Price of oil in Beverly Hills

BY LUKE HAROLD

Faced with an increased estimate for plugging oil wells at the high school campus, the city and school district planned on splitting the first estimate by paying $4 million each in a letter to Superintendent Michael Bregy, Beverly Hills Public Works Director Shana Epstein said the city offered to fund up to $8 million as costs began to rise.

“From the beginning, the city was always likely to cost upward of $20 million, despite the $8 million figure that was floated two years ago,” said District Councilman David Ryu’s Discretionary Funds Task Force.

Wilshire area residents are on the stump

BY EDWIN POLYV

To Windsor Village resident Julie Stromberg, a member of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council who also recently finished two years of service on City Councilman David Ryu’s District Council, it is a critically-important component of the city’s landscape and environmental health.

Realizing stumps from dead trees were being left on city-owned land between sidewalks and roadways, and were preventing new trees from being planted because of space, Stromberg pitched an idea last year to the 4th District Council Office for a pilot project to remove stumps and have them replaced with new trees.

The council office worked with the Urban Forestry Division to identify funding and this month, a year after Stromberg’s proposal from the city for how the project would be conducted, the two sides will divide the costs.

College admissions scheme hits close to home

BY LUKE HAROLD

The director of a West Hollywood private school and two Beverly Hills residents are among the more than 40 defendants facing charges from the federal govern ment over a scam to bypass admissions processes at some of the top colleges and universities.

Between 2011-18, parents allegedly paid $25 million to college admissions consultant William Singer to circumvent college admissions processes by having ACT and SAT test results altered or arranging a score of around 34 out of 36. The hired test-taker ended up scoring a 35 on behalf of her son. Buckingham then allegedly sought and received $50,000 for having a person who was involved in the scheme take the ACT for her son at a testing center in Houston and arranging a score of around 34 out of 36. The hired test-taker ended up scoring a 35 on behalf of her son.

Buckingham, a marketing executive, allegedly paid $50,000 to have a person who was involved in the scheme take the ACT for her son at a testing center in Houston and arranging a score of around 34 out of 36. The hired test-taker ended up scoring a 35 on behalf of her son. Buckingham then allegedly sought and received $50,000 for having a person who was involved in the scheme take the ACT for her son. Buckingham did not respond to a wiretapped conversation she had with one of the alleged perpetrators of the scheme.

“Buckingham did not respond to a wiretapped conversation she had with one of the alleged perpetrators of the scheme,” Buckingham said, according to a wiretapped conversation she had with one of the alleged perpetrators of the scheme. Buckingham did not respond to a request for comment.

Local group celebrates unsung female heroes

BY CAMERON KISZLA

Hancock Park resident Janna Bodek Harris first learned about Look What SHE Did! last year when the nonprofit group came to the Ebell of Los Angeles, where Harris serves as a board member.

Harris said Look What SHE Did! is a “champion in history, it told stories that played role their heroines have played in history, told stories that hit home for her.”

“I loved the idea of showing role models for younger women through these videos,” she said.

ATTORNEYS representing Buckingham did not respond to a request for comment.

The nonprofit Look What SHE Did!, which includes several local residents, creates videos showing women talking about their heroines whose contributions have often been underappreciated or forgotten.
**LGBTQ film**

In observance of Women’s History Month, Brittany Ashley and the Los Angeles LGBT Center’s Village at Ed Gould Plaza are hosting a special screening of “Knife + Heart” running from Friday, March 29, through Monday, Aug. 26, at the Santa Monica Playhouse. Every Monday evening, audiences will see a new and different lineup of award-winning filmmakers and variety acts. Solumic oversees an unforgettable season of show-stopping treats including sleight of hand, interactive parlor magic and mind-blowing illusions. Showtime is 8 p.m., Monday. Tickets are $40. 1211 Fourth St. (310)586-1166, magicmondayla.com.

Abie Selznick returns to host the fourth year of the “Magic Monday” series running from Monday, April 1, through Monday, Aug. 26, at the Santa Monica Playhouse. Every Monday evening, audiences will see a new and different lineup of award-winning filmmakers and variety acts. Selznick oversees an unforgettable season of show-stopping treats including sleight of hand, interactive parlor magic and mind-blowing illusions. Showtime is 8 p.m., Monday. Tickets are $40. 1211 Fourth St. (310)586-1166, magicmondayla.com.

**‘The Meatball Chronicles’**

Playwright and actress Debrianna Mansini’s “The Meatball Chronicles” show will be shown for one night only, on Monday, April 1, at 8 p.m. at the Museum Theater at the Hotel, downtown.

**Rooftop Cinema Club and APLA Health**

APLA Health and Rooftop Cinema Club will be presenting a special screening of the film “Love, Simon” (2018) at 8 p.m. and “There You Are” will be shown at 10:30 p.m. on the Walt Disney Concert Hall rooftop in downtown Los Angeles. Director Carlos Freyra (pictured) leads the orchestra in a performance in a perfor- mance of works by Paetil, Mahdi, Stravinsky and Schubert. Soloists include soprano Jessica Rivera and pianist Gloria Cheng. Tickets start at $11. 111 S. Grand Ave. asymphony.org.

**American Youth Symphony**

American Youth Symphony presents “Sounds About Town,” a concert also including the National Youth Choros on Thursday, April 4, at 7:30 p.m. in the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Music Director Carlos Freyra (pictured) leads the orches- tra in a perfor- mance of works by Paetil, Mahdi, Stravinsky and Schubert. Soloists include soprano Jessica Rivera and pianist Gloria Cheng. Tickets start at $11. 111 S. Grand Ave. asymphony.org.

**April**

**Film at LACMA**

Musical film fans won’t want to miss a screening of the classic film “All That Jazz” (1979) on Monday, April 1, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The movie starring Roy Scheider follows the story of film choreographer and director Joe Gideon, who must decide whether to set his non-stop work schedule and hedonistic lifestyle aside to reconnect with his life. It is a semi-autobiographical tale written and directed by the legendary Bob Fosse. Admission is free for LACMA members, $7 for nonmembers. Bing Theater, 5905 Wilshire Blvd. (323)857-0000, lacma.org.

**Passover planning**

Congregation Shaarei Tefila is holding “Painlessly Preparing at Panic-Free Pesach” on Tuesday, April 2, in the temple’s Kanner Hall. Esther Simon, a professional organizer and expert on time management, will offer tips for observing Passover, including meal planning and more. 7629 Beverly Blvd. (323)938-7147, or email shaarei@gmail.com.

**‘Schoenberg Reimagined’**

Violinst Elizabeth Hedman and cellist Kate Dillingham will perform in Piano Showcase’s “Schoenberg Reimagined” on Friday, April 5, at 8 p.m. at the Zipper Concert Hall. Schoenberg’s “Chamber Symphony No. 1 for two pianos,” “Six Pieces for Piano Four-hands,” and “Verklarte Nacht” for piano trio will be performed. The concert also includes pianist Nico Gerpe. Tickets start at $35. 200 S. Grand Ave. pianoshows.org

**New West Symphony**

Grammy-winning conductor Michael Christie (pictured) leads the New West Symphony in his first performances as its music direc- tor on Thursday, April 4, at 7:30 p.m. at the Broad Stage, Santa Monica. Christie first led the New West Symphony in performance last October of its “Rhapsody in Blue” concert, celebrating the music of George Gershwin. His debut season, opening in October 2019, will coincide with New West Symphony’s 25th anniversary.
Mirisch becomes mayor of Beverly Hills

Les Friedman enters first term as vice mayor

BY LUKE HAROLD

In a ceremony filled with condemnation of Sacramento politicians over housing policy, a Broadway-style musical number and a singing of “I’d Like to Teach the World to Sing,” Beverly Hills City Councilman John Mirisch was sworn in as mayor on March 30.

Mirisch is in his third one-year term on the city’s seven-member position that rotates among the five council members, since he was first elected in 2009. Councilman Les Friedman, first elected two years ago, enters his first term as vice mayor.

Last year, when Mirisch was sworn in as vice mayor, he denounced a proposed state legislation designed to increase housing density that had been introduced by state Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco).

That bill, SB 827, died in committee, but it’s back this year with some modifications. SB 50. It would supersede local laws to allow higher density zoning near public transportation. Mirisch called it, and other housing bills pending in the Legislature, “a war on single-family housing” led by Sacramento politicians who say single-family housing is “inherently racist and immoral” The Beverly Hills City Council has opposed the bill because the whole city is within close proximity to transit corridors, as defined by the proposed legislation, and would be subject to the new zoning.

“Effectively they are attempting to use the housing affordability crisis to eliminate single-family zoning,” Mirisch said. “It’s a war on communities and an effort to impose one-size-fits-all measures which would financially benefit developers who don’t like to play by the rules.”

Mirisch referred to a call for funding for those members of the state Legislature have asked for evidence that any members did not respond to a call for funding for those members of the state Legislature who are asking for funding.

During his speech, Mirisch referred to a tradition of using noisemakers to blare out the name and memory of Haman, a biblical figure who plotted to kill Jews. Noisemakers were handed out at the installation, and Mirisch instructed audience members to use them whenever he said “Sacramento politicians.” Wiener, who is Jewish, called the comparison “incredibly offensive” and said Mirisch “should be ashamed of himself for going so deeply into the gutter.”

Mirisch said the population density of Beverly Hills is already greater than cities including Denver, but Beverly Hills also ranks 135 out of 272 neighborhoods throughout the county in population density, according to the L.A. Times’ Mapping L.A. project. Neighboring West Hollywood, by comparison, is No. 18, in addition to Mid-Wilshire at 42, Westwood at 54 and Beverly Grove at 55.

Approximately 63 percent of Beverly Hills housing is multifamily housing, according to the city’s general plan, and more than 60 percent of its housing is more than 50 years old. The general plan mentions a drop-off in residents ages 25-44 due in part to the high costs of housing. The population in L.A. County grew 3 percent from 2000 to 2010, according to Census data, compared to 1 percent in Beverly Hills.

But Mirisch denounced the “density fetishism” of Sacramento politicians, and said through the Rent Stabilization Ordinance the City Council has been working on, and through other local means, cities should craft their own identities.

“It needs to be up to local communities to decide what is right for them,” he said.

The installation ceremony began with a moment of silence for the 50 victims who died in a shooting at a New Zealand mosque earlier this month.

“If we are to allow ourselves to expand our horizons and expand our potentials, we need to practice not only kindness, but tolerance,” Mirisch said, also referring to recent acts of anti-Semitism.

Friedman’s speech focused on the “sense of community [that] can be found on every corner.”

“We are in the middle of a metropolitan Los Angeles area but with a beauty and peacefulness that is real hard to replicate,” he said.

Lane closures on Mulholland due to scheduled DWP work

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is installing new power poles and cable along Mulholland Drive, near Coldwater Canyon Drive, as part of a critical power reliability improvement project.

This work may occasionally require Mulholland Drive to be reduced to a single lane of traffic near the intersection of Coldwater Canyon Drive during working hours, with a flagger managing traffic through the construction area.

Work on this project will take place Mondays through Thursdays through April 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. No Friday or Saturday work is expected.

For information, visit ladwp.com.

LADWP

ladwp.com.

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For information, visit ladwp.com.
Authorities have released a sketch and security camera photograph of the suspect wanted for allegedly raping a woman at the Vermont/Sunset subway station.

Suspect wanted for rape in Hollywood subway station

Authorities identified assailant as a transient who frequents Metro stations

BY EDWIN POLVEN

Authorities are searching for a transient who allegedly raped a woman on March 14 in a subway station in east Hollywood.

