 block of Palm at 1:45 p.m.

March 12
At 2:15 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

An suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1100 block of Fuller at 6 a.m.

At 3:50 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8600 block of Santa Monica.

March 13
An suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 1100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Santa Monica and Sweetzer at 3 p.m.

At 3:33 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a burglary in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8400 block of Sunset at 10:40 p.m.

March 16
At 1 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica at 2:15 a.m.

At 4:45 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1300 block of Laurel.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Croft and Santa Monica at 6:50 a.m.

At 11:00 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6200 block of Waring at 3 p.m.

At 3:15 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Hollywood and Sycamore.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6500 block of Wilshire at 10:30 p.m.

At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near the corner of Melrose and Detroit.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6400 block of Hollywood at 11:30 p.m.

March 17
At 1:45 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 7000 block of Sunset.

An attempted burglary was reported near the corner of Fountain and Sunset at 7:17 p.m.

At 7:17 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near the corner of Melrose and Fuller.

March 4
At 12:01 a.m., a suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 7400 block of Highland.

A suspect burglarized a vehicle near the corner of Hollywood and Cahuenga at 1:30 a.m.

At 1:30 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of Seward.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1500 block of Cass at 4:37 a.m.

At 5:11 a.m., a suspect assaulted a victim in the 4300 block of Wilshire.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6700 block of Sunset at 1 p.m.

March 7
At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 800 block of Hudson.

Funds acquired in criminal cases to be used for victim assistance

United States Attorney Nicola T. Hanna recently announced that the United States Attorney’s Office for the Central District of California collected over $317 million in criminal, civil and forfeiture actions in fiscal year 2018. The majority of the money was shared to victims of federal crimes, and some of it will be used to fund programs that support victim services. Included was more than $61.2 million in restitution and fines ordered in criminal cases – more than double the amount recovered in fiscal year 2016.

Last year’s collections also included an additional $235 million in assets forfeited for crimes committed in the United States and abroad. Of this amount, $21.2 million was recovered as part of the ongoing (MDM) international kleptocracy investigation. Prosecutors in the Asset Forfeiture Section also collected millions of dollars – including cash, numismatics, luxury and collectible vehicles, and residential properties – from a parking lot operator who defrauded the Veterans Administration. Forfeited assets, including money and the proceeds of property that will be sold, are deposited into the U.S. Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Fund. That money is used to compensate crime victims and fund law enforcement operations such as federal task forces and educational programs that support victim services.

The balance of the money collected during the preceding fiscal year – $241.2 million – was secured through civil enforcement matters in which prosecutors recovered federal funds lost through fraud or other misconduct. Additionally, the office’s Civil Division collected an additional $162.2 million from civil cases. That figure that includes a $65 million settlement with Prime Healthcare Services III, Inc., its chief executive officer to resolve allegations of Medicaid fraud.

The United States Attorney’s Office for the Central District of California is based in Los Angeles and is comprised of approximately 275 assistant United States attorneys. For information, visit usdoj.gov.
New chef Michelangelo Aliaga shines at Los Balcones in Hollywood, where he incorporates proteins with Peruvian staple ingredients like corn, potatoes, peppers, quinoa, rice and beans to create authentic and hearty South American fare.

Raised in Peru by Italian parents, Aliaga was inspired by his grandfather to become a chef. After training and working in Spain and Italy, he came to California where he has worked in kitchens such as Cecconi’s in West Hollywood and Primo Italia in the South Bay before he joined the team at Los Balcones.

The Hollywood restaurant features a cozy and dark space with close tables and walls lined with bold yellow and red Inca symbols painted on top of reclaimed wood panels. Packed with people the night I dined, it also offers a fun atmosphere. Los Balcones is connected to The Parker Room, which pays homage to Billy Berg’s, one of the most iconic jazz clubs in Hollywood. This small and lively lounge gets its name from the 1940s jazz saxophonist and composer Charlie Parker, and is a great place to meet friends, enjoy a cocktail and bar menu items before a night in Hollywood or seeing a movie at the nearby Cinerama Dome and ArcLight complex.

Sitting inside the main dining room, I noticed almost everyone was drinking the Peruvian national cocktail, a pisco sour. At Los Balcones, they make it with Caravedo pisco, lime juice, simple syrup, a pour of Angostura bitters and frothy egg whites. The restaurant also offers a maracuyá sour made with the same ingredients plus passion fruit juice. While ordering one of each drink, our server delivered a bowl of crispy plantain chips with a pleasing garlic verde dip to enjoy with our drinks.

We started with a bright mixto ceviche bowl with marinated striped bass, shrimp, octopus, squid, sliced purple onions, choclo (Peruvian corn) and flavorful chopped Peruvian rocoto pepper. For guests eager to try some Peruvian anticuchos, or grilled street food, Los Balcones offers a tasting plate with choice of five different proteins. The beef heart is perfect for adventurous diners. We enjoyed the smoky Peruvian panca pepper-marinated chicken with balsamic-glazed portobello mushrooms, grilled sea bass belly, sliced green onions and sesame.

For entrées, our first dish, the arroz con pollo, arrived on a plate with cilantro rice, peas, carrots and corn alongside salsa criolla (onion relish). Yellow streaks of huancaína, a Peruvian staple made from boiled yellow potatoes, provide a creamy and slightly spicy sauce that pairs nicely with the crispy baked chicken leg and thigh.

Next, we tried the plate of seco de carne which featured a thick and tender piece of slow-cooked short rib in a cilantro beer broth. Peruvian lima beans with sliced purple onions and peppers tucked under the meat rounded out the dish.

We also enjoyed the lamb shank on a bed of polenta with crispy green beans and cilantro, a new menu item created by Aliaga.

Desserts, however, were not quite my cup of tea. I found the picarones, or Peruvian sweet potato beignets, a bit greasy. The tropical passion fruit syrup poured on top was cloying. I did, however, like the flavor of the lucuma ice cream imported from Peru. The fruit looks like an avocado, but has yellow flesh similar to a sweet potato. Its flavor offers a maple syrup-like essence, but the dish is not as creamy as regular ice cream and has almost the consistency of cooked egg yolk.

There’s more coming to Los Balcones as well – within the next few weeks, Aliaga plans to add dishes on the dinner and brunch menus. There’s also the recently opened restaurant location in Studio City, which hosts a different chef, menu and atmosphere. The hours at the Hollywood location are Monday through Thursday noon to 11 p.m. The restaurant stays open until midnight on Friday and Saturday, and until 10 p.m. on Sunday. $1360 Vine St., Los Angeles, (323)871-9600.

By Jill Weinlein
LAUSD board pledges support for federal Dream and Promise Act

The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education reaffirmed its support for the federal Dream and Promise Act during its meeting on March 19. Introduced by Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-Los Angeles), the Dream and Promise Act provides permanent legal programs and a path to citizenship for people brought to the United States as undocumented children. The board approved a motion calling for its formal support of the legislation.

Los Angeles Unified is committed to helping all children regardless of where they were born, or the circumstances of their arrival in this country,” LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner said. “I’m grateful that Los Angeles Unified has so many partners in this work so that we can continue to provide the enrichment that our students need to grow, learn new skills and expand their educational opportunities.”

The Los Angeles Unified Board of Education School Board unanimously on March 19 approved the resolution in support of the Dream and Promise Act. LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner said, “I’m grateful that Los Angeles Unified has so many partners in this work so that we can continue to provide the enrichment that our students need to grow, learn new skills and expand their educational opportunities.”

Since it went into effect in 2006, the statewide program has served over 400,000 students daily, approximately 250,000 of whom attend LAUSD schools. Despite increasing operating costs, allocations in state budgets have decreased over the last decade, a pattern AB 1725 would reverse.

“After school programs help us better serve our students and families,” LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner said. “The enrichment provided during these hours forms a vital bridge between classroom and home where learning continues.”

Board President Mónica García co-sponsored the resolution and said after school programs create safe spaces for youth to continue learning and develop beyond school hours.

“These programs allow students to engage deeper in activities and topics that are of high interest to them,” Garcia added. “An investment in after school programs is an investment in our children so that they thrive in life and become productive members of our society.”

Zoo’s dinner series focuses on sustainability and conservation

The Los Angeles Zoo is launching its 2019 Sustainable Wine + Dinner series on Thursday, March 21, from 6 to 9 p.m. The first dinner will highlight the Presidio Wine Company, Winery. Additional dinners will be held on Thursdays, April 11, May 30 and June 27.

The annual series features farm-to-table cuisine, sustainable wines, up-close animal encounters and curator conversations. Each evening focuses on a different topic and is set in a unique location in the zoo. Enjoy a five-course meal paired with a selection of California wines.

The March 21 dinner will be held in the Amazonian Stilthouse at the zoo’s Rainforest of the Americas exhibit. It includes selections from Presidio Wine Company, Winery. The educational component includes Los Angeles Zoo Curator of Birds Mike Mancy discussing illegal wildlife trafficking and the impact on biodiversity.

On April 11, the dinner will take place on the Cambodian Viewing Terrace at the Elephants of Asia exhibit and will highlight Cambria Estate Winery, a female-owned winery located in the Santa Maria Valley known for its formal support of the legal representations. On May 30, Brave & Maiden Estate will showcase its estate-grown zinfandel, pinot noirs and chardonnays. Cambria Estate recently created the “Stewards of the Land” environmental sustainability grant program in support of the original Dream Act in 2007, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program in 2013 and “We Are One: Standing with Immigrant Families,” an ongoing initiative that began in 2017.