Transit riders called 911 at approximately 6 p.m. and police rushed to the underground platform at the Vermont/Sunset Red Line subway station, but the suspect had already fled. The man allegedly grabbed the victim after she asked him for directions, said Det. Sid Rodrigue, with the LAPD’s Northeast Division. The suspect allegedly forced the victim into the stairwell of an emergency exit and strangled, punched and raped her.

“I can’t give out too much because we are still looking for him,” Rodrigue said. “Like any thing, we want people to be vigilant and aware of their surroundings.”

Rodrigue described it as a crime of opportunity as opposed to the suspect targeting a victim. He said security cameras captured images of the suspect in the subway station and a police sketch was made. Additional security patrols were implemented in and around transit stations.

The suspect was described as black, approximately 5 feet 7 inches to 5 feet 10 inches tall, 165 to 180 pounds with a shaved head and a 2- to 3-inch scar on his left forearm. He was wearing black clothing and had an earring on his right earlobe.

During their investigation, detectives learned that the suspect frequents Metro stations in Compton and Santa Monica.

Anyone with information is urged to call detectives at (323)561-3328. During weekends and off-hours, call the LAPD’s hotline at (877)LAPD247.

Man who threatened to blow up store sentenced for robbery

A man dubbed the Bomber Robber because he tried to rob a Santa Monica jewelry store by threatening to blow it up has been sentenced to two years in state prison, the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Daniel Merrick said Robert Abalov, 33, of Los Angeles, was sentenced on March 26, immediately after pleading no contest to one count of attempted second-degree robbery.

On Feb. 28, 2018, the defendant entered a store in the 1600 block of Montana Avenue and ordered the owner to give him jewelry while threatening to detonate a bomb that turned out to be fake, the prosecutor said. The owner escaped the store.

Abalov then drove off and crashed into a vehicle near 15th Street and Carlyle Avenue.

A 69-year-old woman was injured in the crash. The defendant then fled on foot and eluded capture until his arrest three months later.

“Timely security measures led to an arrest in a violent crime of opportunity as opposed to the suspect targeting a victim,” Merrick said. “We definely need witnesses.”

Anyone with information is urged to call detectives with the LAPD’s Northeast Division at (877)LAPD247.

Death of second man found in Ed Buck’s West Hollywood apartment ruled accidental

The Los Angeles County coroner’s office has ruled that a 55-year-old man whose body was found in January in the 16th-floor Hollywood apartment of Ed Buck died from methamphetamine and alcohol toxicity.

The death was ruled accidental. The victim, West Hollywood resident Timothy D’Anna, died from coronary artery atherosclerosis, a common form of heart disease.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department issued a statement saying the death remains under investigation and no further comment was available. The department is also still investigating the death of Gemmel Moore, a 26-year-old man who was found dead in Buck’s apartment in 2017. The cause of Moore’s death was ruled an accidental methamphetamine overdose.

The deaths have angered and concerned many people in the West Hollywood community and beyond. Moore’s family filed a wrongful death civil lawsuit earlier this month against Buck.

Attorneys for Moore’s family alleged that Buck preyed on young black men and provided them drugs. Moore, who was from Houston, Texas, had allegedly met with Buck, who is white, multiple times before his death. Buck allegedly paid Moore to fly from Texas to Los Angeles, and he arrived hours before he was found dead.

Drug paraphernalia was allegedly found in Buck’s apartment after Moore died and police questioned him about the circumstances. No arrests were made and the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office declined to file charges because of insufficient evidence that Buck caused Moore’s overdose.

Buck’s attorney Seymour Amster has denied the allegations against his client. He said Buck tried to help people struggling with substance abuse issues. According to Amster, Dean was allegedly acting strangely shortly after he arrived at Buck’s apartment on the evening of Jan. 7 and authorities were called after he became unconscious. Amster said Buck reluctantly let him come over.

Anyone with information about the deaths is encouraged to contact the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department’s Homicide Bureau at (323)980-5500.

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West Hollywood expands security camera rebate program

By Cameron Kiszla

An expanded rebate program from the city of West Hollywood aims to put up to 200 more eyes, or motion-sensing cameras, on the street to increase public safety.

Though WeHo Smart City Ring Rebate Pilot Program, residents can get a $100 rebate when they purchase certain products from Santa Monica-based Ring. Customers must meet the program’s criteria — they must be West Hollywood residents who have the authorization of the property owner to install a Ring device and they have to subscribe to a Ring video recording plan, among other requirements.

Covered products include the Video Doorbell 2, Floodlight Cam, Spotlight Cam Mount, Video Doorbell Ultrastick, Video Doorbell Pro, Spotlight Cam Wired and Spotlight Cam Battery. With a total rebate amount of $150, residents who already purchased a Ring device for their home can get $99 to $149. Half of the rebate comes from Ring, and the other half comes from the city. Together, those 200 rebates will cost West Hollywood $10,000.

“Every dollar counts and it starts at the front door,” Mayor John D’Amico said.

The program launched last year, but it was limited to people who live in Eastside Neighborhood Watch areas. However, many of the residents who live in Eastside Neighborhood Watch areas either already had a Ring device or lived in apartments with existing security systems, said Kate Hohman, the city’s innovation analyst.

Before the program was expanded citywide, approximately half of the 200 rebates have been claimed.

Rick Hohman, a commercial account manager with Tashman Home Center, said he thinks the rebate, which amounts to about 50 percent for some of the devices, is a great reason for people to purchase the cameras, which can help prevent petty crime.

“If I thought there could be more cameras, I’d be a lot more inclined to sell them,” he said. “I’d like to see people coming in to see me about it because I’d like to sell them the Ring.”

Manny Rodriguez, who serves on the Board of the West Hollywood West Residents Association, concurred and said it’s a great way for people to see what’s going on outside their houses, whether they’re home or not.

“If someone has bad intentions and they see this device or any other type of cameras, that could be tough of a deterrent for them to turn away,” he said.

In addition, the recordings could be used to help solve crimes. Rodriguez said he had a bike stolen from his backyard a couple of years ago, and within the Ring system he has set up now, he might have captured footage of the culprit.

“If I didn’t have it then, it was just a big surprise in the morning when I went to the backyard and saw no bike,” he said.

Though the Ring devices will be partially paid for by the city, the devices will still be privately owned and law enforcement won’t be able to access the footage without the owner’s permission, Kigongo said.

Even posting a video onto Ring’s Neighbors App won’t notify the police, though it will keep nearby residents apprised of what’s happening in their area.

“In order to get it in law enforcement’s hands, you’ll still need to send it directly to the sheriff’s department,” Kigongo said.

“The evening also featured a presentation on the story of Nir Caspi, a former member of the Israeli Naval Commando program. Caspi, who co-founded and currently serves as CEO of Café Landwer, lives in Boston and serves as a local IAC council member. The presentation included the screening of a clip from ‘One Night in Anzera,’ a documentary about Caspi’s survival during one of the most dangerous operations in Israeli naval history, and his subsequent work in becoming a successful entrepreneur.

“The IAC and I personally have a mission to show other aspects of Israel,” Caspi said. “We always talk about Israel in terms of politics. We need to present other aspects, like food, music and culture.”

The gala was attended by Congressman Brad Sherman, California State Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel and Richard Bloom, and Los Angeles City Controller Ron Galperin.

“Israeli-Americans share a unique and powerful story, which is reflected in the perspective and work of the IAC,” said IAC Los Angeles Regional Director Nadav Banai. “Our 11th annual Gala celebrated the stories that inspire our commitment to ensuring a strong Jewish and Israeli identity today and for future generations to come.”

For information, visit israeliamerican.org.
Changes coming to leadership at Wilshire Division

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A change in command is coming to the Los Angeles Police Department’s Wilshire Division on March 24, when Capt. Anthony Oddo, the police station’s current commanding officer, will be reasigned as head of the department’s Gang and Narcotics Division.

Oddo, who has served as captain of the Wilshire Division since December 2016, will be replaced by Capt. Timothy Nolosko, who is currently with the LAPD’s Internal Affairs Division. Oddo said he enjoys working in the Wilshire area and is looking forward to his new assignment.

While there have been many changes and accomplishments have been made in combating crime and improving quality of life.

He added, however, that there are still challenges ahead. Crime in and around the Melrose District is a top priority, particularly with a recent increase in street robberies including a high-profile incident earlier this month on Waring Avenue captured on video and widely reported by the media.

“Jan. 1 through the second week of March, 13 robberies were reported in the Melrose District, which experienced four during the same period the previous year. Additionally, there have been deployed and Senior Lead Officer Jan O’Brien is working with residents and business owners to keep them apprised and educate them about crime prevention. The latter approach is an important component of “hardening the target,” Oddo added.

Oddo said another persistent challenge in the Melrose District and elsewhere in the division is auto burglaries, which account for a large amount of the property crimes. Statistics show that through the second week of March 2019, motor vehicle burglaries are up division-wide by 8.9 percent, from 259 year to date in 2018 to 282 in 2019. Oddo attributed to people leaving valuables visible inside vehicles.

The division uses the “Lock It, Hide It, Keep It” program to educate motorists about keeping property secure. That program includes posters, community outreach and communication about crime prevention via social media.

“People breaking into cars is always going to be an issue,” Oddo said. “When I said, the lock it, the lock it is being heard but the hide it part is still frustrating. People lock doors but are keeping laptops out and are leaving valuables in plain sight. Putting valuables in the trunk will go a long way toward resolving those issues.”

Oddo added that prevention is a significant component of reducing crime, and he credited residents with playing a role in keeping over-all incidents decreasing division-wide. Violent crimes are down 4.5 percent year to date in 2019 compared to the same period in 2018. Property crimes are also down 6 percent so far this year over last. Even with an uptick in street robberies in the Melrose area and increase in auto burglaries, the division has experienced an overall 5.8 percent reduction in all major crimes occurring since the beginning of the year, he said. “We have been deploying resources to address that situation. Right now, that is our biggest concern.”

“The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department in 1990 and has three adult children. Ramirez is currently completing his studies through the University of Southern California’s external degree program. He has been married to his wife Roseann for 32 years and has three adult children. Ramirez is currently completing his bachelor’s degree in leadership studies through the University of Alabama’s external degree program. Ramirez has been involved in the communities in which he’s lived and served, including serving as a board member for the Boys and Girls Club of Pasadena and Shelter Partnership, a homeless support organization. He has been married to his wife Roseann for 32 years and has three adult children. Ramirez is currently completing his bachelor’s degree in leadership studies through the University of Alabama’s external degree program.

For information, visit www.wehosheriff.com.

New captain assigned to West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

The city of West Hollywood has welcomed Capt. Ed Ramirez as the new commanding officer of the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station. Ramirez was appointed by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department and began his new assignment as captain on March 24.

Former Capt. Sergio Akoma was promoted to commander earlier this year. The city contracts with the sheriff’s department for law enforcement services.

“On behalf of the City Council, I want to congratulate Edward Ramirez on his appointment to lead the West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station as its new captain,” said West Hollywood Mayor John D’Amico. “This promotion is well overdue. Public safety is a job one and Captain Ramirez is a law enforcement veteran who is highly regarded by our community and knows West Hollywood and its unique challenges. We look forward to working with him in his new leadership role at the station.”

Ramirez has nearly 30 years of law enforcement experience. He joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department in 1990 and worked in the Men’s Central Jail. Ramirez has assisted in the creation and implementation of the Education Based Incarceration Bureau and the Population Management Bureau, as well as the Community Re-entry and Resource Center at the Inmate Reception Center. He also worked patrol at the Temple, Crescenta Valley and Alhambra sheriff’s stations before transferring to the Sheriff’s Information Bureau and later to the Office of the Sheriff as part of the security detail.