“I have and will always continue to stand with our immigrant students, families and communities,” said LAUSD board President Mónica Garcia, who sponsored the resolution in support of the Dream and Promise Act. “I proudly support the House Resolution to reinstate the Dream Act and provide our students an opportunity to contribute to our society as an active and productive citizen. As an immigrant, I truly represent hope, progress and a better tomorrow for both Los Angeles students, families and employ- ees in our schools.”

District voices support for bill to improve after school programs

The Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education voted unanimously on March 19 to approve Vice President Nick Melvoin’s resolution in support of California Assembly Bill 1725, which seeks to increase state funding to maintain after school programs.

“Los Angeles Unified has so many partners in this work so that we can continue to provide the enrichment that our students need to grow, learn new skills and expand their educational opportunities.”

The Los Angeles Unified board approved a motion calling for its formal support of the legislation. “Los Angeles Unified is committed to helping all children regardless of where they were born, or the circumstances of their arrival in this country,” LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner said. "I'm grateful that Los Angeles Unified has so many partners in this work so that we can continue to provide the enrichment that our students need to grow, learn new skills and expand their educational opportunities.”

Since it went into effect in 2006, the statewide program has served over 400,000 students daily, approximately 250,000 of whom attend LAUSD schools. Despite increasing operating costs, allocations in state budgets have decreased over the last decade, a pattern AB 1725 would reverse.

“After school programs help us better serve our students and families,” LAUSD Superintendent Austin Beutner said. “The enrichment provided during these hours forms a vital bridge between classroom and home where learning continues.”

Board President Mónica García co-sponsored the resolution and said after school programs create safe spaces for youth to continue learning and develop beyond school hours.

“These programs allow students to engage deeper in activities and topics that are of high interest to them,” Garcia added. “An investment in after school programs is an investment in our children so that they thrive in life and become productive members of our society.”

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LADWP helps teachers expand environmental learning

Laurel Elementary teacher Anna Melkumyan was among 30 instructors who recently attended the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power’s Environmental Institute, which provides information on environmental topics that participants can later use in lesson plans at their schools. Topics covered during the program’s three eight-hour sessions include conservation, renewable energy and the nexus of water and energy in the context of climate change. The institute is co-sponsored by LADWP, the Metropolitan Water District, California Department of Water Resources and the California Environmental Education Foundation. Teachers learn from experts at the utilities and are provided with hands-on lessons they can share with students. The Environmental Institute launched in Los Angeles in 2015, and the most recent installment was the seventh in a series that was started in 2011 in Northern California by the California Environmental Education Foundation. For information, visit ladwp.com/education.

photo by Chris Corsmeier/courtesy of LADWP

Laurel Elementary teacher Anna Melkumyan, right.

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How in the Lego world is “The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part” not decimating all those non-Lego films at the box office? The year might be young, but the sophomore adventure of the legendary Master Builders, heroes with the special ability to turn their surroundings into amazing inventions, is the best film of 2019 thus far. Too bad a lackluster gross (and awards season’s disdain for originality) might prompt this one to go unnoticed. Why would anyone want to miss that?

All the great characters from the first film return, led by overly passive (but still cool) Emmet (Chris Pratt) and the muscle, Wildstyle (Elizabeth Banks). And the Lego Universe needs the pair’s combined strength, since an invading force of Duplos, designed for ages 18 months to 5 years old, enjoy destroying more than building any structure. You might recall the previous film’s enduring focus on a father’s collectible Legos and a son who just wants to play and create with dear old dad; cut to now, sister’s entrance wreaks havoc on one boy’s idea of play.

Picking up at the previous film’s climhanger, things go very wrong, hysterically wrong, and Lord Business (aka, dad; aka, the voice talents of Will Ferrell) just lets the onslaught arrive unchallenged. The universe quickly devolves into a Mad Max dystopia. For Emmet, however, everything is still awesome, even those “sewer babies” he creates. Batman (Will Arnett) adapts well, sporting a new outfit to match the desolate surroundings.

And then another. That’s right. “Lego 2” is a musical, and every song drips with an alluring hook sure to annoy you for the next six months. One audacious attempt, “Catchy Song,” performed by Ti-Pain and That Girl Lay Lay, is simply the same line over and over: “This song’s gotta get stuck inside your head.” And yes, it will. And yes, it’s actually quite good.

In some ways, “Lego 2” surpasses its predecessors in laughs and the sheer number of pop culture Easter eggs. The emotional punch of the first is now expected based on the franchise’s rules (actions in the Lego universe represent something happening in a family’s life). But making those connections, guess the payoff along the way, is half the fun. And the dialogue wonderfully telegraphs the payoff with an impending doomsday scenario dubbed “Armageddon.”

The opening sequence of “Toy Story 3” is the franchise’s most clever moment, featuring all the toys interacting in a way that captures the beautifully free imagination of a child. The “Lego” movies capitalize on this concept to most-likely successful ends (sorry “Ninjago,” you’re canceled). The sequel proves this franchise is not an accident but something worth continuing, something that can thrive even when original directors Chris Miller and Phil Lord (the masterful co-writer of “Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse”), who did write this one together, move on to other projects completely at some point. “The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part” (gotta love that name) is the third hit in a smart franchise meant for adults, perhaps more so, and kids. Fast paced, written with care, it reminds us why Legos are the

New Grammy Museum exhibit showcases music’s integral history in the baseball experience

Whether it’s the national anthem played before every game, the music ballplayers select to accent their walk to home plate or the seventh inning stretch when fans sing “Take Me Out to the Ball Game,” music is an integral part of the baseball experience.

To celebrate the soundtrack of baseball, the Grammy Museum proudly presents “Take Me Out to the Ball Game: Popular Music and the National Pastime.” Edward Meeker and The Edison Orchestra’s original 1908 recording of “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame this year.

The exhibit opened on March 14 when Bob Santelli, founding executive director of the Grammy Museum and the exhibit’s curator, discussed the history of music in baseball with Barry Zito at the museum’s Clive Davis Theater as part of the museum’s public programs. The exhibit will run through baseball season until fall 2019.

“Take Me Out to the Ball Game: Popular Music and the National Pastime” offers insight and historical reference for the history of music in baseball. The exhibit takes museum visitors on a journey that starts before the 20th century, when baseball-themed music was fostered through the sales of sheet music, then explains the rise of baseball-themed music becoming a part of a new era of American music in the early 1900s and discusses modern popular music being a central part of players preparing to take the field and excite the fans.

Even Unkitty (Alison Brie) changes with the times, occasionally wearing her rage on the outside as an enormous saber-toothed unicorn. While the universe faces regular attacks from those style, someone new arrives. The masked General Mayhem (Stephanie Beatriz) captures the best warriors and takes them to her boss, fluidly shaped Queen Watevra Wa’Nabi (Tiffany Haddish). Take a moment and say the queen’s name again; it’s a clever joke.

Apparently, Emmett’s newfound builder abilities from the first film don’t last, and he remains, the sole hero to save everyone else, since the Justice League, including Aquaman (Jason Momoa basically hired to bellow his signature “woohoo”), and Marvel heroes are all busy. Luckily en route, Emmet encounters a Lego movie star (also voiced by Pratt), a hilarious parody of Pratt’s entire career. He’s an Indiana Jones-style space explorer with a team of well-trainer raptors (just remember “script doctor”).

The movie is filled with music. Fans of the Lego universe represent something beyond the franchise’s rules (actions in the Lego universe represent something happening in a family’s life). But making those connections, guess the payoff along the way, is half the fun. And the dialogue wonderfully telegraphs the payoff with an impending doomsday scenario dubbed “Armageddon.”
Miss Russian LA pageant returns to Hollywood

The 9th annual Miss Russian LA 2019 competition returns to Hollywood on Sunday, March 24, at the Taglyan Cultural Complex.

This evening will highlight the strength, intelligence, beauty and talent of finalists representing their Russian roots as they compete to win the coveted Miss Russian LA 2019 title.

“If founded this event to showcase new talent in our community as it is not only a beauty pageant but also an exciting talent event,” said event producer and director Lika Osipova. “Even with all the turbulence surrounding Russia, we are grateful for all the incredible amount of support and enthusiasm for this pageant in the Los Angeles community. My goal is to provide a challenging competition as well as an entertaining-filled evening.”

The star-studded event will include special performances by Lev Axelrod, a 13-year-old finalist on Russia’s version of “The Voice,” and Robert James Dobbs, of the pop rock band Mid-Summer Classic.

The final ten contestants were selected from over 50 applicants. They will be judged in the categories of talent, bikini, evening gown and interview. The evening gown portion will be overseen by Russia’s fashion icon Bad Apple Couture. Both English and Russian will be spoken throughout the pageant.

Tickets start at $150. A red carpet ceremony begins at 6:30 and doors open at 7 p.m. The Taglyan Cultural Complex is located at 1201 Vine St. For tickets and information, call (310)880-6909, or visit eventcartel.com.

Clinic hosts annual gala at Beverly Wilshire Hotel

Venice Family Clinic will host its 37th annual Silver Circle Gala on Monday, March 25, at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

Ivy Kagan Bierman will receive the organization’s Humanitarian Award for her commitment to empowering women and minorities, and advocating for greater equity for women and minorities in the workplace. Kagan Bierman is a partner at Loeb & Loeb LLP, vice chair of civil rights for the Anti-Defamation League; and is a member of the Legal, Legislative and Policy Committee on Sexual Harassment and Gender Parity, as well as the Safety Committee, for Time’s Up.

Additionally, Russel Tyner, president, principal architect and co-founder of Houston/Tyner Architects, will be honored with the Irma Colen Leadership Award for his volunteer work with the clinic during the past 34 years.