As a sergeant, Ramirez served at the Century Station and as a chief’s aide at the Correctional Services Division before being promoted to lieutenant in the Community Transition Unit. He also served a lieutenant at multiple other bureaus before transferring to the West Hollywood station in 2015.

Ramirez has been involved in the communities in which he’s lived and served, including serving as a board member for the Boys and Girls Club of Pasadena and Shelter Partnership, a homeless support organization. He has been married to his wife Roseann for 32 years and has three adult children. Ramirez is currently completing his bachelor’s degree in leadership studies through the University of Alabama’s external degree program.

For information, visit www.wehosheriff.com.

New captain assigned to West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority will host a meeting on Thursday, March 28, to gather community feedback about potential rail service through West Hollywood and to discuss route alignment options.

This meeting, the final of four planned community meetings to discuss the five potential routes for an extension of the Crenshaw/LAX Line.

The Metro to host meeting in WeHo

San Vicente Boulevard and San Vicente Boulevard – will go through West Hollywood.

Depending on which route is chosen, up to nine new stations and nearly 10 miles of track could be built for the extension, which is planned to connect to the Red Line subway.

The project was originally planned to be done by 2047, but West Hollywood officials are pushing for the timeline to be accelerated in order for the extension to be complete in time for the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

For information, visit www.metro.net/pro- jects/crenshaw_corridor.
Wet winter boosts local stormwater capture

The months of January and February brought enough snow and rain to fill the Eastern Sierra snowpack and rainfall in Los Angeles to well above average numbers. In downtown Los Angeles alone, 18.5 inches of rain have fallen since the beginning of the year on Oct. 1. Recent rains have helped replenish the local underground aquifers in L.A. through the capture of an estimated 18.4 billion gallons of stormwater as of the end of February. LADWP estimates that amount of water is enough to supply 70,000 homes in L.A. for one year.

“Just let this water rush out to these underground aquifers. Environ- mentally we can’t afford it. Instead, we want to collect and store more stormwater in local underground aquifiers to help the city increase our local water supply resources,” said LADWP General Manager Richard Harasick.

Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy awarded $1.5 million for regional fire prevention

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy announced on Thursday, March 28, 2019, that the California Natural Resources Agency and Department of Conservation had granted the conservancy $1.5 million to prioritize, develop and implement projects that help increase carbon sequestration and facilitate greenhouse gas reductions in Southern California.

The grant from the State Natural Resources Agency will go a long way to develop strategies with local partners to promote recovery in the burn areas, protect habitat and reduce future catastrophes.

“For decades, LADWP has led water efficiency projects,” said Richard Harasick, LADWP senior assistant general manager of water system. “This is a special honor and we will not go on it next year or the year after that. LADWP continues to stay committed to investing in expanding local water resource programs that take stress off of our Los Angeles Aqueduct supplies and ensure a more reliable water supply for future generations.”

For information about the expansion of local water resources, visit ladwp.com/localwatersupply. For information about water conservation, visit ladwp.com/waterconservation.
Angelenos to Walk to End Genocide

The nation’s largest anti-genocide demonstration will take place on March 31 with more than 1,000 Angelenos of all ages and faiths expected to rally at Jewish World Watch’s 13th annual Walk to End Genocide. The family-friendly walk and advocacy festival, held at Pan Pacific Park from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., calls attention to genocide and mass atrocities taking place worldwide and raises money to help survivors, including the 68.5 million displaced by global violence.

Participants, including elected officials, clergy, students and educators, will learn about ongoing projects that support survivors from the global conflicts and solutions makers, will learn about ongoing projects that support survivors from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar (Burma), Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Yemen and elsewhere.

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

Highlights of the advocacy festival, which will be open before and after the 5K walk, include many activities new to the event, such as a free hue speech workshop with tools to combat the language and social media which can empower evil and the Red Hands Brigade, which is an arts-based advocacy aimed at stopping the global use of children as soldiers and laborers in danger­ous mines that support warfare. There will also be a Jump-A-Thon for Justice for kids of all ages and opportunities to talk with survivors of the Holocaust and other genocides, learn about the struggle to deliver medical aid behind enemy lines in Syria using “guerrilla humanitarian aid,” and send emails urging elected officials to protect the Myanmar’s Rohingya minority, which is currently being subjected to ethnic cleansing.

Performances by local musicians, children’s choirs, art exhibits and JWW’s “I CARE” video campaign will take place throughout the day, and there will be additional activi­ties for teens and younger children. Food, merchandise and jewelry will be available for purchase with pro­ceeds supporting anti-genocide efforts.

The event is an essential fundraiser for JWW as it continues to educate, advocate and support anti-genocide programs. A second walk will take place in Thousand Oaks on April 7.

For information, visit jww.org or call (818) 901-1836.

LADOT expands dockless vehicle program

The Los Angeles Department of Transportation has begun to permit dockless mobility providers who applied to operate dockless scooters and bicycles in the city of Los Angeles.

This is an expansion of the original conditional-use permit pro­gram launched in November 2018. To make sure people in Los Angeles have safe and comfortable transportation choices, LADOT created a pilot one-year permit to broaden the program and build on regulations for dockless mobility.

Through this one-year permit program, LADOT is working to ensure safety, comfort and equity for all who wish to use dockless scooters and bikes. In this phase, LADOT is also introducing “Parking Zones” and the new ability to report issues related to dock­less scooters and bicycles to MyLA311.

For people living in downtown Los Angeles, LADOT has created conveniently located parking zones. Users are encouraged to park scooters in these areas to help keep sidewalks clear and accessible for people who have difficulty parking zone locations in their apps. LADOT plans to install additional parking zones over the coming months. Community members who want to install a parking zone in their area can contact their council office to identify potential locations.

To obtain a one-year permit, providers must meet a number of council-directed requirements including insurance, liability, an equity plan, and a community engagement plan. The full applica­tion can be found here. Providers who applied for permits are required to comply by April 15.

LADOT has taken a phased approach to permits for dockless scooter operations. In November 2018, LADOT released a condi­tional-use permit to test the terms of the permit requirements. This iterative approach helps LADOT take a thoughtful, rigorous, public approach to regulations.

LADOT has awarded three compa­nies with a one-year permit: Lime (5,500 total scooters, 2,500 of which will be located in disad­vantaged communities), Spin (10,500 total scooters, 8,000 of which will operate in disadvan­taged communities); and Bird (6,500 total scooters, 3,500 of which will operate in disadvan­taged communities). There are several other compa­nies that will continue operating with a cap of 3,000 vehicles, including Wheels and Lyft, under the same terms as the conditional-use permit until April 15 while they complete the one-year permit requirements.

For information, visit LADOT/programs/dockless.

Sheriff’s Department challenges drivers to ‘silence’ the distraction

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month and the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department will be joining law enforcement agencies statewide stopping drivers who violate California’s hands-free cell phone law.

Throughout the month of April, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department will have additional deputies on patrol looking specifically for drivers on their phones.

Last year, the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department issued 15,042 citations to drivers texting, calling or performing another function on their phone.

Distracted driving is dangerous, especially when it involves a cell phone. According to preliminary data from the California Highway Patrol, 66 people were killed and more than 6,500 injured in 2017 from distracted driving-related crashes.

“Cell phones remain one of the top distractions for drivers,” said Sgt. Robert Hill. “Like any bad habit, it can be hard to break, but this habit can have life-altering consequences.”

A 2018 observational survey by the California Office of Traffic Safety on driver cell phone use found about 4.5 percent of drivers are still using their cell phone illegally, a nearly 27 percent increase from 2016.

“Th at test or phone call will never be worth losing a life over,” Hill said. “That is why curbing distracted driving is high on our priority list.”

Under the most recent cell phone law that went into effect in 2017, drivers are prohibited from having a phone in their hand for any reason and can only use their phone in a hands-free manner. The phones must be mounted on the dashboard or center console, and can only be touched once with the swipe or tap of a finger to activate or deactivate a function. First-time offenders face a $162 fine.

If drivers need to make a call or text someone, they should pull over and park at a safe location. The LASD also recommends those who struggle to stay off the phone while driving put their phone in a place they can’t reach, like the backseat or trunk.

Funding for distracted driving enforcement operations are pro­vided by a grant from the California OTHS through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

For information, visit lasd.org.

Contact Allison L. Schzarow, Broker-Attorney 310.433.0056aliasl@allstateset.comali@allstateset.com
Cedars takes targeted approach to addressing health in diverse communities

The Cedars-Sinai Research Center for Health Equity is working on population health studies addressing environmental, cultural and genetic factors to understand why certain population groups defined by race, ethnicity and socioeconomic status have higher rates of cancer and other diseases than other groups.

Locally, the Health Equity team is focusing on the high cancer mortality rate among Korean-American communities in the greater Los Angeles area, where incidence of liver cancer in the Hispanic population, in addition to other cancers, is a concern.

Lee says, “In the Korean culture, we’re hesitant to share personal problems, especially health problems.” Lee said, “That’s why my church partnered with Cedars-Sinai, which is sharing information about health risks we face in my community. We need that information.”

The team’s population health approach includes scientific studies and hands-on engagement with religious and community leaders who invite Cedars-Sinai experts to lead educational seminars focused on specific cancer risks, treatments and clinical trial enrollment. Participants take surveys, for example, what roles fear, embarrassment and lack of transportation play in preventing Korean-Americans from getting colonoscopies. Based on the information gathered, the team then arranges convenient, confidential and free cancer screenings in collaboration with local clinics.

“Our approach to tackling health disparities runs from molecular to behavioral,” said Robert Hailes, associate director for Population Sciences at Cedars-Sinai Cancer. “We bring the power of translation research to affected populations. It’s making a big difference.”

The Smith Heart Institute at Cedars-Sinai also is using population health data to advance the understanding of gender differences in heart disease and overall health. Dr. Susan Cheng is leading research projects to determine the underlying causes of cardiovascular aging. Cheng and a research team are working to pinpoint what sets a person on the track toward ideal health maintenance versus gradual health decline. The goal is to take laboratory-based discoveries and translate them to each unique patient in the clinic.

“We have a wealth of data at our fingertips that we can use to decide key trends about how overall health status changes for people over time,” said Cheng, director of Cardiovascular Population Sciences in the Barbra Streisand Women’s Heart Center and director of Public Health Research in the Smith Heart Institute. “We want to understand what population trends exist, and then drill down to better understand what makes each individual woman or man different from everybody else. This approach will help guide us on how we can best work with our patients, one person at a time, to achieve optimal health over the long term.”

For information, visit Cedars-sinai.org

Bill protecting hairstyles worn by Black women and men advances

With a 7-0 vote on March 26, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed a bill by state Sen. Holly J. Mitchell, D-Los Angeles, to end a centuries-long history of racial discrimination based on hairstyles.

Mitchell’s “Equal Braiding Protection” bill was sponsored by the CROWN Coalition, Western Center on Law & Poverty, Color of Change and Daily Bread.

The bipartisan bill would amend the Fair Employment and Housing Act to prohibit employers from enforcing purportedly “race-neutral” grooming policies that disparately impact persons of color.

While federal anti-discrimination laws explicitly defend the choice to wear an afro, they are silent with regard to braids, locks and twists, known collectively as “protective hairstyles,” and commonly worn by Black women and men.