The gala, sponsored by UCLA Health and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, will begin with a cocktail reception at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. It also includes live performances by Grammy-nominated artists Carmen Bradfrod and Shelly Berg.

The Beverly Wilshire Hotel is located at 9500 Wilshire Blvd. For information, call (310)644-6792, or email ivykagib@mednet.ucla.edu.

City of West Hollywood Public Hearing Notice

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

LOCATIONS: PROJECTS SPANNING COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS West Hollywood, California

REQUEST: The Planning Commission will consider an amendment to Title 19, West Hollywood Zoning Ordinance, to amend the requirements for projects spanning commercial and residential districts, West Hollywood, California.

PERMIT(S): Zone Text Amendment, and any other required permits.

APPLICANT(S): City of West Hollywood

TIME/PLACE OF HEARING: Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers

625 N. San Vicente Boulevard

West Hollywood, CA 90069

ZONES: Multiple Zoning Districts, Citywide

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS: Statutorily exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section §15061 (Review for Exemption).

The staff report will be available on Thursday, March 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, or in the written correspondence delivered to the Public Hearing described in this notice, 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. The City TDD line for the hearing impaired is (323) 848-6496.

Special meeting related accommodations (e.g., transportation) may be provided upon written request to the Office of the City Clerk at (323) 848-6409 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 Rachel Dimond, AICP, Senior Planner, in the Planning and Development Services Department at (323) 848-6475, or via email at: rdimond@weho.org

Yvonne Quarker, City Clerk

Мы сообщаем вам об обсуждении проекта. Для дополнительной информации на русском языке звоните: 323-848-6826.
Cedars to welcome new nursing leadership

Following an extensive national search, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center has appointed David R. Marshall as senior vice president and chief nursing executive, effective June 3. He brings more than three decades of health care experience to the medical center and is known for enhancing innovation and empowering compassionate care.

Marshall comes to Cedars-Sinai from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, also known as UTMB Health, where he serves as system chief nursing and patient care services executive. “We are privileged to welcome a nurse executive of Dr. Marshall’s caliber and breadth of experience,” said Dr. Jeffrey A. Smith, executive vice president of hospital operations and chief operating officer at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. “In addition to many noteworthy accomplishments at UTMB Health, David is a nationally recognized leader in nursing who currently serves on the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Magnet Recognition Program.”

Marshall succeeds Linda Burnes Bolton, who has been with Cedars-Sinai for 48 years. Burnes Bolton will next serve as Cedars-Sinai’s inaugural chief health equity officer, leading the health system’s efforts to improve outcomes for all members of the community.

Marshall began his nursing career at UTMB Health as a staff nurse in 1983 and later became chief nursing and patient care services officer. “It is a special opportunity to be joining the Cedars-Sinai team,” Marshall said. “As healthcare leaders, we must create an environment where nurses are supported so they can do their very best work and our patients can receive the very best care.”

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

LOCATIONS: SUNSET SPECIFIC PLAN AREA, West Hollywood, California

REQUEST: An amendment to the Sunset Specific Plan to increase required rear setback requirements where commercial zones abut residential zones.

PERMIT(S): SunSpec Plan Amendment, and any other required permits.

APPLICANT(S): City of West Hollywood

TIME/PLACE: Thursday, April 4, 2019
   at 8:30 p.m.
   West Hollywood Park Public Meeting Room – Council Chambers
   625 N. San Vicente Boulevard
   West Hollywood, CA 90069

ZONES: SSP (Sunset Specific Plan)

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS: Categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section §15305 (Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations).

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

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

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Special meeting related accommodations (e.g., transportation) may be provided upon written request to the Office of the City Clerk at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. For information on public transportation, call 1-323-GO-METRO (323-482-3876) 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 Bryan Eck, Senior Planner, in the Planning and Development Services Department at (323) 848-6475, or via email at: beck@who.org

Yvonne Quarker, City Clerk
Red Cross recognizes supporters of humanitarian causes

The American Red Cross honored Bowen H. “Buzz” McCoy as its Humanitarian of the Year at an awards ceremony on March 8 at the S. Mark Taper Foundation. The Bowen H. and Janice Arich McCoy Charitable Foundation was also honored as Humanitarian Organization of the Year.

The event brought together celebrities, business leaders, philanthropists and elected officials in support of the Red Cross in Los Angeles.

The Humanitarian Awards ceremony recognizes donors who make the lifesaving work of the Red Cross possible.

The McCoy family has been committed to supporting the Red Cross for nearly a century, beginning with Bowen McCoy and Bernice Hadley, two members of the organization who responded to the 1933 Long Beach-Compton earthquake. Their son “Buzz” started serving with the organization as a teenager.

“Although I’m the Red Cross because I value my mission of people helping people in times of need, regardless of their color or creed or culture,” said Buzz McCoy, who received the award with his wife, Barbara. “The Red Cross is not elitist. There is no room service in a shelter. It is people helping people. It is each teaching another, comforting one another, serving one another. In a time when we all seem to be searching for values and vision, the Red Cross is [in] one of those institutions that shows us the way.”