“We are not talking about rain-bow-colored tresses or pink mohawks,” Mitchell said during the hearing. “We are talking about protective hairstyles, commonly worn by people of color in the United States Constitution the sex – the ERA establishes within the United States Constitution the rights of women under the law.”

The ERA states: “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

The Equal Rights Amendment was written in 1923 and passed Congress in 1972 but was never ratified by the 38 states required to ratify it.

In addition to feminism and the reservations among Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), the resolution is co-sponsored by senators Cory Booker (D-N.J.), Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Ed Markey (D-Mass.), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), Alms, Karen Blackburn (D-Minn.), Tina Smith (D-Minn.), Yvette Simpson (D-N.Y.), Marcia Fudge (D-Ohio), Marcia Fudge (D-Ohio), Martha Hinson (D-Hawaii).

The ACLU supports the bill, curorning that hair discrimination is “rooted in a legacy of race and gender bias,” and remains a harmful practice with serious economic and health consequences, particularly for Black women in employment settings.

The California Black Chamber of Commerce praises SB 188 as legislation that improves “access to economic opportunities for African American businesses and the communities in which their employees work, live and play.”

Protecting hair texture and protective hairstyles under race will prohibit an employer from witholding or terminating employment or promotion based on discrimination against the protected employee or applicant’s hairstyle.

SB 188 would next be heard by the Senate Appropriations Committee. A hearing date is pending.

Feinstein joins colleagues in introducing amendment

U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) joined a group of her colleagues on March 27 in introducing the Equal Rights Amendment, known as the ERA, which would guarantee women equal rights under the U.S. Constitution.

“I’m extremely pleased that in 2019 our Constitution still doesn’t expressly guarantee gender equality,” Feinstein said. “That’s why it’s imperative that Congress pass the Equal Rights Amendment and ensure that all Americans are protected from gender-based discrimination.”

The ERA states: “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex – the ERA establishes within the United States Constitution the undeniable and unassailable rights of women under the law.”

Cedars-Sinai community outreach coordinators have met with members of the Korean-American community to discuss ways to improve health and prevent cancer.

For information, visit Cedars-sinai.org
Street repair project moves forward in Hancock Park

The Hancock Park Homeowners Association Board on March 18 met with the new Streets LA Director Adel Hagekhalil, Assistant Director Keith Moure, Streets LA superintendent Robert Sewell and Nick Greif, chief of staff for Councilman David Ryu, 4th District, to learn about plans for Hancock Park street repair.

In January, the Hancock Park Streets Committee began working with Hagekhalil and the 4th Council District Office to develop a long-term plan for repairing concrete streets, and an immediate repair plan for uneven streets and potholes. Hagekhalil first had a team conduct a complete assessment of all streets in Hancock Park. Next, a list of potentially hazardous areas was compiled where work could begin immediately.

The first areas to be addressed are near Second Street and McCadden Place, Fourth Street and Rimpau Boulevard, June and Fourth streets, and the 300 block of South Las Palmas Avenue. The work began last week at Second Street and McCadden Place, where crews removed an uneven asphalt patch and replaced it with concrete. The Streets LA crew will return to Hancock Park every two weeks and plans call for the first phase of street repairs to be completed by June.

The Hancock Park Streets Committee will continue to identify and develop street repair priority list with the city. Additionally, plans call for more city money to be budgeted for concrete repairs during the next fiscal year, which begins in July. The association hopes to have funds secured for two dedicated concrete crews that can respond faster when concrete street replacement and repairs are needed. The city is also investigating the use of a new slurry concrete crews that can respond faster when concrete street replacement and repairs are needed.

Furthermore, plans call for more city money to be budgeted for concrete repairs during the next fiscal year, which begins in July. The association hopes to have funds secured for two dedicated concrete crews that can respond faster when concrete street replacement and repairs are needed.

For information, visit hancockparkhomeownersassociation.org.

O’Farrell hosts Councilman in Your Corner event in Hollywood

Join Councilman Mitch O’Farrell, 13th District, for the next installment of his Councilman in Your Corner series on Saturday, March 30, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at Kingsley Manor, 1055 N. Kingsley Drive.

In addition to going door-to-door to distribute important contact information for free city services, the councilman and city staff will also participate in a community cleanup and beautification project.

Each month, O’Farrell partners with organizations focused on improving the quality of life in the 13th District. Personnel from the Los Angeles Police Department, Council District 13 Clean Team, Los Angeles Beautification Team and Heluna Health will participate.

For information, visit cd13.lacity.org.

Metro offers updates on subway construction

Metro is holding a meeting on Phases 1 and 2 of the Purple Line Extension subway project on Wednesday, April 3, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the second-floor municipal gallery at Beverly Hills City Hall, 445 N. Rexford Drive.

Metro staff will provide a project overview and updates on subway station construction at the monthly meeting to be held after 5 p.m. in the Civic Center Garage, 9300 Civic Center Drive. For information, visit metro.net.

Updates are also being provided on construction along the route from Western Avenue to Avenue of the Stars in Century City. Preconstruction work is currently occurring in Century City, where advance utility relocation is underway near Constellation Boulevard between Solar Way and a point just east of Avenue of the Stars. Work will also occur on northbound Avenue of the Stars during nonpeak hours.

Metro is also preparing to conduct potholing work in Beverly Hills at the site of the future Wilshire/Rodeo subway station, which will be located on the southwest corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Reeves Drive. Potholing, which is necessary to determine if there are any underground obstructions such as utility wires and pipes, is anticipated to continue through mid-May. 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 westbound lanes maintained on Wilshire Boulevard.

A two-year closure will likely begin in April on North Canyon Drive as a portion of the construction site access tracks can access the construction yard. Canyon Drive will be reduced to a cul-de-sac north of Wilshire Boulevard.

Near Wilshire and La Cienega boulevards, excavation, hauling, instrumentation and street restoration is ongoing. North Gale Drive will be intermittently closed at Wilshire Boulevard to support excavation in the Gale Drive staging yard.

Excavation and hauling are 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 be necessary to support concrete pours and deck panel maintenance.

Excavation and dirt hauling also continues near Wilshire Boulevard and La Brea Avenue, and from a work zone in the center of Wilshire Boulevard just east of Sycamore Avenue. East and west Wilshire Boulevard will be intermittently reduced to one lane between Sycamore and Mansfield avenues for deliveries.

Additionally, excavation, concrete work and street maintenance is ongoing near Wilshire Boulevard and Western Avenue. Northbound Manhattan Place will be closed intermittently, and temporary single lane closures on Wilshire Boulevard may be needed between Western Avenue and Manhattan Place from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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

Red Cross in desperate need of blood donations

The American Red Cross has a shortage of type O blood and urges type O donors, as well as eligible blood and platelet donors of all blood types, to give now to ensure lifesaving patient care isn’t impacted.

Type O blood is the most in-demand blood type, helping patients facing life-threatening conditions and emergencies every day. Type O negative blood can be transfused to patients with any blood type, helping patients facing life-threatening conditions and emergencies every day. Type O negative blood can be transfused to patients with any blood type.

Type O positive blood is also especially needed because it is the most transfused blood type and can be given to Rh-positive patients of any blood type.

The Red Cross has less than a three-day supply of most blood types, and blood products are being distributed to hospitals faster than donations are coming in. Recent snowstorms and severe weather in many parts of the country have forced hundreds of blood drive cancellations, causing more than 20,000 blood and platelet donations to go uncollected.

For information, visit redcross-blood.org or call (800)733-2767.
Mayor Eric Garcetti and mayors from California’s 13 largest cities recently met with the governor and legislative leaders to advocate for additional state resources in the 2019 budget to address the ongoing homelessness crisis.

The mayors highlighted the success of the Homeless Emergency Aid Program, an allocation of $500 million that is on track to produce more than 4,000 new shelter beds throughout the state, with cities included $150 million for cities with a population of 300,000 or more.

“Last year, California’s mayors fought hard for hundreds of millions of state dollars to confront the humanitarian crisis on our streets, and in Los Angeles, we have already committed that money to badly-needed bridge housing and other emergency initiatives,” Garcetti said. “But this is just the beginning. Cities need Sacramento to keep following Governor Newsom’s example and step up with the resources we need to make progress. We’ll keep pushing across the finish line.”

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“Last year, the state laid the foundation to get thousands of people off the streets and into housing,” said Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, chairman of the Big City Mayors coalition. “We look forward to continuing to work with the governor and Legislature to increase that historic investment so cities can fund to scale the programs and strategies that are most effective at addressing the urgent crisis of homelessness.”

California’s homeless population is estimated at 134,278, according to 2017 statewide counts. Half of all the county’s homeless individuals are in California, and nearly half of California’s homeless are in the state’s 13 largest cities.

Across the state, cities have used Homeless Emergency Aid Program funds to dramatically increase capacity for shelters, navigation centers, bridge housing, rental subsidies and other supportive services. The mayors highlighted how quickly the state distributed funds to local governments, allowing them to respond according to need, and the flexibility of what resources could be spent on as critical components of the program’s success.

The city of West Hollywood has completed crosswalk safety improvements at intersections at the junctions of Harper, Hayworth and Formosa avenues, Melrose Avenue, Sunset Boulevard and Detroit Street.

High-visibility, striped crosswalks were painted at the intersections last October, and new flashing pedestrian warning lights were installed earlier in March. The new lights are activated by pedestrians to stop traffic on Fountain Avenue.

Diamond-shaped pedestrian warning signs and bright lights facing traffic have been embedded in the roadway, forming a visual line along the perimeter of each crosswalk. The lighting is also activated by pedestrians pushing buttons on curbside poles.

The new crosswalks feature small refuge islands in the center of the roadway. Additional safety features have also been added such as bulb-outs at intersections to reduce crossing distances, and right-turn-only signs to reduce potential conflict points. Trailer-mounted electronic message signs have been placed at key locations citywide to encourage drivers to slow down and observe posted speed limits. Speed radar blinking, revenue-enforcement signs have also been installed near Sweitzer and Fairfax avenues, and Gardner and Detroit streets.

The city will evaluate the improvements at a later date to determine their effectiveness in reducing speeds and accident rates. Pending the results of a testing phase, the striped bulb-outs and refuge islands may be replaced with permanent concrete fixtures. In February 2019, the city’s contracted Parking Enforcement personnel began monitoring major intersections during commute hours and are issuing citations to drivers who block intersections or crosswalks. The goal is to help ease bottlenecks at intersections during rush hours and to increase pedestrian and bicyclist safety.

For information, visit weho.org.

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For information, visit weho.org.

Letters to the Editor

Tom Bergin’s building deserves to be preserved

Re “Letters to the Editor: Tom Bergin’s building has outlived its usefulness,” March 21 issue

I am of Irish descent and always went to Bergin’s. We didn’t have a Irish restaurant now that it closed. It’s sad that Mr. Schreck did not know how to operate his business.

As far as homeless housing built in the location, the only thing that will be condoned for thousands a month. Good luck with that.

Let Bergin’s find a new owner and open, like Formosa [Café] is.

Linda Lambert

Clifton Street

[B]uilding housing for home- less individuals at the Tom Bergin’s site, that’s not my idea of a useful purpose. I doubt the homeowners in the area would agree to homeless housing. Senior housing, but homeless?

Linda Bazzel

Project to replace Viper Room not good

Re “WeHo residents oppose Viper Room project,” March 21 issue

First the [hotel project at 9034 Sunset Blvd.] that looks like a stack of pancakes and now this one, where one tower leans on the other looking like a drunk being assisted to his Uber. Welcome to the Strip, 2023.

Tom Prate

West Hollywood

Construction is out of control in Hollywood

Has anyone else noticed the huge amount of construction going on in Hollywood on Cahuenga Boulevard below Sunset?

Just across the street from a mammoth project going up around Cahuenga and Fountain you will notice homeless people in tents across the street. Everywhere you look in Hollywood these days, you’re battling cement trucks and construction crews as more and more “affordable” housing goes up.

My question is why is this allowed to happen? Perhaps our Hollywood Councilman Mitch O’Farrell’s close ties with developers has something to do with it. (Councilman) David Ryu is the only city council person who refuses contributions from developers. Why haven’t all the others?

Because Hollywood’s population is mainly younger people coming here to make it in show business, they’re not that involved politically, and thus the City Council just allows this to go unchecked. As a 40-year resident of Hollywood, I’m freaked out by the amount of homeless people on the street and the junta- position of them battling for side- walk space with cement trucks and construction crews. Color me disgusted!

Tom Vickers

Hollywood
RESTAURANT NEWS
By Jill Weinlein

Joe’s Pizza specials in March

During March Madness, buy one New York-style pizza and get 50 percent off the second pie, or buy three pies and get one free. Joe’s signature thin crust is light and crisp, and pairs well with the eatery’s tangy marinara and subtle mozzarella. 8539 Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood, (310) 358-0060. 613 S. Spring St., Los Angeles, (213)988-8848. 6504 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, (323)467-9500.

Special guest chef at Atrium

On Monday, April 1, Los Angeles chef Ray Garcia prepares a pop-up dinner alongside Atrium’s executive chef Hunter Pritchett’s regular menu. Garcia will serve five California-influenced dishes and dessert from 4 to 11 p.m. Guests will enjoy pork rinds with chili lime spice; beet salad with house-made ricotta; tostadas with short rib; mussels with tamarind and coconut vinegar; agave-brined chicken with buttermilk biscuits; and mille-feuille milk chocolate crémeux with Medjool date, vanilla pastry cream, mandarin and salted caramel. 1816 N. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, (323)607-6944.

March Madness at Rocco’s Tavern

Watch all the March Madness games at Rocco’s Tavern as you enjoy food and drink specials. Happy hour starts at 9 a.m. Order the Go Large double beer deal for $12 during March Madness, buy one New York-style pizza and get 50 percent off the second pie, or buy three pies and get one free. Rocco’s also offers cocktail specials, wings, pizza, salads, pasta and hero sandwiches. 3843 Main St., Culver City, (310)275-5200. 9500 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, (310)818-4925. 2151 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, (310)284-6500.

Martini madness at THE Blvd

Watch the NCAA basketball games while sipping martinis in Beverly Hills. Inside the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, the bartenders at THE Blvd have created a Sweet 16 drinks menu with four different martinis. Diners can vote on their favorite drinks, and the top contenders will be pulled into a final playoff round. The winning martini will be featured on the bar menu. Additionally, guests who follow @theblvdbw on Instagram and vote in the drinks contest will be entered to win dinner for two at THE Blvd. 9500 Wilshire Blvd., (310)275-2500.

Farmhouse anniversary

Los Angeles’ seed-to-plate restauranteur Farmhouse at the Beverly Center celebrates its first anniversary on Thursday, April 4. The evening event from 6 to 9 p.m. features a live country band along with happy hour drinks and complimentary bites from their new seasonal spring menu. 4211 N. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, (310)818-4925.

Granville WeHo brunch

Bunch with friends after a weekend morning yoga class or a leisurely morning spent with family. The weekend brunch at Granville is served on the front patio or in the sun-filled restaurant. Special dishes include two eggs with rainbow-colored breakfast potatoes and pure cane-smoked bacon; eggless chilaquiles with grilled vegetables and lime-enhanced crispy tortilla triangles; brioche French toast with almond and orange zest; and pumpkin chia pancakes. Lunch favorites are also available and include soups, big salads, juicy burgers and sandwiches. For drinks, try the Village mimosa with fresh orange juice or the Wake n’ Bacon with chocolate stout, maple syrup, lemon juice, egg whites and bacon garnishing. 8701 Beverly Blvd., West Hollywood, (424)522-5161.

Yours Truly opens

Executive chef Vartan Abgaryan now in the kitchen of Yours Truly on Abbot Kinney Boulevard. His multicultural approach to each dish combines ingredients from the Middle East, Asia and Europe. Middle Eastern elements feature in the crispy octopus dish with strawberry harissa, lebni, walnut dukkah and spiced skate wing with chermoula, couscous, pickled raisins, and served with rainbow-colored sides made with rainbow-colored potatoes and pure cane-smoked bacon.

Restaurant & Bar

Public School Restaurant & Bar

Enjoy games of darts, shuffleboard, giant Jenga and more while watching March Madness and munching on special game-day bites at Public School Restaurant & Bar. Happy hour recess is Monday through Friday from 3 to 7 p.m. 9411 Culver Blvd., Culver City, (310)558-0414. 612 S. Flower St., Los Angeles, (213)622-4500.

Park Labrea News/Beverly Press March 28, 2019
In the sophisticated dining room of the new Pacifique restaurant on La Cienega, guests can sit in intimate Japanese izakaya-style booths with curtains for a discreet dining experience.

Pacifique is located at the former Le Petit Bistro, which closed its doors in 2018 after 25 years in business. Restaurateur Joel Herzer and partner and designer Sean Leffers have transformed the main dining room to look like a West Hollywood designer showroom. Oversized white papier-mâché globe lights hang above a row of tables set for two and houndstooth fabric-covered chairs. The space, with comfortable plush velvet banquettes and booths, along with opulent gray, taupe, dark blue, white and black colors, exudes warmth and elegance. Much of the restaurant’s design takes its inspiration from the local community—many of the textiles and interior pieces were sourced from West Hollywood designers Kelly Wearstler and Rose Tarlow.

Looking at the beverage menu, I saw that my friend Feisser Stone curated the bar program with Zachariah Parks. Stone has reimagined the cocktails at the Wallis Annenberg Center of Performing Arts in addition to some of the most acclaimed restaurants and bars in the area, including Mosaic Hotel in Beverly Hills, Hinoki & the Bird in Century City and the Ace Hotel rooftop. The bar menu at Pacifique features a carefully composed list of domestic and international wines and beer. There are unique cocktails as well, including a martini made with almond-and-Castelvetrano-washed vodka, white honey, and a dry and pale fino sherry.

Pacifique also offers a curated bottle service menu that pairs single cask whiskies with bites from the kitchen. Other rare, cask and small-allocation spirits are featured in 1.5-ounce pours, showcasing Stone and Parks’ rotating favorites.

We started with what our server said is a fan favorite—a fluted of Schlumberger grüner veltliner brut. This dry sparkling wine carried apple, pear and ginger essence with a pleasing finish. It paired well with the first three small plates that we ordered, the Japanese karaage, chawanmushi and chicory salad. At Pacifique, chef Danielle Sobel showcases traditional Japanese dishes with seasonal California ingredients. The karaage, for instance, is made with mushroom-marinated dark meat chicken, coated with a light potato flour and fried to resemble tempura. It’s then served with a slice of lemon, pinch of soy salt and a pleasing spicy citrus aioli dipping sauce.

The chawanmushi arrived next in a small blue and white cup with a lid on top. As our server lifted the lid, I caught a glimpse of an egg on the bottom of the bowl with pieces of shimeji mushrooms and Dungeness crab meat floating in the hot soy broth. Within one minute, however, the liquid turned into a velvety custard flan-like consistency. The savory dish was warm, smooth and very satisfying.

The large chicory salad was delivered to our table with a swirl of date purée on the side, Pink Lady apples and yuzukōsho vinaigrette to sweeten the bitter chicory leaves. Mixed in were slightly spicy soy and a small blue and white cup with a lid on top. As our server lifted the lid, I caught a glimpse of an egg on the bottom of the bowl with pieces of shimeji mushrooms and Dungeness crab meat floating in the hot soy broth. Within one minute, however, the liquid turned into a velvety custard flan-like consistency. The savory dish was warm, smooth and very satisfying. The large chicory salad was delivered to our table with a swirl of date purée on the side, Pink Lady apples and yuzukōsho vinaigrette to sweeten the bitter chicory leaves. Mixed in were slightly spicy soy and a
The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD’s West Hollywood and Hollywood divisions between March 3 and March 24. The information was compiled from www.crimemapping.com. To report a crime, call local law enforcement agency.

West Hollywood

March 23
At 2:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 200 block of S. Palm.

West Hollywood Sheriff’s Station

March 18
At 1:30 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 100 block of N. Clark at 7 p.m.

March 19
At 2:05 a.m., a suspect was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol near the corner of Larrabee and Sunset at 12:46 a.m.

At 2:04 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 500 block of Westbourne.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8500 block of Holloway at 7 a.m.

At 12:20 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of Sweetzer.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of Almont.

At 11:15 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim in the 8300 block of Santa Monica.

March 20
At 11:10 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 700 block of Westmount.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 7400 block of Santa Monica at 2 a.m.

At 3:53 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 9:23 p.m.

March 21
An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 600 block of San Vicente at 6 a.m.

At 12:34 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

Beverly Hills

March 15
At 9:54 p.m., a suspect was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near the corner of N. Crofton and Wilshire.

March 16
A suspect was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the 400 block of S. Doheny at 12:07 a.m.

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

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 9500 block of Brighton Way at 2:32 p.m.

At 9 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 200 block of S. Rexford.

March 17
At 5 p.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 300 block of N. Maple.

An unknown suspect committed a residential burglary in the 100 block of N. Clark at 7 p.m.

March 18
At noon, an unknown suspect committed a commercial burglary in the 200 block of N. Rodeo.

March 19
At 2:05 a.m., a suspect was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol near the corner of Calle Vista at 11:00 a.m.

March 20
At 2:51 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 200 block of S. Carson.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle in the 400 block of N. Beverly Drive at 1:32 p.m.

At 3:15 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 800 block of Foothill Road.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Camden at 5:03 p.m.

At 9:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9800 block of Wilshire.

March 21
At 11:22 a.m., an unknown suspect was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol near the corner of South Santa Monica and N. Crescent.

An unknown suspect committed a vehicle burglary in the 400 block of S. Canon at 3 p.m.

March 22
At 11:13 a.m., a suspect was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near the corner of South Santa Monica and N. Crescent.

At 12:34 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

Brothers sentenced for running opioid distribution scheme

Two brothers who owned a West Los Angeles pharmacy and were previously convicted of illegally selling prescription opioids and other narcotics to black market customers will be sentenced March 13, with each man being ordered to serve more than six years in federal prison.

Berry Kabov, 48, and his brother Dabour “Dabo” Kabov, 35, both residents of Brentwood, were sentenced on March 6 by United States District Judge Dolly M. Gee. The Kabov brothers operated Global Compounding Pharmacy.

Following a three-week jury trial in Los Angeles in February, the Kabov brothers were convicted of conspiracy to distribute oxycodone, hydrocodone and anabolic steroids.

The brothers were found guilty of conspiracy to distribute approximately 16,000 doses of oxycodone, hydrocodone, anabolic steroids and other controlled substances to customers in and around Southern California.

“The Kabov brothers used Global Compounding to sell bulk quantities of oxycodone to customers across the country. During the investigation, authorities seized shipments containing thousands of oxycodone pills sent by the Kabov brothers to customers in and around Columbus, Ohio. The customers in turn made cash deposits into the Kabov brothers’ bank accounts or shipped bulk cash to the brothers in Southern California,” Attorney Nick Hanna.