The S. Mark Taper Foundation, the namesake of the new Red Cross Los Angeles headquarters, was recognized for its more than 30 years of generosity and assistance in times of crises.

“The S. Mark Taper Foundation is very proud to be a partner and supporter of the American Red Cross,” said foundation Vice President Amelia Taper Bolker. “There is no doubt that the Red Cross is indispensable to our community and communities worldwide. We are thrilled to be honored and proud to see our name on the new regional headquarters opening in downtown Los Angeles this spring.”

Along with the honorees, this year’s Humanitarian Awards focused on the commitment volunters have made to alleviating human suffering during emergencies. Actress Nancy Yoon, of “Days of Our Lives” served as master of ceremonies.

For information, visit redcross.org/la.

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Exhibit highlights clothing from Ottoman Syria

The Fowler Museum at UCLA presents “Dressed with Distinction: Garments from Ottoman Syria” running through Sunday, Aug. 18. The exhibit includes a collection of rare garments assembled by David and Elizabeth Reisbord with examples of Arab and Ottoman attire dating from the late-19th to early-20th centuries. It celebrates clothing created in urban centers such as Aleppo, Damascus and Homs, where dyeing, weaving and decorative techniques carried the region international renown for textile production. Residents were famous for wearing brightly-colored silk clothing glittering with gold and silver thread.

After World War I (and the end of 400 years of Ottoman rule), Syrians began showing preference for Western attire, leading to an eventual decline in handwoven garment production. More recently, conflict in the Eastern Mediterranean region has virtually eradicated most remnants of the textile traditions and skills. Thus, the exhibit documents the heritage of iconic Arab and Ottoman garments and the importance of fashion as a marker of cultural knowledge.

“The Fowler Museum is honored to become the repository and custodian of this rare collection of Ottoman Syrian attire, both donated and promised to the museum by the Reisbords,” said Marla C. Berns, the Shirley and Ralph Shapiro Director at the Fowler Museum. “This record of Middle Eastern textile heritage offers extraordinary opportunities for study and appreciation.”

Installed according to type, garments worn by urban women, men and children are on display including full-length cloaks (abayas), jackets (gablas), smaller head coverings (hats) and a two-piece woman’s body and head covering (garraf). Silk and woolen garments have retained their rich red, blue and purple hues, while diaphanous patterns adorn summer housecoats woven in lighter colors. Colorful and complex ikat techniques (involving resist-dyed threads prior to weaving) incorporated an extensive range of natural dyes. The garments were created using a diverse range of weaving techniques including tapestry weaves, brocade and plainstitch hand-stitched embroidery. Garments with certain cuts and decoration could define the wearer as Arab or Ottoman, and indicate religious preferences and class status.

The Fowler Museum at UCLA is located at 308 Charles E. Young Drive North. For information, visit Fowler.ucla.edu.
Ahmanson Theatre presents
‘The Book of Mormon,’
‘Swan Lake’ and more

Artistic Director Michael Ritchie has announced Center Theatre Group’s 53rd season at the Ahmanson Theatre will feature seven shows from across the theatrical spectrum with three musicals, two hilarious one-person plays, the return of a landmark dance piece plus one production to be announced at a later date.

“The 2019-2020 season at the Ahmanson Theatre showcases works that are prescient and reflect the iconic elements of the world’s finest artists and creators,” Ritchie said. “From an iconic rock star to a comic and heartfelt and empowering musical: ‘The Last Ship’ – a pair of recent hits direct from Broadway – John Leguizamo in ‘Latin History for Morons’ and Mike Birbiglia in ‘The New One’ – we’ve curated a collection of shows that are both passionate and personal.

‘Latin History for Morons,’ written and performed by John Leguizamo, will run from Sept. 8 to Oct. 20. Inspired by the near total absence of Latinos from his son’s American history books, Leguizamo embarks on a funny, frenzied search to find a Latin hero for his son’s school project.

Following, “The New One,” written and performed by Birbiglia, will run from Oct. 23 to Nov. 24. In the comedy show, Birbiglia delves into his own life to tell a new story.

Catch Bourne’s “Swan Lake” with performances from Dec. 3 through Jan. 5, 2020. Retaining the iconic elements of the original production loved by millions around the world, Bourne and award-winning designer Lynne Russell will create a reimagining of the classic production.

“The Last Ship,” starring Sting, opens Jan. 22 and runs through Feb. 16. The musical was initially inspired by Sting’s 1991 album “The Soul Cages” and his own childhood experiences growing up in the shadow of the legendary Swan Hunter shipyard in Wallsend, England.