“In the midst of a national opioid epidemic, these defendants used a seemingly legitimate pharmacy as a front to flood the black market with dangerous opioids for their own personal profit.”

-United States Attorney Nick Hanna

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

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

At 9:59 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 9600 block of Sycamore.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle near the corner of San Vicente and Fuller.

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

Editor’s note: Information about a “fleeing over” will that could be cited in order to be certain that any assets not in your trust at the time of your death will be distributable to your beneficiaries as you wish expressed in your revocable trust.

As you can see, trusts are not just for the wealthy. Anyone desiring to control the disposition of your assets after your death, as well as preventing the court from controlling your assets in the event of your incapacity. Even with a revocable trust, however, a will (often referred to as a “living trust” or “will”) will often referred to as a “living trust” or “will” will often cited in order to be certain that any assets not in your trust at the time of your death will be distributable to your beneficiaries as you wish expressed in your revocable trust.

Sixto Sosa

After drug wholesalers cut off distribution to the Kabovs, the brothers began manufacturing their own opioid pills after obtaining a $100,000 bill press from China and acquiring enough bulk powder to manufacture 500,000 to 1,000,000 maximum-strength pills.

In addition to the prison sentences, Gee ordered the Kabovs to pay $350,834 in restitution to the IRS, with each brother being ordered to pay just over $175,834.

WHAT IS A REVOCABLE TRUST?

This week’s column is the second in a series on Revocable Trusts (Living Trusts).

A revocable trust (sometimes referred to as a “living trust” or “will”) can be created in order to be certain that any assets not in your trust at the time of your death will be distributable to your beneficiaries as you wish expressed in your revocable trust.

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1. avoid probate at death
2. prevent control of assets at incapacity
3. provide privacy that a revocable trust is not a public document
4. allow quick distribution of assets following a death
5. prevent personal distribution of assets
6. protect beneficiaries from the probate process
7. reduce or eliminate estate taxes
Library to make Brockman Gallery Archive available to the public

The Los Angeles Public Library has acquired the Brockman Gallery Archive, consisting of published announcements, press releases, photographs, exhibition announcements, articles, correspondence and other ephemera chronicling the 20-year history of the seminal Leimert Park gallery. Founded in 1967 by brothers Alonzo and Dale Davis, the Brockman Gallery promoted the Black Arts movement and up and coming local artists in Los Angeles during the 1980s. The Brockman Gallery served as a gallery and artist-in-residence studios, and provided early exposure to many local artists who achieved national prominence including Betsey Saar, David Hammons, Charles White and John Outterbridge. The gallery offered internships to students and commissioned public events.

For Dale Davis, the Brockman Gallery was dedicated to giving the local community a voice by showcasing black artists and others from underrepresented groups. As the former secondary school instructor, access to the archive by students was foremost on his wish list due to the “great needs of our youth in a system that has systematically deleted the visual arts curriculum from its offerings and requirements.” Davis said.

The Los Angeles Public Library will make the archive available for research and inspiration.

“The Brockman Gallery Archive represents a very important time in the history of the arts and the contributions of African Americans to art in Los Angeles and the nation,” said City Librarian John F. Saso. “It is an incredible addition to our special collections. We are committed to preserving and making discoverable the stories of all the communities we serve.”

For information, visit lapl.org.

Plans for future Nimoy Theatre taking shape

The UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture and the Center for the Art of Performance have select
ed BAR Architects of San Francisco to renovate the Crest Theatre on Westwood Boulevard. A landmark venue dating back to the early 1930s, the theater was transformed into the UCLA Nimoy Theater, a performing arts space that is operated and managed by CAP UCLA. Under the leadership of Kristy Edmonds, CAP UCLA’s executive and artistic director, the Nimoy Theater will collaborate with campus arts organizations as well as local and national cultural and community partners to develop year-round programs.

BAR Architects, with offices in Los Angeles and San Francisco, has a deep-rooted connection to the Crest Theatre dating back to the late 1980s when Disney selected BAR, in partnership with scenographer Joe Musi, to renovate the theater into a venue that would feature its latest films.

Restaurant News

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pine nuts, fennel and lemon; and a duo of Allison’s other delicious options include the zucchini blossoms tempura, Nashville-style spring roll, and bocca-tini carbonara with squid ink, uni and truffle roe. For a vegetarian option, try the carrots with burrata, toasted hazelnuts and sourdough crisp. To pair with your meal, beverage director Brian Butler has created an elaborate low-ABV cocktail menu. The ‘Young Turk’ is made with Colin dry vermouth, Scrappy’s lavender bitters, lemon, Fever-Tree Mediterranean tonic, cucumber, lavender and juniper.

Tour and book highlight ‘Old Hollywood’


Tickets are $45 and include a drink and appetizers at Lono, a Tiki-inspired bar on Hollywood Boulevard. “100 Things to Do in Los Angeles Before You Die” will be available for purchase and signing.

For information and tickets visit eventbrite.com/e/10-things-to-do-in-old-hollywood-before-you-die-walking-tour-tickets-58299437186.

Pacifico on La Cienega is practically perfect

From page 13

nuts adding texture and crunch, as well as a generous sprinkling of savory manchego cheese on top for a salty component to this well-balanced salad.

A glass of grenache from France’s Languedoc region went nicely with our next dish, the kohlrabi and calabaza, known as a German turnip, tastes a little bit like broccoli, cauliflower and Brussels sprouts. Sobel prepares it to look like scallops on a plate, and then adds rolled salsa leaves, king trumpet mushrooms and a vibrant citrus vinaigrette.

My least favorite dish of the evening was the agnolotti. I found the pasta too limp, especially as the agnolotti is made daily using seasonal fruit.

We finished with a piece of grilled rock cod placed on top of white asparagus and a mirin (Japanese mustard greens) pesto swirl. The chopped green leaves framing the moist white fish were dressed with a kohshu and sambos pepper glaze for a slightly spicy kick.

Leave on a sweet note with dessert options like coconut panna cotta or an attractive lemon yuzu tart. The talented pastry chef Eliot Pardou, of Salazar and The Raymond 1886, adds floral lavender wafers to round out the delicate flavors of the tart. Or, keeping with the restaurant’s theme of embracing Japanese and California fusion, try the chocolate melon cake with green tea ice cream. The treat, along with Pacifico’s pleasing dishes and great cocktail and bar menu, will entice diners to the restaurant again and again.

$5 Pacifico is open Sunday to Thursday from 6 to 10 p.m. On Friday and Saturday, the restaurant stays open until 11 p.m. 631 N. La Cienega Blvd., West Hollywood, (310)359-6788.

Jesse Boy supports CHLA

Jesse Boy restaurant in Hollywood is making donations from sales of its Jesse Boy Bowls to Children’s Hospital Los Angeles’ Hand-crafted agua frescas are made daily using seasonal fruit.

“We are so excited to be a part of this great cause,” said Jesse Boy co-founder Ajay Hira. “If you could order a little bit of everything on the menu in one shot, our Jesse Boy Bowl is it. We look forward to the community joining us this March as Jesse Boy Bowls topped with house in supporting CHLA, a group that cares about kids.”

Jesse Boy is located at 6254 Santa Monica Blvd. For information, visit jesseboycafe.com and follows Jesse Boy on Instagram and Facebook.

Tickets are $45 and include a drink and appetizers at Lono, a Tiki-inspired bar on Hollywood Boulevard. “100 Things to Do in Los Angeles Before You Die” will be available for purchase and signing.

For information and tickets visit eventbrite.com/e/10-things-to-do-in-old-hollywood-before-you-die-walking-tour-tickets-58299437186.
Getty Institute taps new associate curator

On March 21, the Getty Research Institute announced the appointment of LeRonn P. Brooks as associate curator for Modern and Contemporary Collections, specializing in African American art. Brooks fills a position newly created as part of the Getty Research Institute’s African American Art History Initiative, an ambitious program launched last year to establish the Getty Research Institute as a major center for the study of African American art and art history.

LeRonn P. Brooks brings an informed, critical voice to the Getty Research Institute’s curatorial department and is a welcome addition to our scholarly community,” said Mary Miller, director of the Getty Research Institute. “I am looking forward to working with him as he helps build collections for research on 20th- and 21st-century American art history.”

Brooks is currently a faculty member at Lehman College in New York. He brings broad curatorial experience to the Getty, having curated the Royal Academy Imaginary exhibition “On Whiteness.” For the Brooklyn Museum, Brooks curated the 2016 exhibition “Bronx: Africa,” which exhibited the work of 25 early- and mid-career Bronx-based African artists.

As a member of the modern and contemporary collections curatorial team at the GRI, Brooks will help to build collections and to present programs related to African American art. This will include acquiring art historical and artists’ archives and other original sources and documents.

Brooks is the first full-time staff member hired at the GRI under the new African American Art History initiative. The GRI also plans to hire a bibliographer to build the research library’s holdings. The GRI currently supports annual graduate and postgraduate research fellowships as well as a program to conduct oral histories of notable African American artists, scholars, critics, collectors and art dealers. The GRI will partner with other institutions to digitize existing archival collections and collaborate on ongoing curatorial projects and publications.

Brooks will begin his position at the Getty Research Institute in June. The Getty Research Institute is located at 1200 Getty Center Drive. For information, visit getty.edu/research.

Cuban dance group puts on rare local show

Malpaso Dance Company, one of Cuba’s hottest contemporary dance ensembles, will bring a slice of Havana to Southern California with three performances on Thursday, March 28, through Saturday, March 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts’ Bram Goldsmith Theater.

Malpaso, founded in 2012 and celebrated for its blend of modern, ballet, urban and jazz dance styles, is hailed as “driven and invigorating” by The New York Times and “insatiably agile” by DC Metro. This is only the second time the Havana-based company has appeared in Los Angeles, following its local debut in 2017.

“Malpaso Dance Company has earned an international reputation for its bold and exhilarating performances, diverse repertoire and exceptional skill,” said The Wallis’ Artistic Director Paul Kreves. “The Wallis is pleased to showcase this superlative dance company.”

Malpaso Dance Company is one of Cuba’s most sought-after dance troupes, though when the independent modern dance company was formed, friends expressed concern that it was a “mistake” (malpaso) to launch a new troupe because they would possibly lose government funding and have to assume fundraising responsibilities.

Instead, the global-facing company has expanded the concept of what Cuban culture can be when it strikes outward and embraces the myriad styles of dance.

For information and tickets, visit thewallis.org, call (310)746-4000 or stop by the Performing Arts Ticket Services Office at 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd.

Crossword Puzzle by Myles Mellor

**Across**
1. Alexander, e.g. (6)
5. Dessert (7)
10. Jean Valjean’s creator Victor (9)
14. Corder forerunner (8)
15. Scandalmonger (8)
17. Rent followers (6)
18. Ancient Peruvian (8)
19. Needle (7)
20. Car a load (6)
21. “Between you and me” (7)
22. “___, old chap” (7)
23. Small stream dam (7)
24. Roof top receiver (7)
25. S. Open champ, 1985-87 (12)
26. Pooh pal (6)
27. “___ of the Rings” character (8)
28. Land of the Rings (Ireland’s national airline) (9)
29. Hidden control (8)
30. Game (4)
31. Shy (7)
32. “___” (10)
33. Strange object in the sky (9)
34. “___” (9)
35. Preparing to go (10)
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**Down**
1. Computer letters (5)
2. Summer nose cover (8)
3. Gas seller (7)
4. Chestnut (7)
5. Pesima (7)
6. Magazine’s need (11)
7. “___” of the Grass” writer William (11)
8. Draw (6)
9. Grammy winner LaBelle (12)
10. “___ Cure” (11)
11. West Coast sch. (7)
12. Outer native (9)
13. Site of Paris runways (11)
14. Young woman in Paris (9)
15. “___’s suffix” (9)
16. Give off coherent light (11)
17. Irresolute substance (9)
18. Board member: abbr. (6)
19. Prevention dose? (6)
20. Cur’s curse (6)
21. River to the Rio Grande (11)
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Acclaimed director to present latest movie in Santa Monica

British filmmaker Mike Leigh will present his new film “Peterloo” at the Aero Theatre from April 1 to 7. The program, called “Bleak, but Never Boring: Life According to Mike Leigh,” is presented by the American Cinematheque and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts Los Angeles.

Leigh has made an indelible mark on cinema with his committed realism and unwavering search for truth. Fascinated at an early age with acting and directing for the stage, Leigh began his career in the theater as an assistant director for the Royal Shakespeare Company. It was there that he began experimenting with actors, particularly in rehearsal, and developed his method of improvisation, which he would go on to perfect in films.

In 1971, Leigh directed his first feature, “Blow-Up,” which followed the miserable experience of a working-class woman and her mentally disabled sister. Though the film was critically acclaimed, Leigh left features for 17 years to direct for British television, where much of his output dealt with the monotony of working-class life. Some of his most successful TV projects, however, reached far beyond British audiences. For instance, “Meantime,” Leigh’s bi-tale of sibling jealousy starring Tim Roth, Phil Daniels and Gary Oldman, was released internationally around the world and screened at the Berlin International Film Festival.

Leigh finally returned to the big screen in 1988 with “High Hopes,” a socially conscious tale of clashing beliefs within a family unit. “Life is Sweet” struck an equally wonderful balance between despair and comedy, but “Naked” offered a thoroughly brutal and nihilistic worldview. One of Leigh’s most challenging yet beautifully honest works, the 1993 film earned Leigh Best Director and star David Thewlis a Best Actor at the Cannes Film Festival.

In 1996, Leigh took home the festi-val’s top prize, the Palme d’Or, as well as several Oscar nominations, for “Secrets & Lies,” which features an unforgettable performance by Brenda Blethyn. Since then, Leigh has continued to direct searing social dramas that shed light on contemporary issues. His 2004 film “ Vera Drake,” for example, garnered three Oscar nominations for its tragic portrayal of a British woman performing abortions in the 1950s. Though Leigh’s films all have a strong contemporary sensibility, the director has had considerable success with period films, including “Topsy-Turvy” and “Mr. Turner.”

The latest along these lines is the new “Peterloo,” an impressive dramatic re-creation of the 1819 Peterloo Massacre in Manchester. The Aero Theatre is located at 1328 Montana Ave. in Santa Monica. For information or ticket sales, visit americancinematheque-calendar.com/content/bleak-but-never-boring-life-according-to-mike-leigh.

El Capitan celebrates release of new Disney film

Hollywood’s legendary El Capitan Theatre will present a special engagement of Disney’s “Dumbo” from March 28 to April 21. Guests will experience all of the excitement of the Big Top from the minute they enter the theatre, including live circus performers on all levels of the theatre to thrill the audience.

The event is for the whole family, featuring costumes and props from the film and photo opportunities.

“We are thrilled to welcome our El Capitan Guests under the Big Top with our special engagement of Disney’s “Dumbo,”” said Ed Collins, general manager of the El Capitan Theatre. “We have transformed our theatre into the world of Dumbo’s circus, complete with mesmerizing live performances of circus acts and photos ops to create memories of a lifetime. It’s the kind of experience you just can’t get anywhere else other than the El Capitan Theatre.”

From Disney and visionary director Tim Burton, the all-new grand live-action adventure “Dumbo” expands on the beloved classic story where differences are celebrated, family is cherished and dreams take flight. Circus owner Max Medici (Danny DeVito) enlists former star Holt Farrier (Colin Farrell) and his children Milly (Nico Parker) and Joe (Finley Hobbins) to care for a newborn elephant whose oversized ears make him a laughingstock in an already struggling circus.

But when they discover that Dumbo can fly, the circus makes an incredible comeback, attracting persuasive entrepreneur V.A. Vandevere (Michael Keaton), who recruits the peculiar pachyderm for his newest, larger-than-life entertainment venture, Dreamland. Dumbo soars to new heights alongside a charming and spectacular aerial artist, Colette Marchant (Eva Green), until Holt learns that beneath its shiny veneer, Dreamland is full of dark secrets.

El Capitan guests can even be among the first to see the movie on Thursday, March 28, at 7 p.m. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Tickets to the special opening night are $30 and include a reserved seat, souvenir popcorn container with mini refill, 20-ounce bottled drink and surprise.

“Dumbo” will play at 10 a.m. and 1:10, 4:20 and 7:30 p.m. each day, with additional showings at 10:40 a.m. on opening weekend and on Fridays and Saturdays. Showtimes and dates are subject to change.

Special group rates of $10 per person for parties of 20 or more are available by calling (818)845-3110. In addition, a Hard Rock Café movie and meal package is available for $40 per person for all showtimes from March 28 to April 21. Reservations are required in advance.

The El Capitan Theatre is located at 6838 Hollywood Blvd. For tickets, visit elcapitantickets.com or call 1-800-DISNEY6. For information, visit elcapitantheatre.com.

History museum’s First Fridays to focus on forces of nature

This season’s First Fridays at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County are not for the faint of heart.

The theme, Forces of Nature, will explore California’s natural disasters. The museum will host enlightening and entertaining discussions with experts about fires, floods, droughts and earthquakes, moderated by award-winning Los Angeles Times writer Patt Morrison.

After pondering how to prevent and manage calamity and what to pack in an emergency kit, guests can sip cocktails in the DJ lounge, explore the museum at night and hear bands perform in the diorama halls.

On April 5, the program, called “Higher and Drier,” will focus on drought and water usage. The amount of water on Earth hasn’t changed appreciably since Caesar and Cleopatra took a little cruise on the Nile, but the hydrologic cycle has changed where that water goes—and humanity is heading up a very dry creek.

Also, science correspondent and “Ologies” podcast host Alix Ward hosts Secrets from the Vaults, where she asks museum research specialists about their collections and discovers details hidden in plain sight.

Tickets are $20 for non-members for March through May and $25 for June. A limited amount of free tickets are available for members. Tickets can be purchased at nhm.org/firstfridays.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is located at 900 Exposition Blvd. For information, visit nhm.org.
Poetry festival brings national slam competition

April is National Poetry Month, and from April 5 to 27, the third annual Los Angeles Get Down Festival will celebrate hip-hop and the spoken word. The festival is presented by the Greenway Arts Alliance in association with Da Poetry Lounge, and events will be held at the Greenway Court Theatre at 544 N. Fairfax Ave.

“Greenway has been a gathering place for spoken word poetry movement. The Get Down Festival is a curated window into this revolutionary art form. We are thrilled to be celebrating National Poetry Month in April with our festival presentation, so if you are a playwright, screenwriter, actor or anyone interested in being inspired by original expression, come hang out with the poets,” said Greenway Arts Alliance Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director Pierson Blaetz.

The festival will include invitational and indie slams from youths and adults from all over the country, showcases, workshops and other events.

“Spoken word expands all ages and cultures. We’re excited to have such a diverse schedule of talent leading the workshops this year. They embody the true spirit of Greenway’s commitment to arts and education,” added Greenway Arts Alliance Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director Whitney Weston.

Da Poetry Lounge Co-Founder Shihan Van Clef serves as artistic director for the festival, which will play host to the 11th anniversary of inkSlam, a competition that will bring teams from all over the country to compete against each other during our inkSlam competition.” Van Clef said.

“Poetry is very much a niche art form, but with the Get Down, we have the ability to show folks that the best way to find an appreciation for it is to experience it in a different capacity...”

Shihan Van Clef
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“Poetry is very much a niche art form, but with the Get Down, we have the ability to show folks that the best way to find an appreciation for it is to experience it in a different capacity than what they’ve been used to. And hopefully, that’s what they get from this year’s festival.”

The festival is presented with the support of the City of West Hollywood’s WeHo Arts program. For information, visit wehoarts.org/arts. Support is provided by the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

Single ticket prices range from $10 to $20. Full festival passes are also available for $75. Patrons 25 or younger can select five events for $25. Free parking is available next door at the Fairfax High School parking lot.

For information, visit greenway-courttheatre.org/lagetdown2019 or call (323) 673-6544.
LAUSD board endorses trust fund for improve student health

The Los Angeles Unified Board of Education approved the creation of the new fund “Healthy Children come to school ready to learn,” Superintendent Austin Beutner said. “This trust fund will provide funds to address the epidemic of childhood obesity and diabetes.”

The board has long been committed to improving student health. A 1991 LAUSD resolution led to the creation of the non-profit Los Angeles Trust for Children’s Health to address health challenges. “When 84 percent of Los Angeles Unified students are living in poverty, our schools are often the conduits of vital services,” said board Vice President Nick Melvoin. “This initiative would help us to continue to serve our students by providing meals a day, offer care at our health clinics and wellness centers, and provide access to other services that our students might not otherwise receive.”

The initiative would target the root causes of six leading chronic diseases: diabetes, heart disease, cancer, arthritis, stroke and high blood pressure. Progress would help people to live longer while also cutting health costs, according to a press release from the LAUSD.

For information, visit lausd.net.
DODGERS NEWS

Dodgers launch 2019 season with new amenities

The Los Angeles Dodgers will open the team’s 2019 season today, March 28, at 1:10 p.m. against the Arizona Diamondbacks.

The team is also celebrating new amenities at Dodger Stadium, the third oldest ballpark in Major League Baseball. The new modern amenities and activations incorporate the Dodgers’ history into the ballpark experience. Fan-friendly innovations since 2013 have helped the Dodgers lead Major League Baseball in attendance each of the last six seasons, including hosting a franchise record 3.86 million fans last year during the regular season, and 4.285 million overall including postseason games.

The Dodgers have remodeled the Top of the Park Store for a modern shopping experience and there have been two new additions to the Bank of America Retired Numbers plaza: five-foot microphones for broadcasters Vin Scully and Jaime Jarrín.

For expedited entry, fans can transfer Dodgers ticket to their Apple Wallet and gain access to the stadium and suites using a smart watch or mobile device. The service will be available on Google devices mid-season.

Fans can also use Apple Maps in and around the ballpark to find their favorite food, stores, restrooms and fan services locations. To expedite ordering at concession stands, the Dodgers have increased the number of self-service concession kiosks throughout the ballpark. New food options include California roll bowls, salad ads, sausages, hamburgers and taco plates.

Additionally, the team has launched the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation Silent Auctions on the Ballpark App. The Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation will continue to hold silent auctions on the Club Level outside the Vin Scully Press Box during 32 home games. In 2019, fans can bid on the unique memorabilia using MLB’s Ballpark App. Also new this year, fans can purchase tickets for the foundation’s 50-50 raffle using credit cards.

Lastly, the Dodgers have installed four Ashley HomeStore chairs to create the “Home Sweet Home Seats” section on the Loge Level. Fans can enter to win the seating at Ashley HomeStore locations.

For information, visit mlb.com/dodgers.

LA Phil seeks violinists for ‘Play With Ray’ contest

Violinist Ray Chen and the Los Angeles Philharmonic have announced the “Play with Ray” competition, an international skills-based talent search for violinists. Chen, 30, has wanted to create a lightweight, portable violin that allows him to play anywhere.