Back by popular demand, “The Book of Mormon” is making its Ahmanson debut after previous sold-out engagements in Los Angeles. The musical comedy follows the misadventures of a mismatched pair of missionaries, sent halfway around the world to spread the good word. Performances will be from Feb. 18 to March 29.

Finally, winner of the 2018 Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical, “Once on This Island” opens April 8 and continues through May 10. The musical is the sweeping, universal tale of Ti Moune, a peasant girl in search of her place in the world and ready to risk it all for love.

Tickets for the 2019-2020 season are currently available by season subscription and group sales only. General ticket on-sale dates for each show will be announced in the future.

The Ahmanson Theatre is located at 135 N. Grand Ave. For information and to purchase a subscription, call (213) 972-4444, or visit centertheatregroup.org/ahmanson.

Bobcat kittens are among the native animals identified during NHM’s programs to study wildlife in Los Angeles.

The centerpiece of the partnership will be Harry Winston’s pre-event sponsorship of The Wallis’ spring celebration fundraising event, “The Wallis Delivers: An Evening of Wicked Fun Honoring Stephen Schwartz” on May 16.

The Wallis Annenberg Center for Performing Arts will partner with fine jewelry and high-end watch-making brand Harry Winston in 2019. The centerpiece of the partnership will be Harry Winston’s presenting sponsorship of ‘The Wallis’ spring celebration fundraising event, “The Wallis Delivers: An Evening of Wicked Fun Honoring Stephen Schwartz” is a benefit supporting the artistic, education outreach programs. The Wallis. Honorary co-chairs are Allis Annenberg, Alan Menken, and Julie and Marc Platt. Event co-chairs are Cathy Louchheim and John Bendheim.

The Wallis is located at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd, Beverly Hills. For information, visit thewallis.org.

The Wallis forms partnership with jewelry maker Harry Winston

Rooftop Cinema event benefits APLA Health

Rooftop Cinema Club and APLA Health are hosting a special screening of the film “Love, Simon” (2018) on Thursday, March 28, at 8 p.m. at LEVEL in downtown Los Angeles. The film by director Greg Berlanti and starring Nick Robinson is a coming-of-age drama. Proceeds benefit APLA Health’s programs for underserved communities affected by HIV. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and audience members can enjoy cold drinks, street food and rooftop views. Tickets start at $17. LEVEL is located at 888 S. Olive St. For tickets and information, visit rooftopcinemacub.com.

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Project near Park La Brea causes concern for residents

From page 1

But Harris said the developers, the Holland Partner Group and Regency Centers, won over some doubters when they came back car- rying a plan with a focus on an eight-story building. The plan, which will include 351 apartments, more than 147,000 square feet of retail space and two levels of underground parking, will be an asset to the area of Third and Market and the Grove Complex,” he said.

Rita Fiora, who has been present since the Viper Room opened in 1977, has more often attended as a celebrity. "I think the Viper Room and the music scene is an integral part of what makes it special, and while she could support renovations or improvements, the "stage is sacred."

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"The city of West Hollywood is a cultural hub that celebrates the arts, and this project will strengthen the neighborhood even further by creating a vibrant, mixed-use environment that is both functional and attractive," he added. "This is a win-win situation for everyone involved."
President Trump signed into law a package of four bills that included four bills authored by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), the California Desert Protection and Recreation Act, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Act, the Santa Ana Wash Plan Land Exchange Act and the Contra Costa Canal Transfer Act.

“This is a major victory for California’s public lands,” Feinstein said. “This package protects new resources for our desert, creates California’s first National Heritage Area, develops smart ways to manage the Santa Ana Wash and facilitates safety upgrades to the Contra Costa Canal. Together, these four bills were included in the lands package and are now signed into law.”


The California Desert Protection and Recreation Act builds upon the legacy of the California Desert Protection Act, Feinstein’s landmark bill passed in 1994 that established 7 million acres of the Mojave National Preserve and provided protection for the first time ever for 3.5 million acres of California desert wilderness.

In 2016 Senator Feinstein asked President Obama to expand protections for the desert by creating the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains national monuments. Those new public lands will also benefit from this legislation.

This legislation completes efforts started in 1994 to restore and protect the 12.5 million acres of desert public lands. It is the result of years of engagement with a range of stakeholders, from environmental and conservation groups, local government officials, environmental groups, off-highway recreation enthusiasts, cattle ranchers, mining companies, Department of Energy and California’s public utility companies.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Act establishes the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as California’s first National Heritage Area. It authorizes $10 million in federal assistance over 15 years to provide matching grants to local governments and nonprofit organizations. This federal assistance will help to implement the locally developed National Heritage Area management plan to protect environmental stewardship, heritage conservation and economic development priorities.

The bill has no effect on water operations in and around the Delta, water rights, water contracts or property rights, nor does it create any new regulatory authority or burden on local government or private citizens.

The bill also has no effect on fishing and hunting within the National Heritage.

Santa Ana Wash Plan Land Exchange Act directs the Bureau of Reclamation to transfer approximately 300 acres of land with the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District in the Santa Ana Wash, at the junction of the Santa Ana River and Mill Creek.

The area is also occupied by two mining companies that extract materials for concrete and concrete production. The bill allows these commercial operations to continue in the

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti broke ground on the automated people mover, a train which will connect travelers directly to airport terminals and create new and convenient locations for passengers pick-up and drop-off outside of the central terminal area.

The historic infrastructure project will transform public transportation, reduce traffic congestion, and deliver a world-class experience for travelers at Los Angeles International Airport.

The mayor was joined by Councilman Mike Bonin, L.A. County Supervisors Janice Hahn and Mark Ridley-Thomas, Board of Airports Commissioners President Sean Burton and LAX World Airports CEO Deb Brennenstuhl as well as community and labor leaders at the groundbreaking ceremony.

“Everyone traveling to or from LAX should have access to modern, reliable public transportation that gets them where they need to go and on time,” Garcetti said. The Automated People Mover is a historic first for LAX and another major step toward our long-term transportation infrastructure development.”

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti spoke about the transportation infrastructure – a milestone that will create middle-class jobs, reduce traffic congestion, and deliver a world-class experience for travelers.

Speaking at the ceremony, Garcetti has guided a forward more than $4 billion implementation of LAX that began in 2009. Garcetti’s historic infrastructure investments have strengthened working families and the middle class. Under his leadership, unemployment has been cut in half and 212,000 new jobs have been created. Construction of the train is expected to create more than 2,000 jobs.

The train is the centerpiece of the Landside Access Modernization Program, which also includes a consolidated rent-a-car facility and associated way improvements. Once completed in 2023, the APM will connect with L.A. Metro’s light rail system.

Convenience, reliability and speed are key components at the heart of the project. Trains will arrive every two minutes, have wide doors for efficient boarding, clear signage and viewing, and plentiful of hand holds and seats for those in need. Station platforms are open air and will have escalators, elevators, and moving walkways for quick access to the terminals. The trains will relieve traffic congestion and are expected to serve 30 million travelers annually from 2023.

On April 11, 2018, a 30-year, $4.9 billion contract with LIXNS – the developer of the APM, was unanimously approved by the Los Angeles City Council, marking the largest contract ever awarded in the city’s history. Since then, LIXNS has focused on finalizing the design of the guideway, operations system, stations and tracks along the 2.25 mile path, work that now allows for the start of major construction.

Headliners for this year’s 49th annual Pride parade are pop singer Meghan Trainor on June 8 and English synth-pop band Years & Years on June 9. The proposal, Santa Monica Boulevard, between Robertson and San Vicente Boulevard, would be free and open to the public with exhibitors, nonprofits and local artists, including an art installation honoring the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots.

“Sanitation for this year’s Pride also includes $418,000 for Los Angeles County Sheriff personnel and equipment,” Councilwoman Lindsey Horvath said. “Hopefully, we’re building toward that and this is something that will help us learn from and plan for next year as well.”

President Trump signed into law a package of four bills that included those authored by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), the California Desert Protection and Recreation Act, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Act, the Santa Ana Wash Plan Land Exchange Act and the Contra Costa Canal Transfer Act.

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It’s a major victory for California’s public lands,” Feinstein said. “This package protects new resources for our desert, creates California’s first National Heritage Area, develops smart ways to manage the Santa Ana Wash and facilitates safety upgrades to the Contra Costa Canal. Together, these four bills were included in the lands package and are now signed into law.”


The California Desert Protection and Recreation Act builds upon the legacy of the California Desert Protection Act, Feinstein’s landmark bill passed in 1994 that established 7 million acres of the Mojave National Preserve and provided protection for the first time ever for 3.5 million acres of California desert wilderness.

In 2016 Senator Feinstein asked President Obama to expand protections for the desert by creating the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains national monuments. Those new public lands will also benefit from this legislation.

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LAX airport train project breaks ground

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Westside Jewish Community Center
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**Tuesday, March 26, 6-8pm**
United Teachers Los Angeles
3303 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90010

**Saturday, March 23, 10am-12pm**
Virginia Road Elementary School
2925 Virginia Rd
Los Angeles, CA 90016

**Thursday, March 28, 6-8pm**
West Hollywood Library
625 N San Vicente Blvd
West Hollywood, CA 90069

WHAM and the City of West Hollywood are working on accelerating the Crenshaw Northern Extension by 20 years, in time for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics and Paralympics! Metro is holding four community meetings (March 21st, 23rd, 26th, and 28th) to gather community feedback on the best route to extend the Crenshaw Line north. Stop by to voice your opinion and let Metro know that you want to ride this line sooner than later. Can’t make it to the meetings? Send Metro your feedback at: crenshawnorth@metro.net

For more information on the project, see: www.whamrail.com and follow us on Facebook and Twitter

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