The grand-prize winner will join the LA Phil in a performance at the Hollywood Bowl. Free entry is available through May 1 to nonprofessional violinists of all ages. For information, visit hollywoodbowl.com/playwithray.

Enjoy songs from popular musicals at the historic Doheny Greystone Mansion

Friends of Greystone will present an afternoon of popular musical songs on Saturday, April 13, at 2 p.m. at the historic Doheny Greystone Mansion.

Parking is complimentary and guests can tour the first floor of the mansion. Founded in 2001 and comprised of volunteers, the Friends of Greystone is a non-profit whose mission is to raise funds to restore, preserve and protect the Doheny Greystone Estate, which is owned by the city of Beverly Hills.

Can you have a dream to perform on the world a fun, once-in-a-lifetime? Chen and the LA Phil in a performance at the nearly 18,000-seat Hollywood Bowl. Free entry is available through May 1 to nonprofessional violinists of all ages. For information, visit hollywoodbowl.com/playwithray.

Entrants can use an online video to play alongside Chen and the orchestra, and record a video and submit it with an essay. The top three finalists will be flown to Los Angeles to play violin with Chen using rare violins provided by Tarisio. The finalists will also attend master classes and concerts.

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Plugging costs estimated to reach $21-26 million

From page 1

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Savage said she is glad the stump has been finally removed and is pleased that the city took a proactive approach. Stromberg said Savage’s story illustrates a problem the program aims to address.

Trees are removed for a variety of reasons. Separate crews are responsible for removing trees and stumps, and planting new trees. The city went in to the area to remove a large stump near Rye’s office to move forward with the pilot project. Stromberg obtained a list where stumps are located from the Urban Forestry Division, which is responsible for removing those that are considered dangerous to the public, a few trees.

She looked for areas where there were multiple stumps, which would make removing them at one time more efficient. Stromberg also solicited locations from residents who knew where stumps could be removed.

Stromberg also obtained help from new Bureau of Street Services Director Adel Hagekhalil, who pledged his support. Stromberg added that a positive response from many residents in the neighborhoods where the stumps were recently removed show the program has potential.

Conrad Starr, president of the Sycamore Square Neighborhood Association and a member of the Greater Los Angeles Unified School District, supports the program.

"It was wonderful to learn Julie was going to do something about this. It is good for communities. It’s really good for communities," Stromberg added that she hopes the program will be expanded and will be working with Rye’s Office and the Urban Forestry Division on a regular basis.

"It’s going to be evaluated. We will see," she said. "It could be very good for communities. It’s really important for community members to advocate for it.

Stump program helps bring in new trees

From page 1

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mately 100 trees were removed in the La Brea-Hancock neighborhood, located between La Brea and Wilshire Boulevards and Third Street, and the Sycamore Square, located between La Brea and Highland avenues in Olympic and Wilshire boulevards. New trees were also planted at locations where it was feasible.

"I’m really, really happy," said Stromberg, who also serves on the Community Forest Advisory Committee, an advisory panel for the city’s Forestry Division, and the Urban Forestry Division. "This type of program is going to really benefit the community."

Stromberg said the project is a model that should be replicated in neighborhoods throughout the city. For La Brea-Hancock neighbor-

hood resident Barbara Savage, the stump removal marked the end of a four-year period during which she was unable to plant a new tree in front of her residence.

"We had the drought situation … and my tree was one of the ones that the city claimed needed to come down. I came home one day and I had one less tree in front of my house, but they didn’t remove the stump, so I couldn’t replace that tree," Savage said. "They should have a permit for whatever they removed the tree. We’ve had a four-year-old tree now."

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Conrad Starr, president of the Sycamore Square Neighborhood

Taglyan Complex to host annual sci-fi and fantasy gala

Author Services, Inc., and Galaxy Press will present The 35th annual Writers of the Future and the 30th annual Illustrators of the Future L. Ron Hubbard Gala Achievement Awards, celebrating the winners of the contests honoring 12 writers and 12 illustrators from around the world for their excellence in the genres of science fiction and fantasy, on April 13.

The black tie event, with celebrity award presenters, will be held at the Taglyan Complex, 1201 Vine St. in Hollywood. Red Carpet Arrivals begin at 4:30 p.m. Emceed by Gunhild Jacobs, Executive Director of Author Services, the invitation-only event will be catered by Divine Catering. The Awards Banquet will start at 6:00 p.m. The show will also stream live from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at writersoffuture.com.

"This year marks a historic milestone in our history, as we were fortunate enough to have a unique and extraordinary group of winners," said Alex Aspinall, Co-Founder of Author Services, Inc.

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Nonprofit celebrates female heroes of local members

Looking at the group’s special experience of watching some of these videos, Levy said, “As a group, where the audience can see how empowering it can be to share stories of women, we’re proud to discuss the impact the videos can make.”

“These women are truly fasci- nating,” Levy said, adding, “And when I share about one, I am just impressed and so proud of what we as women have accomplished.”

In addition, the event will raise money to produce more videos. So far, 86 videos have been shot and 46 have been released, and there are no plans to stop.

“Women have been doing amazing things all through histo- ry, we just haven’t known about it,” Levy said.

Harris said when girls and women find out about the impact women have had in the past, they really can see the opportunities. “If you can see what women have accomplished, you can do the same,” she said.

Young women can go online and watch the videos about these women who have accomplished things that made a difference; many of these stories are not in the history books, and they should be,” she said.

Look What SHE Did! mem- bers said they also hope the benef- it will let them do more with the videos they make. The existing video series will be expanded and include some in Hebert’s backyard — but with the funds the group raised, they said the group plans to travel to New York City and possibly Scotland as part of a campaign to honor women and victims of the deadly disease.

So far, 86 videos have been shot and 46 have been released, and there are no plans to stop. “We can all play a huge part, either by leading the way or being a pioneer, or by uncovering and pointing to someone and how they can do the same,” she said.

“You’ll be able to witness a live conversation between three out- standing women, discussing issues that are vital and important to us today,” he said. “The food will be delicious and you’ll meet other terrific women.”

The event will feature MoveOn.org co-founder Joan Blades, YouTube founder Susan Wojcicki, and Erinn Aubry Kaplan, an opinion writer whose work appears in the New York Times, talking about the obstacles to women’s success, including those they’ve studied and faced them- selves. In the district’s efforts to improve long-term water reliability and security for the communities we serve. Southern California’s water supply is less certain and less reliable because it comes from a variety of sources, including the Colorado River. Unpredictable drought conditions, limits on importing water, environmental and regulatory decisions impacting supply, reliability, uncertainty affiliated with cli- mate change further dictate that more preparation is needed to be ready for future water supply challenges. World Water Day, observed annually on March 22, is an opportunity to highlight the importance of water and the need to improve our dependence on our resources both globally and locally. In the district’s efforts to secure its water future, West Basin and the Water for Tomorrow Program will contin- uance to advance conservation and water use efficiency as a corner- stone of its resource management plan. The district will also focus on improving the reliability of our region’s critical imported water supplies, continuing to invest in new methods, including the Water for Tomorrow Program, and exploring local drinking water sources as a source of potential water reuse and desalina- tion.

The Water for Tomorrow Program will be highlighted throughout West Basin’s community outreach and education programs on an ongoing basis. Additionally, materials will be developed to allow the two water conservation events offered in the district’s service area, such as free rain barrel distributions, turf replacement classes and greywa- ter workshops. Speakers from the district are also available to dis- cuss the Water for Tomorrow Program with local organizations and community groups. For information, visit westbasin.ca/watertomorrow.

L.A. County using technology to clear cannabis convictions

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion that called for taking advantage of innovative technology to accelerate the resen- tencing of marijuana convictions acro- sson the county.

This is in line with the Los Angeles County Department of Cannabis Management. “There are many cannabis convictions that are still pending in our system and it’s time to take advantage of innovative technology to accelerate the resentencing of marijuana convictions,” said Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, principal author of the motion. “We have a responsibil- ity to ensure that we reduce our reliance on marijuana while preserving the rights of people who have been disproportionately harmed by the war on drugs get the second chance they deserve.”

Proposition 64, approved by voters in November 2016, allowed cer- tain cannabis convictions to be cleared and restored. Los Angeles County’s Office of Cannabis Management, in consul- tation with the district attorney and public defender, estimated 60,000 to 100,000 people, if not more, are eligible for resentencing as of early 2018, however, fewer than 1,000 of those cases have been addressed in the county after a petition was filed a petitioner.”

Ridley-Thomas last year urged the county’s Office of Cannabis Management to develop a plan to facilitate the resentencing of cannabis convictions. “There is a lack of follow-up to what the county did for other resentencing efforts like Prop 47. That is why, through the Office of Cannabis Management, district attorney and public defend- er have been working on the technology to reach more individuals with cannabis convictions, including uti- lizing the county’s Office of Cannabis Management to make the process more efficient.”

L.A. County Dept. of Public Health educating public about TB

In observance of World TB Day 2019 on Sunday, March 24, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and community parti- cipants will host the fifth annual “Light Up the World” campaign, honoring the lives and contributions of TB survivors and addressing the ongoing and future challenges. World Water Day, celebrated annually on March 22, is an opportunity to highlight the importance of water and the need to improve our dependence on our resources both globally and locally. The Water for Tomorrow Program will be highlighted throughout West Basin’s community outreach and education programs on an ongoing basis. Additionally, materials will be developed to allow the two water conservation events offered in the district’s service area, such as free rain barrel distributions, turf replacement classes and greywa- ter workshops. Speakers from the district are also available to dis- cuss the Water for Tomorrow Program with local organizations and community groups. For information, visit westbasin.ca/watertomorrow.

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There’s “no fairness in a system that doesn’t encourage second chances, and this motion seeks to remedy that,” said Joseph Nicchitta, county Department of Business and Consumer Affairs director, who oversees the Office of Cannabis Management. “There are potential 60,000 or more eligible cases that could be dismissed, many of which cases unfairly hurt communities that do not the criminal justice system. The county’s and the district attor- ney have been working on the technology to track and automate this process will maximize our existing efforts across the county and dra- matically speed up a much needed fresh start for many.”

The motion noted the nonprofit Code for America’s Clear My Record initiative has already helped hundreds of people in San Francisco clear the records of a past conviction with their attorney’s office to identify more than 9,500 cases eligible for expungement, and encouraged L.A. City, county and state automa- tically generate the proper court form within a few minutes.

Admissions scandal charges multiple L.A. residents

In 2016, Flaxman, who has a real estate business with offices in Beverly Hills, allegedly paid $100,000 in cash to be admitted to the University of San Diego as a student athlete. He allegedly paid a bribe to fraudulently improve his daughter’s ACT and SAT scores.

“Put simply, the admissions scandal represents an abuse of power, privilege and wealth,” Flaxman responded, “OK, that’s fine.”

“First, there is no clear relation- ships representative- for the attorneys representing Flaxman said they have no com- ment.

Igor Dvorsky, director of West

West Basin launches Water for Tomorrow Program

The initiative is in commemoration of the World Water Day

On World Water Day, the West Basin Municipal Water District introduced a renewed approach to addressing its service area’s water needs.

The Water for Tomorrow Program brings new emphasis to West Basin’s commitment to pro- 

tecting, securing and diversifying its water supply portfolio while harnessing its history of inno- 
vation and industry leadership. “Ensuring that our region’s unique water supply system and in the future is our most important role as water stewards,” Board Chair Mervin Galbraith said. “Water for Tomorrow addresses our service area’s unique water supply challenges by ensuring long-term water reliability and security for the communities we serve.”

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